

Llanymynech Against Pylons Action Group (LAPAG)

26th July 2016

Head of National Infrastructure Consents and Coal Liabilities,
Energy Infrastructure Planning Team,
Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, (Department of Energy and
Climate Change),
Area C 4th Floor,
3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW.

Dear Sir,

Reference: Re-Determination letter of 6th July as outlined below.

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 & TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
THE ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATIONS AND OVERHEAD LINES (INQUIRIES
PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND AND WALES) RULES 2007**

**RE-DETERMINATION OF THE APPLICATION BY RES UK & IRELAND LIMITED
("RES") DATED 27 MARCH 2009 FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE
A 100 MW WIND TURBINE GENERATING STATION IN POWYS, MID-WALES
("LLANBRYNMAIR")**

**RE-DETERMINATION OF THE APPLICATION BY RWE NPOWER RENEWABLES
LIMITED ("RWE") DATED 11 DECEMBER 2008 FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT
AND OPERATE A 130-250MW WIND TURBINE GENERATING STATION IN POWYS,
MID-WALES ("CARNEDD WEN")**

Introduction

LAPAG was formed as a result of the National Grid (NG) proposal for the Mid Wales Connection (MWC), which in part would run via Llanymynech. The village of Llanymynech is unusual in that the A483 runs through the centre of the village that is also the English/Welsh border. Resulting from this we have the Welsh side represented by Carreghofa Community Council (CCC) and on the English side by Pant and Llanymynech Parish Council. There was benefit in having a single group to represent the whole of the Llanymynech Community with NG and the resulting meetings and surveys we undertook. We are affiliated to two umbrella groups: The Alliance and Montgomeryshire Against Pylons (MAP). We also had close links

with CCC in producing the submission, with others on Transport matters to the Con-joined Public Inquiry (CPI), under Session 4 (Matters in Common/Cumulative Effects)

Your letter of the 6th July under Rule 23(1)(b)

We do not seek a re-opening of the CPI.

Your letter of the 6th July Item 9.

Mid Wales Connection (MWC).

It is our belief that the MWC project was to provide a connection to export the electricity generated by the Wind Farms in Upland Wales. Through the umbrella groups, representations were made at the Pre Inquiry meeting of the CPI that the 400kV grid line and associated major sub-station at Cefn Coch of the MWC should therefore naturally form part of the CPI. It is a major infrastructure project and was part of the Wind farms project. This was not accepted by the Inspector and we feel very strongly that it should have been. It is no coincidence that when the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) refused permission for the wind farm developments of Llanbrynmair and Carnedd Wen the MWC project suddenly came to a halt and still is in this mothball state. The MWC would not benefit the Welsh community as the only function is to EXPORT the electricity to the grid network. The only time electricity would be imported would be when there is no wind and the wind farms would need supply to keep the supporting wind turbines infrastructure running. There is an expected life of some 20/25 years for the wind farms after which the MWC becomes redundant and at what enormous cost to the economy and the country.

The impact of the 400kV line on Llanymynech would be significant to the Community of Llanymynech for the following reasons.

Tourism.

Tourism is an ongoing and developing infrastructure and a major contributor to the Welsh economy. We have the Montgomeryshire Canal with the Canal Trust seeking funding to open the canal to the main national network with a proposed canal marina at Llanymynech. Offa's Dyke (National Trail) runs through the village and is also the start of Wats Dyke. The Lime Kiln is of major importance to our industrial heritage and probably the best preserved in the country. Llanymynech Hill offers spectacular views over the Welsh and English landscape and would be severely impacted if the MWC project went ahead. We also have large holiday parks nearby which benefit the economy of the village. The holiday parks would also be impacted severely by the closeness of the MWC pylon lines.

Although not part of LLanymynech we specifically raise the Glyndwr's Way National Trail. It has been walked by members of the Community who have found that the existing wind farms already put blight on this stunning walk. You can hear the turbines even without seeing them. Giving consent to further wind farms would potentially destroy the National Trail. Who seriously would want to walk for two/three days looking at wind turbines?

Transport.

Transport issues are a major aspect that would impact on Llanymynech. The A483 trunk road is very narrow from the Mile End roundabout (Oswestry) to the Four Crosses roundabout (some 6 miles), with Llanymynech in the middle. It is accepted that there would be road closures along this section. At the inquiry evidence was given that some 700+ double Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL's) would be required during the project phase. Based on the Traffic Management Plan (Grontmij - agreed by the Welsh Government) it would provide major disturbance for some 2.75 years based on a daily delivery for 5 days a week. Additionally other infrastructure transport to build the wind farms would be required and are not included in the above.

We provide the following link

<http://youtu.be?CJGXj8yZMso>

of a video of a double AIL convoy moving between Pant and Llanymynech. These wind turbine components are not the largest AIL convoys, as it was for a smaller turbine replacement blade for an existing wind farm.

The Tir Gwynt wind farm that has been approved and has just started delivery of the wind turbine components with delivery AIL's trundling through Llanymynech and will continue for weeks to come. Despite a trial run to test delivery procedures the first deliveries commenced on the 25th July and have already run into considerable delays. Desk top studies are all very well but often it is very different from reality.

We therefore ask the Secretary of State to uphold the original decision and refuse permission for Llanbrynmair and Carnedd Wen wind farm projects.

Yours faithfully

Llanymynech Against Pylons Action Group.

