

Slickly Wind Farm

Non-Technical Summary

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PREFACE

In December 2019, Slickly Wind Farm Ltd (the Applicant) submitted a planning application (the Application) to the Highland Council (the Council) under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended by the Planning etc. Scotland Act (2006)) to install and operate a wind farm comprising 11 turbines with a combined generation capacity of up to 49.9 megawatts (MW), and associated infrastructure for a period of 30 years (the Development) (the Highland Council Planning Reference: 19/05624/FUL). The Development is located on land at Strouper West Forest in north-east Caithness, Highland (the Site).

The Application was accompanied by the Slickly Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) (December 2019), prepared under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations).

The Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI) focusses on outlining the change in predicted effects arising from the revisions to the Development (the Revised Development). The Revised Development will comprise of up to 11 three-bladed turbines with a maximum tip height of up to 149.9 meters (m) for all turbines except Turbine 5 (T5) and T10 which will have a maximum tip height of up to 135 m.

This SEI Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will summarise the predicted effects outlined in the SEI as well as the previous predicted effects outlined in the EIA Report.

The SEI Report will be publicised in accordance with Part 5 of the EIA Regulations and the Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 (the Coronavirus Regulations). The EIA Report and supporting documentation is available on the Slickly Wind Farm project website¹ and the Highland Council (the Council) Planning Portal².

Hard copies of the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) can be made available free of charge from the Applicant. Hard copies or USB of the SEI submission may be obtained for £395 or £20 respectively to cover production cost, plus postage and packaging. Requests for copy of the application submission can be made:

By email: ukprojects@statkraft.com

By post: Freepost Statkraft

By phone: 0800 772 0668

Any representations to the application should be made by completing the online representation form on the Council Planning Portal:

By email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

By post:

eProcessing Centre Highland Council Headquarters,
Glenurquhart Road,
Inverness,
IV3 5NX

¹ Statkraft (2019) Slickly Wind Farm [Online] Available at: <https://www.statkraft.co.uk/power-generation/onshore-wind-development-projects/slickly/> (Accessed 12/01/21)

² The Highland Council Planning Portal [Online] Available at: <https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (Accessed 12/01/21)

1 INTRODUCTION

This Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is a summary of the SEI Report which is submitted as additional information to the planning application (the Application) to the Highland Council (the Council), under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended by the Planning etc. Scotland Act (2006)) to install and operate a wind farm comprising 11 turbines with a combined generation capacity of up to 49.9 megawatts (MW), and associated infrastructure for a period of 30 years (the Development) (the Highland Council Planning Reference: 19/05624/FUL). The Development is located on land at Stroupster West Forest in north-east Caithness, Highland (the Site).

The Application was accompanied by the Slickly Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) (December 2019), prepared under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations).

The Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI) focusses on outlining the change in predicted effects arising from the revisions to the Development (the Revised Development). The Revised Development will comprise of up to 11 three-bladed turbines with a maximum tip height of up to 149.9 meters (m) for all turbines except Turbine 5 (T5) and T10 which will have a maximum tip height of up to 135 m.

This NTS provides a non-technical summary of each technical assessment conducted in the SEI process and is intended to be read alongside the Application, EIA Report, SEI Report and associated application documents for the Revised Development.

2 THE APPLICANT

Statkraft is a leading company in hydropower internationally and Europe's largest generator of renewable energy. In the UK, the Group produces and develops hydropower, wind power, solar power, and greener grid parks. Statkraft is a global company in energy market operations. Statkraft has 4,500 employees in 17 countries.

3 THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT

There have been changes to climate change legislation, policy and guidance to those presented in Chapter 14 of the EIA Report. The following policy and related documents are new considerations which were not in place at the time the Application:

- At a UK level:
 - The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) Annual Report to the UK Parliament (June, 2020);
 - UK Government, response to the CCC Progress Report to Parliament (October 2020);
 - National Audit Office (NAO) 'Achieving Net Zero' (December 2020);
 - CCC, Sixth Carbon Budget 'the UK's Path to Net Zero' (December 2020); and
 - The UK Energy White Paper (December 2020).
- At a Scottish Government Level:
 - The CCC advice to the Scottish Government on recovery from the COVID-19 crisis (May 2020);
 - The recommendations from the Scottish Government's Advisory Group on Economic Recovery (June 2020);
 - Scottish Government, Official Statistics, Scottish Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2018, (June 2020);
 - The Report from the Climate Emergency Response Group (CERG) 'Eight Policy Packages for Scotland's Green Recovery' (July 2020);
 - The Programme for Government (2020); and
 - The Update to the Climate Change Plan (December 2020).

