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Contact: Rachel Anderson, Community Relations Manager, +44 (0)141 404 5531 or +44 (0) 7795 680 803

RES SUBMITS PLANNING APPLICATION FOR PENMANSHIEL WIND FARM

RES has submitted a planning application for Penmanshiel Wind Farm, near Grantshouse in the Scottish Borders. The proposal is for 15 turbines, each with a maximum height to the tip of blade of 100m. The planning application along with supporting documents including an Environmental Statement (ES), Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report has been submitted to Scottish Borders Council. The wind farm has an approximate capacity of 30MW and, if approved, the wind farm is likely to generate electricity equivalent to the average demand of more than 17,000 households – or approximately 30% of the households in the Scottish Borders.

Ruth Elder, Project Manager for Penmanshiel Wind Farm, commented: *“Penmanshiel Moor stands out as a very good site for a wind farm. There are very few environmental and technical constraints and the wind farm has been sensitively designed to minimise views particularly from the A1 corridor and from local settlements. Since announcing our plans for Penmanshiel Wind Farm earlier this year we have been working hard to involve local communities as the plans have evolved, by setting up regular meetings with the Community Liaison Group. Our comprehensive consultation process has enabled us to engage with local people and stakeholders at an early stage in the project.”*

RES consulted the local community through a variety of methods including:

- Meeting with residents and representatives from the community councils;
- A newsletter and invitation to the public exhibitions distributed to over 1,500 houses within a 8km radius of the wind farm;
- Public exhibitions held between 26th – 28th May, enabling residents to fill in questionnaires, ask questions and leave comments;
- Formation of a Community Liaison Group;
- A dedicated project website www.penmanshiel-windfarm.co.uk ;
- Telephone survey of local residents.

Ruth commented:

“With questionnaires and surveys, we have been able to understand the attitudes towards renewable energy in general and the Penmanshiel Wind Farm in specific. The results from the exhibition questionnaires

showed that 46% of people supported the proposal, 36% were neutral, 15% objected and 3% were undecided. These findings were supported by a recent telephone survey showing 57% supported the proposal and 28% opposed it.”

RES is proposing a community benefit scheme of approximately £60,000 per annum and will continue discussions with the local community over the form of benefit as the project progresses. There will also be opportunities for local contractors during the construction period as RES has a policy of sourcing goods and services locally to wind farm sites wherever possible.

The planning application and supporting documents will be available to view at the following locations:

- Scottish Borders Council, Newtown St Boswells
- Eyemouth Library
- Duns Library

Copies of the ES are also available from RES on request and we have created a dedicated website with further information on the project: www.penmanshiel-windfarm.co.uk.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. RES is one of the world's leading independent renewable energy project developers with operations across Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. RES, a British company, has been at the forefront of wind energy development since the 1970s, RES has developed and/or built more than 5 GW of wind energy capacity worldwide, including around 10% of the UK's wind energy. In Scotland, RES has developed and/or owns seven wind farm projects. The RES Group is active in a range of renewable energy technologies (biomass, solar, onshore and offshore wind, wave and tidal), as well as sustainable building design. For more information, visit www.res-group.com.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Rachel Anderson
Community Relations Manager, RES
+44 (0)141 404 5531
+44 (0) 7795 680 803
rachel.anderson@res-ltd.com