



THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

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Gemma Gallacher
Energy Consents
Scottish Government
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Dear Sir / Madam

Proposed Wind Farm – Sallachy NW of Loch Shin

MCoS Response

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCoS) is the representative body for hill walkers, climbers and ski tourers, and is the only national representative body of the sport of mountaineering in Scotland. We have 11,000 members, and are recognised by sportscotland as representing the interests of all mountaineers. Our interest in this development is primarily due to the importance for the area for wildness and quiet recreation.

The MCoS considers that this is an appalling proposal and we object in the strongest possible terms to this development. It will not be possible to mitigate the devastating effects of a wind farm development at this location to a level where the residual impacts are acceptable under National Planning Framework, Scottish Planning Policy or to the many hill and mountain walkers and climbers that enjoy this area for its special qualities.

Landscape

The proposed Wind Farm location is surrounded by a roll call of scenic designations.

National Scenic Areas

Assynt-Coigach, 2.5kms west
North West Sutherland 20kms north west

Special Landscape Areas

Ben Kilbreack and Loch Choire
Fannichs, Beinn Dreag and Glen Calvie
Eriboll and Whiten Head
Ben Grian and Loch nan Clar

Remote Landscape of value for Recreation

Strath an Loin, on south east boundary of site
Ben More Assynt 2.2kms west
Ben Hee 8.5kms nne
Canisp and Suilven 14.5kms west
Ben Kilbreck 14.5kms east
Arkle and Foinne Bhein 16.5kms nnw
Ben Hope and Ben Loyal 24kmns nne

The site itself lies in a SNH search area for wilderness

Visual Amenity

This proposed Wind Farm will be visible from many of the most iconic mountains of the North West Highlands.

Ben More Assynt
Arkle
Quinag
Ben Kilbreck
Ben Hope
Ben Hee
Beinn Leiod
Seana Bhraigh

SNH research has shown that there has been a dramatic reduction in wilderness values in the last decade due to man made structures, in particular wind farms. This development, if approved, will erode these further.

Cumulative Effects

There are four other wind farms within 25kms which together with this proposal will generate significant cumulative effects.

National Planning Policies

We do not believe this proposal, located in an area of wilderness and outstanding natural beauty, can be accommodated by the landscape. We refer to National Planning Framework 2 paragraphs 99 and 223 and Scottish Planning Policy paragraphs 128, 131,132,137, and 140 to support our objection.

In conclusion, the MC of S strongly objects to this wind farm proposal on the basis of impacts on the landscape and visual amenity.

Yours sincerely

Ron Payne
Director
Landscape and Access