

For release: Tuesday 30 May 2006

PRESS RELEASE

RES TO APPEAL DEN BROOK WIND FARM DECISION

Renewable Energy Systems UK Limited (RES) has announced today that it will appeal against the refusal by West Devon Borough Council in January this year of the Den Brook wind farm planning application.

The proposed nine-turbine project will generate electricity equivalent to the annual needs of around half of West Devon and reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas.

As well as generating clean, green electricity from a home-grown and abundant source, the wind farm will bring positive economic benefits to the community, such as infrastructure improvements to the Dartmoor Railway, a £27,000 a year community fund, local sourcing of labour and materials, and wildlife enhancement measures at the site.

Project Manager, Rachel Ruffle said,

“We have considered carefully the reasons for the council’s refusal and listened to the views of local people. We can only conclude that the council’s decision was flawed. It really is just common sense to generate electricity locally from clean and natural resources. Many ordinary people support the wind farm in the face of rising fuel prices and insecurity about where our energy will come from in the future, and also because they have a desire to do something positive about climate change.”

We are confident that an examination of the facts about this project, at public inquiry, will conclude that it is a well-designed project that will help the region meet its renewable energy targets and should, on balance, be allowed to go ahead.”

The project was originally submitted to West Devon Borough Council in December 2005 after two years of careful survey work, design and consultation with independent experts and the local community, which produced a low impact project away from protected landscapes and not on high ground.

Rachel continued;

“Many people in Devon were dismayed and surprised when the project was refused and I have had lots of encouragement to keep going and to appeal the decision. We have also been commended for the open and inclusive way in which we conducted our consultation with local residents, as part of a new best practice protocol for community engagement – an approach that created a lot of support for the project from people in the area.”

While there is vocal opposition in the immediate vicinity largely due to concerns about the visual impact, there is widespread support for wind power in Devon, evidenced by a MORI poll in 2004 which showed 71% of rural Devon residents support the use of wind power in the county, with just 18% opposed.

/more follows ...

It is true that the turbines will cause some change to local views in the area. Some people will like the look of the wind farm and will accept that change, and others will not, but at the end of the day it is a temporary change and the wind turbines can be removed, whereas, unchecked the effects of climate change will alter the landscape forever. We have a responsibility to future generations to do whatever we can to conserve our countryside and I, like many other people, am much happier using electricity that comes from clean renewable sources."

The appeal against West Devon Borough Council's decision has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate who will then announce a date and place for the public inquiry in due course.

For more information about the Den Brook proposal, visit www.den-brook.co.uk

ENDS

CONTACTS:

Rachel Ruffle, Project Manager, RES: 01647 440577 or 07900 268217,
rachel.ruffle@res-ltd.com

Anna Stanford, Communications Manager, RES: 01923 299203 or 0776 1103465,
anna.stanford@res-ltd.com

Amy Hinks, Local Communications Officer, RES: 01923 299328,
amy.hinks@res-ltd.com