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DEN BROOK WIND FARM INQUIRY RECONVENES

Final session will show that project will not cause a noise nuisance

The Den Brook wind farm public inquiry will reconvene today in Okehampton, Devon, to hear further representations focussing on the issue of noise, following the adjournment of the inquiry in July.

In evidence, RES will show how the nine-turbine project will generate clean, renewable electricity equivalent to the annual needs of more than 8,000 homes without having a detrimental impact on local residents or the local environment.

New noise analysis by independent consultants Hayes McKenzie Associates will be presented that demonstrates that the wind farm will operate within official noise limits. Their report concludes: *'operational noise levels from the wind farm will be within levels deemed by national guidance to be acceptable for wind energy schemes.'* RES has voluntarily carried out additional noise monitoring at four new locations near the wind farm site and commissioned a new independent noise assessment, which has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and made available to the public.

Project Manager, Rachel Ruffle said, *"We are pleased to say that the latest noise analysis, carried out for us by independent noise experts and based on additional monitoring at the site, reconfirms our original assessment that the wind farm will be within noise limits and will not therefore cause a nuisance to nearby residents. Den Brook wind farm can make an important contribution to England's energy needs and has been carefully designed to do so with minimum impacts on the local community and environment*

We are grateful for the support shown by many members of the public who now just want to see the wind farm built and generating clean, green power for Devon. The costly delays to the project benefit no-one. This public inquiry was called specifically to address the noise issue so we were very disappointed when time ran out in July before the noise evidence could be heard. However, we are confident that the inquiry will now conclude that the project is well-designed and should go ahead."

The Den Brook wind farm will:

- Generate clean green electricity equivalent to the annual needs of more than 8,000 homes a year
- Reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, helping to tackle climate change

- Reduce our reliance on imported fossil fuels by using a home-grown and abundant energy source
- Fund improvements to Dartmoor Railway, benefiting commuters between Exeter and Okehampton
- Create a £27,000 per year community fund to be spend by the local community on local projects
- Improve wildlife habitats at the site
- Provide a sustainable income for farmers who own the land
- Create jobs during construction, with local sourcing of labour and materials wherever possible.

Rachel added;

“The public and politicians on all sides support a shift towards renewable energy in order to tackle climate change and make our energy supplies more secure. With the important Copenhagen climate talks coming up in less than 50 days, we now need action, not just talk. Every community must play its part and good quality renewable energy projects like Den Brook should be allowed to go ahead without further delay.”

The second part of the Appeal Inquiry to cover noise issues will commence at 10 am on Tuesday 20th October 2009 at the Ockment Centre, North Street, Okehampton, EX20 1AR. It is anticipated that the final day of the Inquiry will be Monday 26th October 2009 when closing submissions will be made. Any enquiries about the Inquiry should be addressed to Jennifer Saunders, Environment and Special Casework, The Planning Inspectorate, Room 4/04 Kite Wing, 2 The Square, Temple Quay House, Bristol, BS1 6PN.

For more information about Den Brook Wind Farm, visit <http://www.den-brook.co.uk>

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Notes to editors:

1. The planning application for Den Brook Wind Farm was submitted to West Devon Borough Council in November 2005 after two years of careful survey work, design and consultation with independent experts and the local community. It was granted planning permission in February 2007 after a full public inquiry. A legal challenge was lodged by opponents to the scheme in March 2007 and was dismissed in the High Court in February 2008. Leave to appeal was granted and consent for the project was quashed in July 2008. RES agreed not to continue with court proceedings, but rather to bring them to an end by consent and return to public inquiry to resolve the matter.
2. **About RES:** RES is a leading British renewable energy company and part of the Sir Robert McAlpine group of construction and engineering companies. RES built its first wind farm in Cornwall in 1992 and has developed around 10% of the UK's current wind energy capacity. To date, worldwide, RES Group has completed over 4,300MW of wind energy projects and is active in a range of renewable energy technologies (biomass, solar, ground source energy, wind), as well as sustainable building design. RES is a holder of the Queen's Award for Enterprise for its commitment to renewable energy. For more information, visit www.res-group.com

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