



BARROW OFFSHORE WIND FARM

**CONSENT FOR CONSTRUCTION REQUESTED,
HIGH LEVEL OF PUBLIC SUPPORT**

Warwick Energy has today applied for consent to construct and operate its proposed offshore wind farm near Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. Consent has been requested from the DTI under section 36 of the Electricity Act (1989). It is hoped that, subject to consent being granted, the wind farm will commence operation in late 2004, generating up to 108 MWe, making it one the UK's largest offshore wind projects.

Accompanying the consent application is a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the proposed development. The EIS draws on the results of the many environmental and technical surveys and studies that Warwick Energy has commissioned since early 2001. These conclude that the development will have a negligible impact on the local environment, but should make a significant contribution to the UK's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Warwick Energy held a series of public exhibitions in Fleetwood, Barrow-in-Furness and Morecambe in late April 2002. The main purpose of the exhibitions was to identify any particular concerns that the general public might have and also to answer any questions that they had on a face-to-face basis. Warwick Energy have been encouraged by the level of local support for the project to date and this was confirmed at the exhibitions with 79% of those responding to a questionnaire supporting the project proposals, 13% undecided and only 8% against.

The total project costs are currently estimated to be in excess of £100m and the project, if it goes ahead, should create more than 50 jobs during the construction phase in 2004 and up to 16 full time jobs thereafter. It is hoped that many of the jobs will be sourced locally.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. In April 2001, Warwick Energy announced plans to develop an offshore wind farm 8 miles to the Southwest of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. The company has been given exclusive rights to the site under an agreement with The Crown Estate. The project is now expected to include 30 wind turbine generators producing on average enough electricity to supply 87,000 homes with green power.

2. Over the past 12 months Warwick has conducted a large number of surveys and studies on the site, consistent with a scoping study report finalised in October 2001. The results of these studies form the basis for the Environmental Impact Statement.
3. Copies of the EIS will be made available for viewing by members of the public at all main council offices and public libraries throughout the area. Copies of the full EIS may be obtained from the Company's registered office for a charge of £200. Copies of the Non Technical Summary are also available, free of charge, when requested from the Company's registered office or website at www.warwickenergy.com.
4. The public exhibitions, conducted in late April 2002, were attended by 261 people of whom 188 (72%) completed a questionnaire and responded either at the exhibitions or afterwards by post. Of the responses received 85 (45.2%) were strongly supportive of the proposed scheme, 63 (33.5%) supportive, 25 (13.3%) undecided, 5 (2.7%) against and 10 (5.3%) strongly against. Analysis of the reasons given for being against the project reveals that most were based on the potential visual impact of the turbines from the shore and the potential loss of fishing grounds. It is believed that the EIS will demonstrate that any impact in these areas, as a consequence of the development, will be negligible.
5. It is expected that electricity generation from offshore wind farms, such as this one at Barrow-in-Furness, will make a significant contribution towards the UK's target of producing 10% of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2010.
6. Warwick Energy's wind farm project at Barrow was one of 18 such projects announced by the Crown Estate in April 2001. The consent application lodged today is the fourth such request from the 18 sites under review.

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