



GALETECH
ENERGY SERVICES

Islandmore Wind Farm

Environmental Impact
Assessment Report

Annex 12.6: Planning-Stage
Noise Monitoring Plan

Islandmore Wind Farm Limited

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Planning-Stage Noise Monitoring Plan has been prepared to establish the operational procedures and protocols to be followed in relation to the monitoring of noise levels at receptors in the vicinity of the Islandmore Wind Farm.

The project is located in north County Roscommon; c. 2km north of Ballaghaderreen, c. 13km east of Charlestown (Co. Mayo) and c. 6km southwest of Gorteen (Co. Sligo); and is located in close proximity to the county boundaries between counties Roscommon, Sligo and Mayo.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report has been prepared to detail, in outline form, the methodologies and processes to be followed during the monitoring of noise levels for the operational phase of the proposed development.

2.0 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITY

2.1 ISLANDMORE WIND FARM LIMITED

Islandmore Wind Farm Limited will be responsible for procuring and contracting a suitably qualified acoustic consultant to carry out the post-construction noise monitoring campaign.

2.2 ACOUSTIC CONSULTANT

The Acoustic Consultant, to be appointed by the Developer, will be responsible for verifying the application and implementation of this plan and associated procedures, supervision of the implementation of any necessary corrective measures, and for updating the programme when necessary. The Acoustic Consultant will be suitably trained and qualified, with experience in carrying out noise monitoring campaigns at wind energy developments.

3.0 MONITORING CAMPAIGN

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The noise monitoring programme will be undertaken in accordance with industry best practice to demonstrate that operational-phase noise emissions from the proposed development are below the relevant noise limits. It is anticipated that noise limits will be prescribed by way of a condition of consent and this programme will be updated, prior to the commencement of development, to account for the precise requirements of the relevant planning condition.

3.2 EQUIPMENT

Measurements will be taken using sound level meters which fulfil the requirements of the Institute of Acoustics *Good Practice Guide to the application of ETSU-R-97 for the assessment and rating of wind turbine noise*. Noise levels will be measured for 10-minute periods which allows for data to be compared to wind and operational data which will also be measured in 10-minute intervals. Audio recordings will be made using sufficient bandwidth to allow for appropriate analysis for tones to be carried out. All noise measurements shall be carried out in accordance with ISO Recommendation R-1996 *Assessment of Noise with Respect to Community Response*, as amended by ISO Recommendations R 1996-1.

Rainfall will also be measured at a location within the wind farm to facilitate the exclusion of noise samples affected by heavy rain.

3.3 LOCATION

While it is likely that post-construction monitoring will be undertaken at the same baseline noise monitoring locations used in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (**Chapter 12**) to allow for a direct comparison of predicted and actual noise levels and verification of the accuracy of the noise prediction modelling software, the precise locations for monitoring will be agreed in writing with Roscommon County Council ('the Planning Authority') prior to the commencement of development.

If, at any of the above locations, siting of the noise measurement equipment is not practicable or consent is not given by the current resident, then a proxy location will be chosen in accordance with the standard guidance. Full details of the proxy location, including a justification of its selection as an appropriate alternative will be included in the noise survey report.

At each survey location, the microphone will be mounted at approximately 1.5m above ground level, fitted with a 150mm (minimum) outside diameter double-layer windshield, and placed outside the relevant dwellings as outlined above. Measurements will be made in 'free-field' conditions, ensuring that the microphone is located at least 3.5m from any building facade or any other reflecting surface, except the ground.

3.4 DURATION & TIMING

Monitoring will commence as soon as is practicable following commissioning of the wind farm and will be undertaken for a duration of between 2-6 weeks, which is considered to be a sufficient time period to assess a suitable range of wind conditions (both speed and direction) across both day and night periods.

3.5 PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING

The following criteria will be observed during noise monitoring:-

- Where possible, the location selected will represent that used by the residents for outdoor amenity;
- The microphone will be at least 3.5m from a building facade in order to correlate the results to a free-field noise level. Care will be taken not to locate the meter near extraneous noise sources e.g. heating systems or agricultural machinery;
- The microphone will be no more than 1.5m above the ground, to ensure that a representative level can be measured, but yet the microphone itself is not overly exposed;
- Measurements will be carried out in terms of the noise parameter specified within the relevant condition of consent. Best practice currently recommends 'LA90, 10min' which is the "A" weighted noise level measured over consecutive 10-minute periods; and,
- The Acoustic Consultant carrying out the noise monitoring campaign may, at their discretion, measure other noise parameters to enable identification of tonal noise or extraneous noise.

The following details will be recorded:-

- The date, time, location and duration of the measurement;
- All predominant noise sources will be noted. This includes those related to wind farm operation and those independent of the project (e.g. agricultural operations or traffic);
- Weather conditions will be recorded including wind speed and direction, rain and ground frost; and
- Details of the equipment calibration will be noted to ensure accurate readings are taken. This will include the time and date of the calibration, the calibration level and the result.

3.6 MONITORING RECORDS

All noise monitoring records will be held in a dedicated file. Following completion of the monitoring campaign, a report outlining the results of the monitoring will be prepared and will be made available to the Planning Authority in accordance with the relevant planning condition or upon request.

3.7 MITIGATION MEASURES

If, following the completion of the noise monitoring campaign, any exceedances in the prescribed limits are found; the Developer will immediately implement a strategy of 'noise reduced operations' through the de-rating of turbines to ensure that noise limits are complied with. Should such a strategy be required, the precise arrangements for reduced operations will be agreed, in writing, with the Planning Authority.

4.0 CONTACT DETAILS

The owner can be contacted via the project website. Additional contact information will also be furnished to the Planning Authority in due course and will be provided on the project website.



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