

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Address
ADDRESS
ADDRESS
ADDRESS

-- POSTAL ADDRESS:
Building 4200
Cork Airport Business Park
Cork
Ireland
T12 D23C

-- PHONE:
+353 21 242 7786

-- INTERNET:
www.statkraft.com
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Date: 17th Nov 2020

RE: Coole Wind Farm update

Dear Resident,

Given the times that we are in, we hope that this letter finds you well. Covid-19 is presenting us all with challenges and this is also true for our consultation team and community liaison officers. Our preference has always been to meet and talk with people on a face to face basis however, currently this would not be appropriate. It is for this reason that we are contacting you via mail, to update you on proposals for the above project.

Since being granted planning permission for the 13 wind turbines that were previously presented for consideration, we have been working to establish the most efficient and effective means of progressing this proposal. During our assessments, along with identifying Mullingar as the most suitable grid connection point, we have identified ways in which a wind energy development in this area could deliver increased renewable energy outputs and increased local return.

It was established that whilst the permitted 13 turbine proposal could deliver significant amounts of renewable energy, a revised proposal, which would add two additional turbines and amend the length of the proposed rotor diameter, could increase the potential output of the wind farm significantly. The location of the 13 permitted turbine locations will remain significantly unchanged in this proposal and the grid connection point at Mullingar would also be included in a new application.

These changes are set out in the following table:

	Permitted	Proposed
Number of turbines	13	15 (2 additional turbines)
Tip Height	175m	175m – No Change
Blade length	Up to 70m	Increased by 7.5m
Output	Up to 50MW	Increased*
Green power to homes	c.36,000	c.66,000
Community Fund	c.€300,000 per year	c.€500,000 per year

**The wind farm will have a total power output of greater than 50MW. Based on the turbines currently available, the site is expected to have a total output in the region of 90MW however the final output will be determined prior to construction*

As mentioned above, 13 of the turbine locations will be as previously permitted. The 2 additional turbines will be located, one in the townland of Doon and one in the townland of Carlanstown. The grid route to connect the wind farm to the national grid will be included in this planning application.

In order to provide information on this proposal, and given the restrictions associated with living with Covid-19, we have developed a virtual consultation room which will be available online. This platform provides information on the planning application to be brought forward and can be accessed via the Coole wind farm project website www.coolewindfarm.ie.

This virtual consultation room will outline the following:

- An introduction to the proposal
- Information on Statkraft
- A proposed project layout map
- A proposed grid route map
- Information in the project EIAR
- Information on the proposed Community Benefit Fund
- Photomontages of what the project would look like
- Contact details

We would be very appreciative if you were to take the time to visit this consultation room and we would welcome any feedback that you might have on the proposal.

It is hoped that we will be in a position to submit this planning application for consideration before the end of the year. Given that the output of the proposal will be in excess of 50MW, it is envisaged the application will be determined as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) and as such, we will be required to submit the application directly to An Bord Pleanála. Westmeath County Council will have the opportunity to make their submissions in this process.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact our community liaison officer George O'Connor on 087 352 1511.

Best regards,



Pat O'Sullivan
Head of Communications
& Stakeholder Management