

Report on Public Inquiry Week 2

Our Reporter, Mrs. Gill Moody, said that the dozen or so of us there most days should have an award for staying the course and assured us that it was most unusual in public inquiries.

Day 1

Dr. Alan Edwards – for AMEC on Hydrology and the mitigation measures planned for any eventuality. Mr. Malcolm Hay – questioned him extensively for the Deveron and Bogie Rivers Board quoting from Dr. Olivia Bragg's report on Peat instability, blanket bog and dangers to the river system through the unusually large number of burns feeding them (43). Steve Wright also had a number of questions. Lilian Cameron and David Mackay questioned him on their concerns about private water supplies.

Day 2

Mr. Richard Steel for AMEC on Fisheries and the mitigation measures planned using 'a tool box' of measures. He was questioned extensively by Mr. Malcolm Hay for the Deveron and Bogie Rivers Board and the Deveron River Trust.

Day 3

Mr. Stuart Miles Lowther for AMEC on Ecology and mitigation measures to conserve threatened flora and fauna.. He was also questioned extensively by Mr. Malcolm Hay, Mr. Steve Wright and Mr. Walter Whyte

Third Parties

Mr. Nick Carroll spoke in support of the project

Mr. Malcolm Hay spoke on behalf of the Consortium of the estate owners of Edinglassie, Invermarkie, Beldorney, Aswanley and Lynebain.

Mr. Jolyon Robinson was called by Mr. Hay to speak on the visual impact on A Listed Beldorney Castle

Day 4

Mrs. Anne Forbes spoke on the visual impact on the landscape of Glass emphasising what she had to say with a power point presentation

Mr. Bob Graham spoke on a variety of aspects of the project including the minimal effect the project would have on climate change, the shortcomings of the wire frame diagrams and photo montages, the planning system and unrealistic targets of the Scottish Executive. He also used a power point presentation

Mr. Tom Ingleby spoke on the effect of wind farms on tourism and the importance of tourism on the area.

Mrs. Lilian Cameron spoke on roads and transport during construction.

Dr. D. Mackay spoke on his concerns about water supply and noise especially as it would effect Succoth.

Dr. Vicky Spencer spoke on alternative site of Aultmore, dangers to the A96 in transporting the massive turbines, wild cat in the clash, the process being flawed and Aberdeenshire Council Infraserivices Committee not knowing the area nor their own guidelines.

Dr. Rhona Newman spoke on her concerns about effects of the wind farm on their home Boganclough Lodge, the closest dwelling to the turbines (1 km away).

Mr. Richard Hammock spoke on Aberdeenshire Council's tiering system and tier slippage where the turbines in the Area of Regional Landscape Significance was concerned

Day 5

Mr. Malcolm Hays spoke on behalf of the Deveron and Bogie River Board

Mr. Cairnie was called by him to speak on Fisheries

Mr. Thorne spoke on behalf of the Huntly Cross Country Ski Club

Mr. Walter White spoke on discrepancies in the various AMEC environmental impact reports on Common Gull flights

Mr. Steve Wright moved us all with his long and passionate poem about the windfarm being all about money, not about cutting carbon emissions or green energy and the danger it would pose to the threatened wildlife that could soon become extinct. He demonstrated this by snuffing out three candles one by one.

Week 3

Day 1

Accompanied Site Visit 1

Conditions – these were discussed at length especially AMEC's modifications of those presented by Aberdeenshire Council. Many points picked up by Prof. Newman.

Closing Submissions

Mr. Malcolm Hay spoke at great length on many aspects of the proposal and received an enthusiastic response from opponents of the scheme.

Mr. Hammock, Mrs. Forbes, Dr. Spencer, Mr. Whyte, Dr. Newman all presented closing submissions. Mrs. Forbes referred to Aberdeenshire Council's own map showing the boundary of the Area of Regional Landscape Significance ran on the Bogie side of the Grummock and Red Hill ridge right into the forest below and along the boundary of the forest towards the Craigs of Succoth and then parallel to its SSSI boundary. This significant map reveals that many more of the turbines would be within the ARLS than was originally thought. She suggested that as it seemed no alternative site existed they should be deleted from the plans.

Final Day

Mr. Bob Graham's final submission mostly on the shortcomings of the system and its unfairness to objectors.

Mr. Newcombe's final submission for AMEC. Many pages and several hours mostly on the primary need being to combat global warming and to follow government policy and the fact that Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils, SNH, Historic Scotland and Sepa had not objected to this scheme.

Mrs. Moody congratulated us all on our commitment.

Accompanied Visit 2

We probably won't hear the result of the Public Inquiry for at least six months.

Anne L. Forbes

2nd June, 2006