

16 June 2023

Our reference: 663873/10/02/03/01 Rev02

Energy Consents Unit  
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change  
Atlantic Quay  
150 Broomielaw  
Glasgow  
G2 8LU

ECU Ref: ECU00004487

**Application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and direction for deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended (ECU case reference: ECU00004487 to construct and operate the Creag Riabhach Wind Farm Extension in the Highland Council Area.**

Dear Mrs Flaherty,

Please find enclosed an application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act (1989) and deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the proposed Creag Riabhach Wind Farm Extension (the 'proposed development'). The application is made by Creag Riabhach Wind Farm Limited (the 'applicant').

The proposed development is located on land in the ownership of Altnaharra Estate immediately adjacent to the east and partly within Creag Riabhach Wind Farm (CRWF). The application site is located approximately 6.5 km south of the settlement of Altnaharra on the A836 and approximately 21.5 km north of the village of Lairg in central Sutherland (central grid reference NGR NC 52978 27588).

The proposed development comprises a three-turbine extension (each turbine would have a ground to blade tip height of up to 149.9m) and battery energy storage system (BESS) at CRWF. CRWF is currently under construction; first energisation was in November 2022 and full energisation was completed in February 2023. Both the extension turbines and the BESS will export power through the existing grid network for CRWF and no works are required for the offsite grid connection. The candidate extension turbines would have an indicative capacity of 12.6MW and the BESS would have an indicative capacity of 37.3MW. The combined export capacity would be up to 50MW. Therefore, the total installed capacity of the proposed development in conjunction with the existing CRWF would be greater than 50 MW.

The application is for an operational life of 40 years. However, the applicant has submitted a variation application under Section 36(C) of the Electricity Act 1989 (the '1989 Act') for the CRWF to amend Condition 1 of the Section 36 consent to extend the duration of the operational lifespan from 25 years (current) by 15 years to 40 years (proposed). If both the Section 36 proposed extension development

application and the Section 36C operational life extension application for CRWF are consented, it is the intention of the applicant to decommission the proposed development with CRWF resulting in an overall operational life of the proposed development turbines (functioning as a single generating station) of approximately 37 years.

RSK is acting as the agent and lead consultant for this application and hereby submit this application to the Scottish Ministers on behalf of the applicant.

### Environmental Impact Assessment

This application is informed by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, which presents the results of the EIA undertaken by RSK. The EIA has been prepared in accordance with Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations). The EIA process has identified and assessed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development.

### Advertisement

RSK has arranged for a Public Notice, which was approved by the ECU, to be advertised providing notification of the submission of an application for consent in accordance with the requirements of the Electricity Act (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990 (as amended) and the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Hard copies of the notices will be provided to the ECU once advertised.

The newspaper adverts will be published as follows:

- The Edinburgh Gazette – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023;
- The Herald – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023;
- The Northern Times – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The closing date for responses to the advertisements is **01 August 2023**.

### Application Documents

This application is supported by the following documents, as required, which have been uploaded to the ECU's Portal:

- Location Plan (see EIA Report Volume 3a, Figure 1.1);
- Application Boundary Figure (see EIA Report Volume 3a, Figure 3.1);
- EIA Report, comprising:
  - Volume 1 - Non-technical Summary (NTS);
  - Volume 2 - Main Report;
  - Volume 3 - Figures and Visualisations; and
  - Volume 4 - Technical Appendices.
- Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report; and

- Planning Statement.

The Carbon Calculator online tool has been completed and submitted to the ECU on 07 June 2023, reference: QO2G-BR4H-5W4J (v4).

Copies of the application documents are available for public inspection, free of charge on the application website <https://www.erguk.energy/creag-riabhach/>, or on the Scottish Government Energy Consents website at [www.energyconsents.scot](http://www.energyconsents.scot).

The EIA Report is also available for public inspection in person, free of charge at:

Location	Opening hours	Address
Lairg Library	Monday: 10 am – 2 pm Tuesday: 12 – 3.30 pm, 4 – 7 pm Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 10 am – 2 pm Friday: 12 – 3 pm Saturday: Closed	Lairg Community Centre, The Main St, Lairg IV27 4DD

I trust the information provided and set out above is sufficient for you to formally validate and commence consideration of the application. I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt and validation of the application by email.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with me if you have any queries or require any further information

Yours sincerely,

**For RSK Environment Limited**

Adam Paterson

EIA Project Manager