

HADYARD HILL WIND FARM, DAILY MEETING

Meeting held on Friday 29th April 2016
Fourth Floor Meeting Room, Burns House, Burns Statue Square, Ayr, KA7 1UT.

Item	Description
1.	Present: [REDACTED]
2.	Introductions [REDACTED] welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that attendees introduce themselves
3.	General outline of the terms of the noise compliance report [REDACTED] explained that the background to the meeting was for a chance to talk everyone through the noise report produced by TNEI which had recently been sent out to all. The report concerned a noise complaint raised last year. [REDACTED] confirmed he had perused this but had not had an opportunity to study it in any detail. [REDACTED] outlined the scope of the report. TNEI had previously discussed with [REDACTED] the technical points on how to process data and started work on Hadyard Hill noise survey in October 2015. This lasted until February which was very lengthy but not uncommon for wind farm noise as they needed to collect data for all wind directions and speeds. Also, on occasions the survey results could not be relied upon as one or more of the near turbines were not operating. They progressed with survey as soon as possible. [REDACTED] explained that it is important that they be transparent relative to the noise conditions which are now in black and white relative to wind conditions. Following the amended protocol, the range of interest had been increased relative to report. The survey took place over an extended period as it was necessary for the site to be shut down to enable background noise measurements to be taken. The shut- down was done nightly for two/three weeks for three hours at night and then during the daytime too. [REDACTED] advised that based on the agreement of the protocol reached during the telephone conference all the data was processed in the last week. [REDACTED] this protocol is of the type of we would expect as it is similar to conditions now imposed on new wind farms. [REDACTED] unfortunately no such condition was imposed on Hadyard Hill as this was one of the initial wind farm consents granted some time ago when in its infancy and a number of improvements have been made since then. [REDACTED] discussed a previous noise case dealt with by [REDACTED] a few years relative to noise and planning issue. Unfortunately the planning conditions in respect of noise were flawed and so there was nothing to go on. There was an informal agreement at the time to agree noise conditions that should have been imposed and not as straight forward as anticipated.

	<p>Findings of the noise compliance report</p> <p>█ The TNEI Report had previously been circulated to all – looking at the results of monitoring on page 8, and conclusions and charts on Page 6. Noise limits now defined as standard background plus 5 which was agreed previously and there were a few exceedences of these at higher wind speeds.</p> <p>█ enquired if any data was available for higher wind speeds.</p> <p>█ the upper wind speed reported was 11m/s. One of the reasons behind this was If higher than 11m/s, the background noise level is also high.</p> <p>█ Although generally a higher wind speed results in a higher background noise, this situation is unusual as sits in a hollow and is therefore sheltered from the wind and means there tends to be a low background noise level.</p> <p>█ discussed maximum wind speed. Modern turbines tend to emit most noise at wind speeds between 4-8 m/s. Of course Hadyard Hill has an older style of turbine.</p> <p>█ have no qualms in taking the wind speed up to 12 m/s. They will go away and look at that and prepare a supplementary appendix.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Findings of the noise compliance report</p> <p>█ The TNEI Report had previously been circulated to all – looking at the results of monitoring on page 8, and conclusions and charts on Page 6. Noise limits now defined as standard background plus 5 which was agreed previously and there were a few exceedences of these at higher wind speeds.</p> <p>█ enquired if any data was available for higher wind speeds.</p> <p>█ the upper wind speed reported was 11m/s. One of the reasons behind this was If higher than 11m/s, the background noise level is also high.</p> <p>█ Although generally a higher wind speed results in a higher background noise, this situation is unusual as sits in a hollow and is therefore sheltered from the wind and means there tends to be a low background noise level.</p> <p>█ discussed maximum wind speed. Modern turbines tend to emit most noise at wind speeds between 4-8 m/s. Of course Hadyard Hill has an older style of turbine.</p> <p>█ have no qualms in taking the wind speed up to 12 m/s. They will go away and look at that and prepare a supplementary appendix.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Next Steps To Address The Findings Of The Report</p> <p>█ advised that regarding the highlighted exceedences, they are progressing forward with this already. Unfortunately further noise monitoring is required and hopefully they will get some ideas on how to resolve the exceedences.</p> <p>█ questioned what options SSE will be looking at.</p> <p>█ confirmed with newer machines you can flick a switch and alter the speed of the blades however with older wind turbines it's a bit different, they can look at that. As part of the new survey they will require permission from complainant to install monitoring equipment in their garden. They did have a meeting arranged for this week with the complainant as they were willing to discuss this however the complainant declined but it is not known why.</p> <p>█ had spoken with █ yesterday and was aware he had declined.</p>

█ asked if Environmental Health could speak with █ to try and get his agreement to further monitoring and try to resolve this matter as soon as possible. As of mid-March the three closest turbines have been turned off from 7.00 pm until 10.00 am each day.

█ advised that this had been done as a goodwill gesture so as not to prejudice SSE short term.

█ discussed characteristics of the turbine noise stating they were un-natural, in that they were cyclical making them more annoying. He discussed the mind set of an Environmental Health Officer, commenting on basic case law and how the EHO attempts to take on the mind-set of the average reasonable person, and imagine themselves living in the circumstances of the complainer. He commented that listening to the turbines' noise characteristics during the day he had imagined himself listening to that noise in the bedroom at night with the window open for ventilation and that it would cause him annoyance.

█ once the sound level issue is resolved, we need to discuss what would be a successful resolution. The main focus is the sound level. Once changes are identified and tested TNEI will present that to us, at that stage we need to further assess the situation to see where that leaves us.

SSE confirmed closest wind turbines are shut off between the times of 7pm to 10 am which

█ mentioned he considered this significant.

█ – there are various ways and means to approach sounding out ideas as old site shut downs will continue meantime. Wait to see if it has made any difference as useful for me.

█ enquired whether █ was still filling in noise logs

█ advised that it would be useful if he did as much easier for them to focus on.

█ called yesterday regarding the noise. He didn't say whether he was still completing the logs however during discussion he mentioned the fact there was snow on the ground which could have an effect. Will telephone █ after meeting to ask him to continue with the log in the meantime.

█ good point, also we need to look at further as it is hard to narrow down times as complainant usually states noise is present from early morning until night time. Specific times are required to match up with what wind conditions were causing this. I will confirm dates to █ but also need to meet with █

█ had tried to advise █ if we had not filtered data, it would have looked like a pass as it is useful to put all information available to get the best result for him.

A general discussion took place regarding the ongoing investigation. All agreed that an early resolution of the complaint is paramount however in the meantime █ agreed to leave the three closest turbines off from 19:00 till 10:00 each day. It is hoped that no further shutdown will be require.

█ enquired as to what was causing the characteristic swish noise?

█ agreed that the character noise is the worst thing annoying █

█ advised up until now there had not been much discussion relative to characteristics.

█ confirmed EH are keen to assist in the ongoing investigation and appreciate what SSE are doing to try and reach a resolve the matter however unfortunately EH hands are tied as we need to issue a Notice if there is a statutory nuisance.

█ advised they need feedback from SSE's point of view as switching off turbines is adversely

affecting them financially and they are after all here to make money. Doing night time shut down was expected to help [REDACTED] but they cannot keep the turbines shut down indefinitely as they are losing a lot of money by doing this.

[REDACTED] advised they had received no feedback from [REDACTED] on whether closing down these turbines made a difference to the night time noise levels.

[REDACTED] advised he had told [REDACTED] yesterday that he would call him today after this meeting.

[REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] is requesting feedback from EH relative to the logs and would like someone to explain the reasons for the logs to him.

[REDACTED] asked that if EH have any questions whatsoever relative to the content of the Noise Compliance Monitoring could they please get back to them.

[REDACTED] Confirming to all that [REDACTED] has now retired from EH.