

Notes of Meeting

Noise Working Group (NWG)

DTI, 1 Victoria Street
2 August 2006

Present: Alan Smith (DTI)
Jonathan Perks (FES)
Mark Dorrington (FES)
Helen Matthews (DEFRA)
Richard Perkins (DEFRA)
Andy McKenzie (Hayes McKenzie Partnership Ltd)
Bob Davis (RD Associates)
Dick Bowdler (New Acoustics)
Geoff Leventhall (Consultant)
Marcus Trinick (Bond Pearce)
Mark Jiggins (Hoare Lea Acoustics)
Andrew Bullmore (Hoare Lea Acoustics)
Mike Anderson (RES)

Apologies: Alan Purdue (Castle Morpeth LA)
Bernard Berry (Consultant)
David Spode (Shrewsbury LA)
Huw Thomas (Anglesey LA)
Jeremy Bass (RES)
John Warren (nPower)
Malcolm Hayes (Hayes McKenzie Partnership Ltd)
Mark Legerton (nPower)
Mike Raw (Scottish Borders LA)

Introduction by Chair

Alan Smith welcomed those present. Alan briefed the Noise Working Group (NWG) on the background for calling the meeting and highlighted DTI's objectives for the NWG which is to provide clear expert advice and guidance on the issue surrounding Amplitude Modulation of Aerodynamic Noise (AM) raised in the Hayes McKenzie report on Low Frequency Noise (The Measurement of Low Frequency Noise at Three UK Wind Farms, W/45/00656/00/00, URN No. 06/1412).

Terms of Reference

The NWG will address issues specifically relating to the Hayes McKenzie report:

- Consider and agree, if thought appropriate, the main conclusions of the report
- Consider the report's findings relating to AM
- If appropriate, provide a means to assess and apply a correction where AM is predicted to be a clearly audible feature
- Make clear recommendations to advise Government

Review of the Hayes McKenzie Report

In line with the 'Terms of Reference' the main conclusions of the report were discussed. The group agree with the conclusions of the report concerning infrasound and Low Frequency Noise. It was also agreed that a greater understanding of the effects and causes relating to AM were required to ensure that this phenomenon can be managed.

It was agreed that the NWG should commission a study to gather empirical data from existing sites to better understand the extent and cause of AM. This should be undertaken as soon as possible, but it was recognised that funding had to be secured. The study could incorporate the following tasks:

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| 1a | Literature study to review the current knowledge of AM |
| 1b | Identify up to 10 potential sites which could be used to carry out objective noise measurements (including 5 where there had been complaints). This would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asking LPAs for information on which sites they had received complaints concerning noise And if needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying control sites (where there had been no complaints)• Assess the potential for developing a methodology for carrying out noise measurements |
| 1c | Contact <ul style="list-style-type: none">• turbine manufacturers to find out what their understanding of AM is and what work they are doing to address this issue• windfarm developers to see whether they have any historical data which would help determine the circumstance when AM occurs Report findings back to DTI / DEFRA / NWG |

If the NWG agreed having reviewed the empirical data that further work is required the following should be carried out:

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| 2 | Carry out objective noise tests as defined in 1b It was agreed that it would be sufficient to perform these measurements outside of buildings; this would considerably reduce the difficulties of obtaining permissions and access |
| 3 | Analyse results This will include the quantification of AM as well as the frequency and length of time AM is found to occur at each site |
| 4 | Make recommendations if required Report findings back to DTI / DEFRA / NWG |

A very rough estimation was that the second stage of the report would take up to 12 months to complete - mainly due to weather conditions. DTI and DEFRA agreed to investigate how this study could be supported and report back at the next meeting. In the meantime FES to investigate potential costs.

Recommendations / Review of Actions

The work recommended above will provide a foundation for clearly identifying and understanding the extent of AM noise.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Date of Next Meeting

To be agreed.

19 October 2006