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RELEASE OF NEW INFORMATION CONFIRMS DEN BROOK WIND FARM WILL NOT CAUSE A NOISE NUISANCE

RES has today released new data relating to the noise impact of the Den Brook Wind Farm proposed for North Tawton in Devon. Following objections from individuals opposed to the project, consent for the wind farm was quashed in July last year. RES decided to take the project back to public inquiry to allow the issue of noise to be re-examined by experts in a public forum. Since then RES has voluntarily carried out further noise monitoring in the vicinity of the wind farm site and commissioned independent noise experts to carry out a further assessment of the noise impact. The study has concluded that 'operational noise levels from the wind farm will be within levels deemed by national guidance to be acceptable for wind energy schemes.'

The Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI) is being submitted this week to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the public inquiry, a date for which is still to be set. The SEI is being publicised widely and made available to the public at key locations in the area. The noise and wind speed data are available to anyone wishing to carry out their own further assessments.

Rachel Ruffle of RES said;

"We have voluntarily carried out additional noise monitoring and commissioned an independent assessment of the noise impact of the wind farm. We are very pleased that these have confirmed our initial assessments that the Den Brook wind farm will not cause a noise nuisance to residents. We hope that the local community will now be reassured that this is a low-impact project that can bring important environmental as well as local economic benefits to this part of Devon."



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In the face of growing concern about climate change and the future availability of oil and gas, it is essential that good quality, local renewable energy projects like this one start contributing clean, green energy as soon as possible. Devon and the Den Brook Wind Farm can play a valuable role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and making our energy supply more secure.

I hope that opponents of the scheme will now agree to a date for the inquiry so that these issues can be re-examined and resolved. We remain 100% committed to Den Brook wind farm. I am confident that the public inquiry will once again conclude that the wind farm should go ahead and we hope that this will be concluded in time to allow the project to start construction next year."

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. The planning application for Den Brook Wind Farm was submitted in November 2005. It was granted planning permission in February 2007 after a full public inquiry. A legal challenge was lodged in March 2007 and was dismissed in the High Court in February 2008. Leave to appeal was granted and consent for the project was quashed in July 2008. RES agreed not to continue with court proceedings, but rather to bring them to an end by consent and return to public inquiry to resolve the matter. A date for the public inquiry has not been set.
2. RES undertook background noise monitoring at two properties near the proposed wind farm site in 2004. In 2008, noise monitoring was undertaken at four further properties in the vicinity and a second noise assessment carried out by independent consultants Hayes McKenzie Associates.
3. The SEI is available to view at West Devon Borough Council offices, Devon Heartlands Community Development Trust in Okehampton, Moretonhampstead Library, North Tawton Post Office, Spreyton Post Office and Bridge Stores in Bow. Copies of the SEI are available on CD-ROM free of charge. The non technical summary is available free of charge. Both can be obtained by contacting RES head office. The NTS can also be viewed at www.den-brook.co.uk.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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