



**For immediate release: 24 July 2008**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NOISE ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED FULLY AT DEN BROOK PUBLIC INQUIRY**

RES has announced today that it is taking the Den Brook Wind Farm back to public inquiry to allow the issue of noise to be re-examined. RES is confident that this can be done in time to allow the project to start construction in 2009.

Following the approval of the wind farm at the previous public inquiry and upholding of the inspector's decision in the High Court, a small error in RES's noise data analysis has been seized upon by opponents of the project. Although the impact of the error is minor (indeed inaudible to the human ear), and noise conditions at the site will remain well within permissible limits, RES believes it is only fair that the noise data should be re-examined in public. In this way RES will be able to reassure the local community that the wind farm will not cause a noise nuisance.

RES regrets making the small error in the processing of noise data used as part of the assessment for the project. However, it remains the case – as RES will again show at public inquiry – that the wind farm will not cause a noise nuisance as the design of the project already allows for a large protective margin in the noise assessment.

Rachel Ruffle of RES said:

*"It is in everyone's interests, including ours, that the noise condition is shown to provide proper protection to local residents. We are sorry about the data processing error, but would like to reassure local people that it is so small that it makes no practical difference to the noise output of the wind farm. However, since the noise condition drawn up during the planning process and agreed at the original public inquiry needs to be based on accurate analysis, we believe it is only fair that we go back to inquiry where the noise condition can be openly re-examined by experts on both sides.*

*I am confident that this will soon put the noise issue to bed and that the inquiry will once again find that the wind farm will not cause a noise nuisance and conclude that the Den Brook Wind Farm is a low-impact project that should go ahead in order to increase the amount of renewable energy generation in Devon."*

This project enjoys wide public support in the local area, and it is unfortunate that the difference the error makes in actual noise levels is being exaggerated by a vocal minority of opponents. RES welcomes the opportunity of an open debate on the issues in a public inquiry as the best way of meeting any concerns amongst local residents.

Den Brook Wind Farm is a low-impact project that can bring important environmental as well as local economic benefits to this part of Devon, without creating a noise nuisance. In the face of growing concern about climate change and the rapidly rising price of conventional fuels, it is essential that good quality 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 helping to combat climate change.

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Notes to Editors:

1. Den Brook Wind Farm was granted planning permission in February 2007 after a full public inquiry. A legal challenge to the project then commenced, and failed in the High Court, but leave to appeal was eventually granted. After discussion with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (the lead defendant in the court proceedings), RES has agreed not to continue with the court proceedings, but rather to bring them to an end by consent and return to public inquiry to resolve the matter.

ENDS

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