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Date: 10th June 2004

Dear Sir/Madam,

Baydon Meadow Wind Turbine Planning Appeal ref. APP/W0340/A/04/1150153

I write on behalf of TV Energy in support of the recent planning appeal for a 1.3MW wind turbine near to the Membury Services adjacent to the M4.

Our energy agency is eager to support this planning application for a number of reasons:

1. **Climate change** –the turbine will offset the emission of up to 3,400 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year. Renewable energy will play an essential role in reducing the future impacts of climate change, whose reality as an anthropogenic phenomenon is becoming unquestionable, with an increasing body of evidence convincing scientific opinion.
2. **Regional and national renewable energy policy** - wind energy has a crucial role to play in sustainably meeting our future energy needs. The South East England Regional Assembly has recently published targets of 620MW and 895MW of installed electrical capacity from renewables by 2010 and 2016 respectively, to meet its share of the UK targets. While the targets should be met from a range of renewable energy sources, large single wind turbines and small clusters of smaller sized turbines are seen as essential. The strategy implies that in Berkshire, 1-2 single large turbines supplementing one small wind cluster will be required to meet the 2010 target.
3. **Location** – the siting of the proposed turbine respects the scale and composition of the landscape, being located away from centres of population but within the M4 corridor, where built development (motorway, services area and the Membury mast) already characterise the local landscape. Furthermore, the topography and vegetation substantially confine the areas of visibility both close to the turbine and in the wider landscape.
4. **Noise** – the detailed noise assessment for the site concluded that for all properties close to the proposed site, a) recommended night-time noise criteria are met by



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the proposal; and b) any day-time noise impact is not expected to be significant when compared to the likely levels of existing background traffic noise.

In addition, a further selection of points has arisen during or since the planning application decision-making process, and we believe their respective resolutions tend decisively in favour of this appeal:

1. **Airfield** – the supposed potential difficulties with regard to the proposed turbine's effect on aircraft using Membury Airfield have not to our mind been credibly demonstrated by objectors. The recently planned modification to the Membury runway's orientation means that aircraft will no longer cross the motorway and hence will not be affected by the turbine.
2. **AONB** – In addition to the points mentioned above regarding the limited impact of the proposed scheme on the local landscape, it has been made clear from the application proceedings and expert contributions that all judgements in respect of visual impact are highly subjective. These have ranged from institutional hostility on the part of some groups to onshore turbines, to the claim that the aesthetics of the area around the motorway services in that part of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty can only be enhanced by a structure. Despite the designation, the specific location is already rather less than 100% natural and there is certainly no consensus against the relative beauty of wind turbines.
3. **Community benefits** – The appellant plans to promote local renewable energy and energy efficiency schemes through an annual fund managed by our own organisation. This source will be carefully targeted to aid community projects close to the site, thereby positively affecting the lives of nearby residents and further increasing the sustainability of human activity in the area. We believe this arrangement, already relatively common in other schemes of this kind, opens a new facet of positive impact not present in the arguments hitherto.

TV Energy, as a regional European sustainable energy (SAVE) agency, is working to stimulate the development of sensitively sited renewable energy schemes where developments are assets to the environment and to local communities. We are supported by a range of government and industry bodies, environmental groups and 13 Thames Valley local authorities. We are also funded under the Countryside Agency 'Community Renewables Initiative', which supports our work with communities to develop renewable energy projects.

TV Energy offers this planning appeal its wholehearted backing. We believe that the Baydon Meadow wind turbine presents an excellent opportunity to make a positive statement on the environment by supporting the development of one of the first large scale examples of clean, sustainable energy in the Thames Valley and the South East.

Yours faithfully,

Annette Deveson
Director, TV Energy Ltd