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RES SUBMITS APPEAL FOR A DECISION ON PENMANSHIEL WIND FARM

Renewable energy company RES has submitted an appeal for a decision to be made on its Penmanshiel Wind Farm planning application. The appeal has been made on the grounds that Scottish Borders Council has not determined the application within the timescales it is required to meet. RES submitted a planning application for the proposed 15 turbine wind farm near Grantshouse, in the Scottish Borders, at the end of October 2011.

Ruth Elder, RES Development Project Manager, said: *“The Penmanshiel project has been in planning for almost a year but a decision has still not been made, even though all the information required has been made available to the council. We have taken the decision to appeal on the grounds of non-determination so the project has the potential to proceed without further unnecessary delay and contribute to Scotland’s ambitious renewable energy targets if consented. RES believes that Penmanshiel Moor is an ideal location for a wind farm. The wind farm has been sensitively designed to minimise views, particularly from the A1 corridor and from local settlements.”*

RES has continued to consult with the local community on its plans and has regularly met with members of the community councils that represent the communities near the wind farm site. If the project is consented, RES will provide a community benefit fund of approximately £60,000 per year to support organisations and good causes based in the communities close to the wind farm for the lifetime of its operation.

The wind farm has an approximate capacity of 30 Megawatts (MW) and, if approved, the wind farm is likely to generate electricity equivalent to the average annual demand of more than 17,000 households – or approximately 30% of the households in the Scottish Borders.

The appeal has been submitted to The Scottish Government Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) and an independent Planning Reporter will now decide whether the project should be consented or refused planning permission.

Representations and comments submitted to Scottish Borders Council by individuals and groups regarding the wind farm are still relevant and will be reviewed as part of the decision making process.



ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. RES is one of the world's leading independent renewable energy project developers with operations across Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of wind energy development for over 30 years, RES has developed and/or built more than 6.5 Gigawatts (GW) of wind energy capacity worldwide. In the UK alone, RES currently has more than 1GW of onshore wind energy either constructed, under construction or consented. This includes nine wind farms in Scotland with a total generating capacity of nearly 200 MW. The RES Group is active in a range of renewable energy technologies including large-scale biomass, solar, wave and tidal and on-site renewable installations. For more information, visit www.res-group.com
2. For further information about the Penmanshiel Wind Farm proposal, visit www.penmanshiel-windfarm.co.uk

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