

FAO Brid O Donovan
The Commission for Energy Regulation,
The Exchange,
Belgard Square North,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.
31st January 2011

Connection Offer Policy Principles Paper (COPP)

Your reference: CER/10/237

To whom it may concern:

Killala Community Windfarm Ltd is developing a windfarm near Killala in North Mayo. This development is being led by a group of eight families in the area. This project will offer local people an opportunity to invest in the project, thereby maximising the return to the locality. Planning permission was granted by an Bord Pleanala in October 2010. A grid application was made in 2005, and the project is in Gate 3. Killala Community Windfarm Ltd would like to make the following observations on the current consultation document

1. Temporary Connections

While temporary connections may be required until such time as the grid is modernised these temporary connections must not negatively impact on generators which have permanent connections in the same general area. We believe that the constraints should be weighted upon those generators connecting temporarily, rather than generators with permanent connections. Those that have paid for permanent connections will not realise the full potential of their investment if they are constrained by such temporary connections. This is an issue of major concern to Killala Community Windfarm Ltd and we have instructed our advisers to monitor this situation closely.

2. Phased connections

Killala Community Windfarm Ltd welcomes the phasing of connections to facilitate those developing projects in phases. The current financial and credit difficulties are proving to be a significant impediment in the development of capital intensive infrastructural projects such as wind farms. It may be possible to develop such project over a more prolonged timescale. This would also time for later phases of projects to receive planning consent. We accept the “use it or loose it principle” for each phase in the development.

3. Splitting connections

Killala Community Windfarm Ltd welcomes the proposal to allow the splitting of connections between a number of connections.

We trust you will take our views on board in formulating policy.

Yours sincerely,

Damien Barrett
Director Killala Community Windfarm Ltd.