

## **NINES Project Consultation**

### **Response from North Yell Development Council**

#### **Background**

North Yell Development Council is a community development group based in North Yell, Shetland. It is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.

NYDC currently has two renewable energy projects as follows:

1. Wind farm. This project was started in 2003. Following a feasibility study, a plan for a 5 turbine 4.25MW wind farm was decided on. An EIA was carried out and a planning application was lodged on 27/05/09. An addendum was required and this was lodged on 20/07/10. Planning consent was granted on 26/04/11. An application for a 2.55MW (3 turbines) non firm grid connection was made to SSE in 2006 but this was refused. The project is currently stalled due to the lack of a grid connection. NYDC has participated in studies looking at energy storage solutions eg batteries, hot water, hydrogen etc aimed at resolving the problem of grid connection.
2. Tide project. NYDC has been involved in this project since 2009. It involves a small tidal turbine (30KW) which will be located in Bluemull Sound and owned by NYDC. The project is fully consented, fully funded and a grid connection has been secured. It is hoped to deploy the device before the end of 2011. If the device is a success, NYDC would like to establish an array of tide devices. A grid connection would be required to allow this to happen.

#### **Response**

##### **Question 1**

We would agree that the NINES proposals have the potential to be more cost effective than replacing Lerwick Power Station on a like for like basis.

##### **Question 2**

We would agree to the NINES proposal being treated as part of the integrated plan.

##### **Question 3**

We would agree with the Ofgem proposals for finance.

#### Question 4

We would have concerns that the project may not be delivered by June 2013, in particular the renewable generation element. Our experience is that obtaining consent is a protracted process. There is a long lead time on wind turbines and construction is constrained by conditions such as avoiding the bird breeding season etc.

#### **Observations**

The introduction of the Renewable Heat Incentive is likely to lead to a move away from oil heating currently popular in Shetland, to electrically powered solutions such as air and ground source heat pumps. This could mean significant additional electricity demand. Also, heat pumps do not lend themselves to demand side controls unless some form of hot water storage is incorporated.

#### **Renewables – grid connection**

NYDC would hope that the NINES proposals could allow a constrained connection for our wind farm and possibly for a tidal array. It is not clear yet what criteria would be used to decide who gets a grid connection under the proposals. We feel it is essential that a fair and transparent system is used and that measures to ensure this are imposed.

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