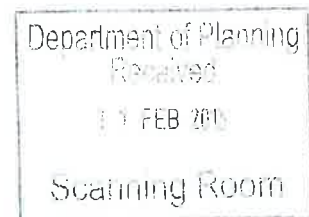




Our reference: : DOC13/3810 FIL07/13593
Contact : Mr Lindsay Fulloon ~ 02 6773 7000 ~ armidale@epa.nsw.gov.au
Date: : 7 February 2013

Mr Neville Osborne
Manager, Energy Projects
Infrastructure Assessments
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Attn: Joanne Glass

Dear Mr Osborne

Exhibition of Environmental Assessment for White Rock Wind Farm Modification (Reference: Part 3A Mod 12_5584 (modification 1 to MP 10_0160))

I refer to the correspondence dated 21 January 2013 from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoP&I) inviting the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to make a written submission on the proposed White Rock Wind Farm modification (modification 1 to MP 10_0160). The EPA received a copy of the above correspondence and the EA on the 30 January 2013.

The EPA has reviewed the information provided and understands that the proposed alternate transmission line route, substation facility and connection to the existing 330 kV Transgrid powerline to the west of the project site is now being pursued to enable higher output wind turbine generators to be used at the site. This will increase the generation capacity of the wind farm without altering its footprint.

The EPA notes that the noise emissions of the higher output wind turbine generators have not been assessed as part of the modification application to demonstrate compliance with the relevant noise criteria. However, the existing project approval incorporates a condition requiring the reassessment of noise impacts prior to commissioning of the wind farm to confirm that compliance with the noise limits specified in the approval can be achieved with the selected turbine model. On this basis, the EPA considers that this issue will be appropriately dealt with by the existing project approval noise conditions.

Noise associated with the alternative location and increased size of the proposed electricity substation will, according to the information provided, comply with the existing noise limits in the project approval.

The EA does not appear to have assessed the impacts of any transmission line and associated service track stream crossings, or examined and proposed appropriate mitigation measures to ensure impacts on water quality, hydrology, and aquatic and riparian ecosystems are avoided or minimised. The EA also appears to have failed to identify steep gradient land, or highly erosive soil types along the proposed transmission line route. As such, it does not appear to identify how works within these areas will be designed and managed during construction and operation to prevent erosion and sedimentation and protect water quality.

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