



9th October 2014

Ms Anna Timbrell

Department of Planning & Environment
23-33 Bridge Street,
Sydney, NSW 2000

Application MP 10_0135 Capital II Wind Farm - Modification 3 (Overhead Transmission Line)

Dear Ms Timbrell,

Project Background

Capital II Wind Farm is a proposed wind farm development located adjacent to the existing Capital Wind Farm, approximately 10 km north of Bungendore, NSW. Infigen Energy (the Proponent) received approval from the NSW Planning and Assessment Commission for the construction and operation of Capital II Wind Farm on 1st November 2011. Approval was granted for 41 wind turbine generators (WTGs) and associated electrical and civil infrastructure.

The electrical infrastructure approved includes an Overhead Transmission Line (OHL), approximately 5km in length which will run parallel to the existing Capital I Wind Farm OHL. The approved OHL for Capital II runs east from Lot 7 DP227420 to Lot B DP370961 and then south from Lot B DP370961 to Lot 18 DP535179 and into Lot 101 DP1159537, where it connects to the substation (refer to the green line in the map in Attachment 1).

The Environmental Assessment for Capital II included a reference to the proposed modification "Alternatively, the option to duplicate the existing transmission lines included in the Project Approval for CWFI may be exercised subject to commercial and technical feasibility" and "The extent of additional electrical infrastructure include- about 10 kilometres of 33,000 volt overhead transmission lines". The combined length of the proposed modification and approved OHL is approximately 10.5km in length.

Proposed Modification

The Proponent seeks approval for an extension of approximately 6km to the approved OHL for Capital II Wind Farm. The proposed extension of the OHL for Capital II Wind Farm will continue to run parallel to the existing Capital I Wind Farm OHL. The proposed extension of the OHL for Capital II runs south from Lot 79 DP754919 to Lot 45 DP 754877 where it joins up with the approved OHL in Lot B DP370961 (refer to the pink line in the map in Attachment 1).

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Justification

The Proponent is seeking approval for the modification as a result of a design and cost recommendation from the electrical contractors. The contractors identified this route as the preferred design option for Capital II Wind Farm as it facilitates a straight and flat construction route for the OHL and is the existing OHL route for Capital I Wind Farm. The approved (green line) and proposed (pink line) OHL run parallel to the existing (blue line) for Capital 1 Wind Farm as outlined in the map in Attachment 1.

The ongoing operation and maintenance costs for the proposed OHL route are minimized as the scheduled maintenance for both proposed OHL and existing OHL can occur concurrently. Furthermore, additional cost savings have been identified in the design and construction costs for the project if the proposed OHL is approved.

The decrease in project costs results in a lower cost of energy and assists the NSW Government meet the objectives of the NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan, 2013 and the NSW 2021 plan of reaching a renewable energy target of 20% by 2020.

Landowner Consent

The Proponent has consulted, informed and received landowner consent for the proposed modification (refer to Attachment 2).

The proposed new route will require a Crown Road Reserve License from Crown Lands. A license offer has been received by the Proponent from Crown Lands for the proposed OHL route.

Potential Impacts

The Proponent has reviewed what are the potential impacts associated with the proposed modification and reviewed those impacts in conjunction with environmental consultants. The findings are summarized below with supporting documentation attached (Attachments 3-4).

Flora and Fauna

A detailed Flora and Fauna assessment and report was completed for the proposed OHL route in 2005 as part of the Environmental Assessment for the OHL for Capital I Wind Farm (refer to Department of Planning Reference MP_05_0179).

A subsequent survey was undertaken in September 2014 for the proposed OHL route and assessed by flora and fauna specialist Dr. Kevin Mills. Dr. Mills has provided the Proponent a report of the survey and confirmed that there would be no significant impact on flora and fauna if the proposed OHL modification was approved. This conclusion is based on the survey results and Mr. Mills extensive knowledge of the area which note that the proposed OHL route comprises of exotic grassland. The report is included in Attachment 3.

Heritage

A detailed Heritage Impact Assessment field survey and report was completed for the proposed OHL route in 2005 as part of the Environmental Assessment for the existing OHL for Capital I Wind Farm (refer to Department of Planning Reference MP_05_0179).

The subsequent construction and ongoing operation of the existing OHL for Capital I Wind Farm has resulted in no further findings or impacts on items of aboriginal heritage.

A comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment field survey and report was completed in 2010 as part of the Environmental Assessment for Capital II Wind Farm (refer to Department of Planning Reference MP_10_013).

A subsequent Heritage Impact Assessment review and report including the proposed OHL route has been undertaken by environmental specialist Monteath and Powys.

This updated Heritage Impact Assessment report includes a search of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database (as of August 2014). The report concludes that none of the recorded aboriginal sites intersect with the proposed OHL route. The report is included in Attachment 4.

Conclusion

The overall impacts for the proposed OHL modification for Capital II Wind Farm are deemed as negligible. The positive impacts of the proposed modification include reduced project costs which results in a lower cost of energy and assists the NSW Government meet the objectives of the NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan, 2013 and the NSW 2021 plan of reaching a renewable energy target of 20% by 2020.

A political donations declaration for this application is attached here as Attachment 5.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Griffin", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

David Griffin
GM Development

Attachments: 1. Proposed OHL Route and Project Maps
2. Landowner Consent
3. Flora and Fauna Report
4. Heritage Impact Assessment Report
5. Political Donations Declaration