

The Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009**

Regulation 5(2)(q)

The North Wales Wind Farms Connection Project

Strategic Options Report

Document Reference No.	7.3 – Addendum 2
Regulation No.	Regulation 5(2)(q)
Author	SP Manweb
Date	November 2015
Version	V1
Planning Inspectorate Reference No.	EN020014

SP Manweb plc, Registered Office: 3 Prenton Way Prenton CH43 3ET. Registered in England No. 02366937

SUMMARY & BACKGROUND

The North Wales Wind Farms Connection Project is a major electrical infrastructure development project. It is being promoted by the local Distribution Network Operator – SP Manweb Plc (SP Manweb). The development of onshore wind generation in Wales is guided by the Welsh Government’s energy strategy, initially published in 2003. In their **Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8: renewable energy (2005)** the Welsh Government identified 7 Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) as potential locations for wind generation, of which area A is in North Wales.

For the proposed original 4 wind farm developments (Clocaenog Forest (80 MW), Llyn Brenig (45 MW), Nant Bach (22 MW) and Derwydd Bach (23 MW), the North Wales Wind Farms Connections Project Strategic Options Report¹ outlined the options considered, local network capability and proposed connection solution for the connection of the Wind Farm developments to the SP Manweb Distribution Network.

As previously outlined in the North Wales Wind Farms Connections Project Strategic Options Report – Addendum² (Examination library reference REP1-062), one of the proposed wind farm developments (Nant Bach) formally terminated its connection with SP Manweb for their North Wales Wind Farms Connection on 30 September 2015.

On 12 October 2015, the connection agreement between the developer of the Derwydd Bach wind farm and SP Manweb was terminated. The consequence of this is that the contracted generation capacity is now for 125MW (being 73.5% of the original contracted capacity).

SP Manweb is required, under the statutory duty placed upon it under the Electricity Act 1989, to review its options within the context of this revised level of generation requiring connection. This assessment is included in this second Addendum to the Strategic Options Report¹, and its first Addendum²

For simplicity, this Addendum follows the same structure as both the Strategic Options Report and the earlier Addendum, and outlines only where any material

¹ Application reference: EN20014 – March 2014, Document Reference 7.3 (APP-156)

² Application reference: EN20014 – August 2015 Addendum, Document Reference 7.3 (REP1-062)

changes or impacts are deemed valid as a result of the change in level of generation requiring connection for the Area A connections.

In summary, the overall connection solution remains unaffected from the proposed revision in generation schemes and capacities. It is considered that there is no reason, technically or otherwise, that the proposed connection solution should be any different to that originally proposed.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 There are no changes or impacts to the 'Introduction' section in relation to the Strategic Options Report, or its earlier Addendum, from the reduction in proposed wind generation from to 125MW.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are no changes or impacts to the 'Background' section in relation to the Strategic Options Report, or its earlier Addendum, from the reduction in proposed wind generation to 125MW.

3 NEED

- 3.1 Table 1 refers to status and capacities of North Wales generation schemes. Following the formal termination of both the Nant Bach and Derwydd Bach connections, Table 1 of the Strategic Options Report would therefore need to be listed as 'No' for the Contracted Connection for both Nant Bach and Derwydd Bach.
- 3.2 Paragraph 3.8 of the Strategic Options Report would also be amended to reflect there would now be some 125MW of generation to connect to the SP Manweb Distribution Network. The wind farms are: Clocaenog Forest (80 MW) & Llyn Brenig (45 MW).
- 3.3 Paragraph 3.10 of the Strategic Options Report '*Clearly another 170 MW cannot be connected without significant network reinforcement*' remains equally valid when taking into account the revision of the proposed generating capacity to 125MW of new generation in this November 2015 Addendum.

4 DESIGN PROCESS

- 4.1 There are no changes or impacts to the 'Design Process' section in relation to the Strategic Options Report, or its earlier Addendum, from the reduction in proposed wind generation capacity to 125MW.

5 BUSINESS PROCESS

- 5.1 There are no changes or impacts to the 'Business Process' section in relation to the Strategic Options Report, or its earlier Addendum, from the reduction in proposed wind generation to 125MW, other than a need to delete reference to Nant Bach and Derwydd Bach from paragraph 5.4. It would now read:

Therefore the trigger for the commencement of the strategic options process is the connection offers made to the two remaining wind farms (Clocaenog Forest and Brenig) which make up the Project

6 OPTION IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

- 6.1 There are no changes or impacts to the 'Design Process' section in relation to the Strategic Options Report, or its earlier Addendum, from the reduction in proposed wind generation capacity to 125MW.
- 6.1.1 It should remain noted that the capacity of the existing network to connect generation continues to remain substantially used up, with the 33 kV network not capable of connecting the revised 125 MW of pending generation.
- 6.1.2 The remaining options and their conclusions remain the same and unaffected as a result of the reduction in proposed wind generation to 125MW.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 There are no changes or impacts to the 'Conclusions' section in relation to the Strategic Options Report, or its earlier Addendum, from the reduction in proposed wind generation from to 125MW.

8 ADDENDUM - FINAL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 The termination of both Nant Bach and Derwydd Bach Wind Farm reduces the capacity from 170MW to 125MW.
- 8.1.2 The new position is that 2 wind farms remain within the North Wales Wind Farms Connections Project, these being:
- 8.1.2.1 Clocaenog Forest (80 MW); and
 - 8.1.2.2 Llyn Brenig (45 MW).
- 8.1.3 This provides a total of some 125MW to be connected to the SP Manweb Distribution Network.
- 8.1.4 As outlined within this and the previous Addendum, it is considered that there are **no changes** or impacts to the Strategic Options Report from the reduction in the proposed wind generation from 170MW to 125MW.
- 8.1.5 The overall analysis, options and conclusions remain equally valid for the revised level of generation. .
- 8.1.6 As outlined in the Strategic Options Report (Paragraph 7.3), the preferred option remains the 132 kV circuit to be constructed from SSA A northwards to the St Asaph BSP substation (Option SA). This option is technically capable of accommodating all the revised contracted generation, remains the minimum scheme for the connection of the proposed generation, and has the shortest 132 kV connection route of all the technically viable options. No other options provide for this.
- 8.1.7 Despite a reduction in proposed wind generation, a connection at 33kV remains **not an option** for the technical and practical reasons outlined in the earlier Strategic Options Report which remain valid.