



4909/101/02/003/MÓB

17th October 2012

The Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

Your Ref **19.PC0149**

Re: **Pre-Planning Consultation - Request for Information in Respect of the Proposed Yellow River Wind Farm, North of Rhode, Co. Offaly.**

Dear Sir / Madam,

In reference to the pre-application consultation meeting for the above mentioned project, and in particular your letter to our offices dated 4th October 2012, requesting information in relation to the proposed Yellow River Wind Farm please find herewith our response on behalf of Green Wind Energy (Wexford) Ltd.

(a) *Clarification on whether the project relates to the individual landholdings or an amalgamation of the landholdings.*

The proposed Yellow River Wind Farm site is an amalgamation of fifteen individual landholdings which to form the Yellow River overall landholding; please refer to the attached map.

(b) *Clarification on which of the several landholdings will be used for the windfarm.*

The proposed Yellow River Wind Farm development footprint will incorporate all fifteen individual landholdings.

- (c) *Clarification on which sections of the landholdings will be used to site turbines.*
All fifteen individual landholdings contain areas suitable for turbine development.
- (d) *Details on how each of the individual landholdings will be connected to one another, if at all.*
The proposed development will be connected via an underground cable and a network of public and internal access roads.
- (e) *Details in relation to grid connections for each of the sites.*
Green Wind Energy (Wexford) Ltd applied for a 72MW grid connection for the Yellow River Wind Farm in April 2012.
- (f) *Details of the nature of the issues on which advice is sought from the Board in respect of the proposed development application having regard to section 37B(3) of the Planning and Development 2000 Act, as amended and to article 210 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as inserted by Article 41 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2006.*

The Yellow River Wind Farm with an anticipated output of 72MW exceeds the statutory threshold of 25 turbines or 50 megawatts specified in the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 as amended by s78 of the Planning and Development Amendment Act 2010.

As outlined in our letter dated the 9th of August 2012, we consider that the proposed development should be regarded as strategic infrastructure, as it satisfies criteria (a) and (b) of section 37A(2) of the 2006 Act. We seek confirmation of this satisfaction from the Board.

We also request advice from the Board in relation to what considerations, related to proper planning and sustainable development or the environment, may, in the opinion of the Board, have a bearing on its decision in relation to the application.

Yours sincerely



Mícheál Ó Broin

Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Ltd. Consulting Engineer