

8. BENEFITS FOR THE AREA

The economy of this part of North Offaly will benefit substantially from the Yellow River Wind Farm, both from the creation of direct and indirect jobs and from payments from GWE to local landowners and businesses for rents and services.

- ❖ 75 jobs will be created during the construction phase of the Yellow River Wind Farm which will provide a welcome economic boost to the local services sector
- ❖ following construction, 4 full time jobs for the operation and maintenance phase will be created
- ❖ Significant annual lease payments will be made to participating landowners

All of these jobs and payments will have a significant and positive impact on the local economy and will contribute to the long term sustainability of the community.

In addition, the report by Deloitte in 2009 on employment in the Wind Energy industry (*IWEA Jobs and Investment in Irish Wind Energy Study, 2009*), on the assumption that there is steady growth in the industry until 2020, found that each Mega Watt of wind energy installed results in 1.5 long-term jobs in support and associated industries in Ireland. Based on this report, over 100 jobs in Ireland will be created by the Yellow River Wind Farm.

9. YOUR COMMENTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO US

We would be delighted to receive your comments in relation to our project .You can send them by email (info@jodireland.com) or letter to Jennings O'Donovan & Partners at the addresses shown on this brochure. So that your comments can be fully considered and so that they can contribute to the finalising of the project, the comments must be received by **4th January 2013**. If you require any clarification please contact us by e-mail or letter as above or ring our consultants on **(071) 9161416**.

Some further information on wind energy in Ireland can be obtained from the following websites:-

Irish Wind Energy Association

www.iwea.com

Sustainable Energy Ireland

www.sei.ie

Eirgrid

www.eirgrid.com

Commission for Energy Regulation (CER)

www.cer.ie

INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT & THE PROJECT TEAM IS AVAILABLE FROM:-

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**GREEN WIND ENERGY
GROUP**



**PUBLIC
CONSULTATION**

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1. INTRODUCTION

Green Wind Energy (GWE), a wholly Irish owned renewables company, intends to develop a wind farm on lands north of Rhode Co. Offaly. This leaflet, together with the public exhibition, forms part of GWE's ongoing public consultation programme.

2. NEXT STEPS

The indicative layout on display at this consultation will be further developed over the coming months, taking into account your comments and the expert reports on the environmental, engineering and economic studies. We expect to formally apply for planning permission early in 2013. Depending on the duration of the planning process, construction could commence in 2014.

3. WIND POWER AND IRELAND'S ECONOMY

As part of a world-wide agreement on measures needed to combat global warming Ireland has committed to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions that we generate by our dependence on fossil fuels, most of which are imported. To achieve this, Ireland has set a target of producing, by 2020, 40% of all electricity needs from renewable energy sources.

To meet this target between 5,500 MW and 6,000 MW of power will have to be generated from wind. On the 23rd January 2012, on the island of Ireland, there were 179 operational wind farms in 26 of the 32 counties with a total installed capacity of 2,140 MW (*Ref. IWEA Jan 23rd 2012*). There are no wind farms operational in Co Offaly, Co Westmeath or Co Meath at present. Yellow River Wind Farm will contribute towards Ireland's international obligations.

4. WIND POWER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The environmental benefits of wind power generation include

- ❖ No emissions of Carbon Dioxide, the main contributor to the greenhouse gas effect
- ❖ No emissions of Sulphur Dioxide or Oxides of Nitrogen, gases that lead to acid rain
- ❖ Clean, safe, sustainable power with no waste

- ❖ Fast, simple and economic construction
- ❖ Simple and effective decommissioning (if ever required)

5. WHY IS THE YELLOW RIVER SITE SUITABLE?

The Yellow River Wind Farm site is eminently suitable for the harnessing of wind energy for many reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

- ❖ The site has suitable wind speeds based on published SEAI wind atlas data. These wind speeds are currently being confirmed by wind data being gathered on a daily basis by GWE's anemometer that was erected on the site at the beginning of the year.
- ❖ The site is located in an area designated as being highly suitable for large-scale wind farms as per the Offaly Wind Energy Strategy 2009 – 2015. This document forms part of the County Offaly Development Plan and details the County's stance on wind energy developments.
- ❖ The site has sufficient spatial area to accommodate all of the siting requirements contained in Ireland's Wind Energy Development Guidelines.
- ❖ There is good access road network around the site to facilitate turbine component haulage.
- ❖ There is good existing electrical infrastructure around the site including 110 kV power lines and the 110kV Derryiron substation in the vicinity of the site that offer available and convenient connection to the National Grid.

6. THE YELLOW RIVER PROJECT

GWE propose to construct up to 32 wind turbine generators. The design parameters that determined the locations of the turbines fully comply with the National Planning Guidelines for Wind Farm Developments. Turbines will be located:

- ❖ at least 500m from non-associated houses
- ❖ at least 50m from watercourses
- ❖ at least a turbine blade sweep from the site boundary
- ❖ at least 25m from any archaeological features.

GWE will use the Motorway (M4) and the Regional Road (R400) to deliver turbines to the site and then the Regional and some of the existing Local roads to access the site entrance. The wind farm will create its own internal road network from the site entrance to each turbine site.

A detailed traffic management plan will be implemented during construction to minimise disruption.

When the wind farm is operational all farming and turf cutting enterprises will operate as normal throughout the site.

GWE have made formal application to Eirgrid for connection to the Irish National Grid. All new power lines within the site from the turbines to the sub-station will be cabled underground.

The new sub-station will be connected to the existing Derryiron sub-station via underground cables. No new overhead lines will be constructed as part of this project.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

GWE are undertaking a full suite of studies that meet the statutory requirements for Environmental Impact Assessment. These will assess potential impacts of the proposed development as well as appropriate mitigation measures (if required) for:

- ❖ Human Beings
- ❖ Flora and Fauna (Ecology)
- ❖ Aquatic Ecology
- ❖ Birds
- ❖ Soils and Geology (including Slope Stability)
- ❖ Air and Noise
- ❖ Shadow Flicker
- ❖ Landscape and Visual Assessment
- ❖ Cultural Heritage (Archaeology)

The Environmental Impact Statement will include expert reports on all of the above and will form part of the formal Planning Application for the wind farm that will be submitted early in the New Year.