



THANET OFFSHORE WIND FARM

**CONSENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION REQUESTED,
PROJECT RECEIVES HIGH LEVEL OF PUBLIC SUPPORT**

Thanet Offshore Wind Limited (TOW), a subsidiary of Warwick Energy Limited, has today applied for consents to construct and operate its proposed offshore wind farm off the coast of East Kent. Consents have been requested from both the DTI and from defra. It is hoped that, subject to the consents being granted, the 300 MW wind farm will commence operation in late 2007 or 2008 and make a significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Accompanying the consent application is a full Environmental Statement (ES) regarding the proposed development. The ES draws on the results of the many environmental and technical surveys and studies that TOW has commissioned since early 2004. These conclude that the development will have a minimal impact on the local environment.

TOW held a series of public exhibitions in Margate, Broadstairs, Ramsgate and Deal in June 2005. The main purposes of the exhibitions were to increase public awareness of the project, identify any particular concerns that the general public might have and to answer questions on a face-to-face basis. TOW has been very encouraged by the level of local support for the project to date and this was confirmed from the questionnaire returns at the exhibitions where 73% of people supported the project, 20% were undecided and only 7% against.

'We are very pleased with the progress of this important project' commented Mark Petterson, Project Director 'The results of the various surveys have been positive, identifying that the impact of the project should be minimal on the local environment. We are also pleased that local residents continue to be supportive of the project with responses running roughly 10:1 in favour of the scheme'

The total project cost is currently expected to be in excess of £300m and could create many temporary jobs during the construction phase in 2007 and 2008 and up to 20 full time jobs thereafter. It is hoped that many of the jobs will be filled locally when the construction contracts are let in late 2006.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. In January 2004, Warwick Energy announced plans to develop an offshore wind farm 11.5 km to the North East of the Thanet coast in East Kent. The company has been given exclusive rights to the site under an agreement with The Crown Estate. The project would include between 60 and 100 wind turbine generators producing on average enough electricity to supply 240,000 homes with green electricity.
2. Over the past 18 months TOW has conducted a large number of surveys and studies on the site, consistent with the Scoping Report submitted in July 2004. The results of these studies form the basis for the Environmental Statement.
3. Copies of the ES will be made available for viewing by members of the public at all main council offices and public libraries throughout the area in the near future. Copies of the full ES on CD may be obtained from the Company's registered office for a charge of £25. Copies of the Non Technical Summary are also available, free of charge, when requested from the Company's registered office or can be downloaded from the Warwick website at www.warwickenergy.com
4. The public exhibitions, conducted in June 2005, were attended by 731 people of whom 400 (55%) completed a questionnaire and responded, either at the exhibitions or afterwards by post, which provided feedback to the scheme as shown below. Of the responses received 43% were strongly supportive of the proposed scheme, 30% supportive, 20% undecided, 2% against and 5% strongly against. Analysis of the reasons given for being against the project reveals that most were based on the potential navigational risks, visual impact of the wind turbines from the shore and the potential impact on the local bird population. It is believed that the ES demonstrates that any impact in these areas, as a consequence of the development, will be negligible.
5. It is expected that electricity generation from offshore wind farms, such as this one at Thanet, will make a significant contribution towards the UK's target of producing 15% of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2015 and also contribute to regional targets. The project will avoid CO2 emissions of between 0.6 and 1 million tonnes per year, depending on whether the electricity produced displaces coal or gas fired generation.
6. Warwick Energy's wind farm project at Thanet is one of 15 such projects announced by the Crown Estate in January 2004 as a national second Round of offshore wind projects. Other 'Round 2' projects currently being proposed by other companies in the greater Thames area are those called London Array and Greater Gabbard. The newly constructed Kentish Flats wind farm off Whitstable was part of the first Round of demonstrator wind farm projects launched by the Crown Estate in early 2001.

Contacts: Mark Petterson Director, Warwick Energy 01789 471091

Warwick Energy Limited, Wellesbourne House, Wellesbourne, Warwick, CV35 9JB