



Minsca Wind Farm Life Extension

Ventient Energy intends to request a variation of the existing planning consent for Minsca Wind Farm to allow for the continued operation of the wind farm for an additional ten years. It was previously expected that the wind farm would generate until June 2033. Ventient do not intend to change any physical elements of the wind farm, all of which would continue to operate as they have done since 2008.

Why would Ventient like to extend the wind farm life?

In a typical year, the wind farm generates approximately 89.5 GWh of electricity, enough to power around 21,750 homes¹. As well as continuing to provide clean electricity for the benefit of people and the planet, supporting decarbonization for a cleaner environment for future generations, and providing the local community with benefit funds to support their wellbeing, the wind farm contributes to efforts to overcome the energy crisis due to the increased price of non-renewable resources which affects millions of people's energy bills across the UK. The continued operation of Minsca Wind Farm supports a large number of technicians and contributes to the local economies within which the wind farm operates by using local firms where possible and through use of local accommodation and services. Technical assessment across many of Ventient's sites has demonstrated wind farms can continue to operate safely and efficiently beyond their originally anticipated lifespan.

When will the application be submitted?

The application will be submitted before the end of 2022.

Will traffic levels increase during the life extension period?

No, there will not be a significant increase in the level of traffic associated with the ongoing operation and maintenance of the wind farm. Condition monitoring systems are fitted to all wind turbines at Minsca which provide monitoring of all major components 24/7, 365 days of the year. Together with best practice maintenance improvements, this helps reduce the number of defects which may form and site visits required.

Is there a risk of increased noise as the turbines age?

The wind turbines will continue to be operated and maintained to Ventient's high standards therefore there is no reason why the level of noise from the turbines will increase.

Are you considering repowering the wind farm in the future?

Ventient has no current plans to repower the wind farm however this may be an option which is considered in the future and one which would be discussed with community councils and local residents in detail if pursued.

Will the community fund continue to be provided?

Yes. The community fund would continue throughout the proposed extended period of operation. The current community benefit fund amount for 2022 is £3,187 / installed MW, which will continue to track inflation under the current community benefit agreement, until the planning extension period in 2033 is reached. The fund will then be increased by 25 % for the extension period. In recent years, support has been provided to a wide variety of projects including replacement of a community hall floor, a Seniors Christmas lunch and a grant to assist a local primary school for a visit to London.

For further enquiries please contact

E: windfarms@ventientenergy.com

Ventient Energy

4th Floor, 12 Blenheim Place, Edinburgh,
EH7 5JH

T: +44 (0)131 243 1380

¹ Based on an average energy yield and assumed annual household usage of 4,115 kWh per year[^] = 21,750 homes

[^] Typical Domestic Consumption Values from Ofgem. Electricity: Profile Class 2 Medium 4.2 MWh