

Objecting To GLEN ULLINISH 2 Wind Farm.

KEY ISSUE: This is the largest of the planning applications for wind farms faced by Skye - seeking planning approval for 47 turbines 200m high. (the current ones at Edinbane and Ben Aketil are only 100m high). These new turbines they are proposing are massive! They are also proposing two substations and a 120MW Battery Storage Facility.

As the proposal will result in a wind farm of greater than 50MW capacity the planning application will be determined by the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government.

The Highland Council, as the relevant planning authority will also be asked their opinion. If they choose to object, this would trigger a public inquiry.

The published cut off date for objections/representations is 23rd September 2023.

We need to do two separate emails. One to the Energy Consents Unit, objecting to the proposal, and one to the Highland Council making an objection, also copied to our local Councillors asking them to object to the plans.

To object to the ECU:

Email address for objections: Representations_Mailbox@gov.scot

Need to quote Ref No. ECU 00004829 Project Name "Glen Ullinish II Wind Farm"

To The Highland Council

The planning application can be viewed here:

<https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RZHJXXIH0FN00&activeTab=summary>

Please either register on the Council website to make an objection or email eplanning@highland.gov.uk or write to The Highland Council Eplanning, Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness. IV3 5NX.

Need to quote reference 23/03945/S36.

Then copy in our Councillors and maybe the planning officer: email addresses:

drew.millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk (Chair of North Area Planning Committee and Skye Councillor)
john.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk
calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk
ruraidh.Stewart.cllr@highland.gov.uk
dafydd.jones@highland.gov.uk (Planning officer - Area Manager North Highland)

Key Points (for both ECU and the Highland Council)

Best to take these points and rewrite in your own words:

1. The proposal for Glen Ullinish 2 wind farm, with 47 turbines at a height of 200m, battery storage and substations is massive and will have a long term detrimental impact on the landscape of the Isle of Skye...world famous for its unparalleled beauty. It will be visible for miles around, from many world famous locations and sites of historic significance.
2. There is no need for this development. Three of the existing turbines at Ben Aketil or Edinbane provide enough power the whole of Skye...Skye already produces ten times the power it needs

from its existing wind farms. The Scottish Government will easily pass its target of 20GW of wind farms with the plans already consented and being built across Scotland. There is no need for more.

3. Glen Ullinish 11 will cause massive damage to peat land. The EIA calculates that 613,400m³ of peat will need to be excavated to construct the wind farm - the equivalent volume of 1,600 25m swimming pools. Peat is one of the most valuable and threatened carbon sinks. It takes thousands of years to form and should never be damaged in pursuit of climate change goals.
4. Turbines are proposed within the water catchment area for a burn that supplies drinking water to Struan. Any contamination during construction or operation would cause major problems.
5. Muirhall's EIA states that the wind farm will be likely to kill 133 white tailed (sea) eagles over its lifetime. There are currently only 39 breeding pairs on Skye. According to the EIA otters, pipistrelle bats and other birds and mammals will have their habitats disturbed/fragmented/destroyed.. No account has been taken of plants in the EIA, let alone any that are rare.
6. The nature of a number of historic locations will be irreversibly damaged by the Glen Ullinish proposals. Dun Arkaig, for example will be completely dominated by a view of giant turbines, the nearest being only 0.65km away.
7. The proposals to include 120MW of battery storage will be like building a large industrial unit in the middle of Skye's countryside and are completely inappropriate. There is a high risk of fire at these storage facilities, which would result in release of toxic gases over a wide area of the island and potential contamination of water courses for many years.
8. No assessment has been made in the EIA of the traffic chaos that will be caused as 189 convoys of "Abnormal Indivisible Loads" drive from Kyle of Lochalsh to Broadford, and then in a separate journey onwards to Glen Ullinish in the North West of Skye. That's a journey of over 41 miles, with slow moving vehicles blocking the entire road. The turbine blades alone could be 81m long (according to the EIA). There is no indication of the expected journey time, or for how long the road will be blocked each day (or night). Vital road safety barriers and traffic lights will need to be removed. There is no calculation of the impact of this on businesses, emergency services and other road users. No calculation of lost hours of work or damage to tourism. No consideration of the cumulative impact of these convoys along with those from all the other wind farms proposed or consented on Skye.
9. There will be massive visual and noise impact for those who live near Glen Ullinish. Properties will be devalued. Noise assessment data in the EIA is incomplete and background noise data was incorrectly gathered in at least one location. No assessment has been made of the potential impact of infrasound or amplitude modulation on nearby residents.
10. There will be unquantifiable damage to tourist industry..Skye's primary source of income.
11. Community benefit payments proposed from the developers are tiny - £7000 per MW - where figures show community owned turbines can return £170,000 per MW (and sometimes much more).
12. Community "Consultation" events are a box ticking exercise. Poorly advertised and attended. People are unaware of the scale of proposals.
13. There is urgent need for a planning inquiry commission to take a strategic overview of all proposals for wind farms and the Skye Reinforcement Power Line based on need.