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Renewables First Ltd
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Our ref: 19/01484/S73M

7th November 2019

Dear Mr Simon

Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 –Application to vary condition 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12 and 15 attached to planning permission 18/01477/FULM to amend the approved plans, reducing from three turbines to two and with a smaller development footprint. The purpose of this development is to generate and store renewable electricity and provide improvement to upstream fish and eel passage and biodiversity on the River Trent.

I write in connection with the above application deposited with the District Council on the 8th August 2019 and subsequently validated on the 12th August 2019.

The District Council is satisfied that the proposal does not constitute Schedule 1 development, for which an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is mandatory. The proposal set out in the covering letter includes development which is considered to fall within the criteria and thresholds of Class 3(a) (Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water and installations of hydroelectric energy) and 3(h) (Installations for hydroelectric energy production) of Schedule 2 of the 2017 Town and Country Planning Environmental Impact Regulations. The proposal does not meet or exceed the relevant thresholds set out within Schedule 2 of the Regulations nor does it fall within any of the sensitive areas defined within National Planning Guidance. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has applied the selection criteria set out by Schedule 3 of the Regulations and made reference to the guidance set out in Planning Practice Guidance.

Taking all matters into account, in our opinion, based on the details provided the proposal is unlikely to have complex or significant environmental effects and thus a formal Environmental Statement is not required in this instance.

In reaching this conclusion, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) is satisfied that the proposal would not constitute a development that would have major impacts on the environment of more than local significance. There are a number of environmental matters which need to be addressed in the application and these matters, whether singularly or cumulatively could have a level of environmental effect. However, it is considered that these impacts can be adequately assessed through the detailed supporting documents that have been submitted with the application.

I trust the contents of this letter are clear. Should you have any further questions please feel free to contact the case officer to discuss them.

Yours sincerely

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Lisa Hughes
Business Manager – Planning Development