

Eskdalemuir Working Group minutes

Date: 3 September 2025

Time: 13:00 – 14:30

Agenda:

- Update on Mod Baseline Audit
- Update on Xi work packages
- Update from DESNZ on guidance and legislation
- Risk workshop to establish a risk tracker
- Next Steps

MoD Baseline Audit update

The MoD have collected all their data on existing windfarms and are now working out SVG for each wind farm to work towards a SIL figure. The MoD are hoping to share information regarding the baseline audit towards the end of the month.

The timeline for the baseline audit is subject to requests from the ECU for MoD input to applications, possibly 20+ applications with potentially lots of bilateral work to be done. It is also subject to the resource required from MoD to review planning applications.

It is dependent on MoD seniors as to whether it is possible to give relevant planning applications a later schedule as to not slow down the Eskdalemuir work. Dependent on MoD seniors

The next step for the MoD baseline audit are to:

- Establish a cumulative SGV
- Share with the group to see if there is consensus that is correct
- Will know the headroom, calculate the SIL,
- MoD to send a full audited list to Xi to calculate a SIL with the updated approach.

Xi work packages update

The relevant seismic expert has all the documentation for all the work packages. The industry tool is in the final stages and looking to do 'soft launch' where members can stress-test. Xi will need MoD's audit list to finalise it

The MoD tool is in final stages and going through cyber assessment internally with MoD. Xi will then be directly contracted to produce the MoD tool which will link with industry tool

DESNZ Updates

Independent legal expert retained by AIFCL has been commissioned to update the technical guidance on DESNZ's behalf, which will be circulated with the EWG at a later stage.

Work to establish a relevant legislative vehicle to support an updated approach to managing onshore wind in the Eskdalemuir area continues.

Risks Workshop

DESNZ ran a risk workshop to feed into the DESNZ-MoD senior forum. This is aimed at providing a more formal governance link to, and oversight from, that forum.

The headline risks fed back to the forum were:

- MoD Baseline Audit
 - Timelines affecting the consultation
 - Possibility of less headroom available than expected.
- General consultation timeline risks from delayed drafting.
- Identifying a suitable legislative vehicle
- The possibility of the consultation outline not supporting the proposed approach.

Next Steps

The next EWG meeting will be sent out at a point such that the technical guidance can be circulated ahead of time to inform any discussions.

Actions

- DESNZ will feed the risks into the DESNZ-MoD senior forum.
- MoD will send an audited list of the existing wind farms around Eskdalemuir to Xi to calculate an updated SIL once ready.
- DESNZ will send through a hold for the next EWG meeting.