

Eskdalemuir Working Group (EWG) Minutes

Date: 20th November 2025

Time: 10:00 - 11:30

Agenda:

- Welcome
- PIB update
- Policy discussion:
 - Zoning
 - SIL
 - Consenting and determination
 - Best practice and guidance
- Timelines
- Next steps

Welcome

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) representative opened the meeting and laid out the wider policy context, and stated that this meeting was to gain the views on the draft technical guidance and consultation document that is aiming to be published in Q1 2026.

PIB update

DESNZ representative stated that the Amendment to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, once it has received royal assent, can be a vehicle to introduce possible future secondary legislation based on the outcomes of the consultation.

Policy updates

The EWG discussed the policy areas mentioned in the above agenda and came to several consensus points:

- Zoning should continue to be determined by radius from the array in accordance with 2005 technical guidance.
- DESNZ sought clarity on the figures around equivalent turbines, as there are several different references in Xi work studies. A consensus was reached to use the average turbine seismic interference. This then means that the figure 1 turbine at 10km is approximately 5500 turbines at 50km.
- Discussion then took place around at which stage in the planning process would the potential secondary legislation laid out in the consultation and technical guidance, and how this would apply practically in the planning systems.
- The baseline audit of the existing seismic ground vibrations of the sites within the Eskdalemuir region is still ongoing. This then determines the available headroom by which the policy can set out a Seismic Impact Limit per turbine, which would help to ensure that a turbine does not use a disproportionate amount of headroom.
- The EWG discussed the maintenance of a turbine make and model list, which would allow for applicants for a wind farm to input their development information, e.g. location and make/model of a turbine, and receive a report of the seismic information of their proposal.
- The EWG discussed how repowering and variation of projects would apply in the proposed consultation.

Timelines

- DESNZ asked for comments to be added to the draft consultation and technical guidance documents to be returned by 28th November.
- Consultation due to go live in Q1 of 2026

Next Steps

- Maps to be produced with proposed zones for the exclusion zone and 'restricted zone'.
- Scottish Government and DESNZ to seek legal advice on how potential legislation could affect projects that have already submitted their planning applications.
- The representative from Dumfries and Galloway Council to provide written feedback on practical applications of the proposed policy set out in the consultation.
- Xi Engineering to provide DESNZ with a list of all the projects that are currently in the Eskdalemuir region and their current planning stage and expected generational capacity.
- Industry representatives to discuss maintenance of the 'turbine list' and provide feedback to DESNZ