



## **SSE's £150m Doraville Wind Farm is 'an investment in the economy and into the community'**

### ***– Planning moves forward as SSE submits Environmental Statement and Community Consultation findings to Department of the Environment –***

Plans for a £150 million wind farm at Doraville in Co. Tyrone have significantly progressed today (Wednesday 9 December) with the submission by SSE, Northern Ireland's largest provider of wind power and second largest energy supplier, of an Environmental Statement for the project along with the findings from the recent Community Consultation to the Department of the Environment (DOE).

The £150 million expenditure earmarked for the 115MW Doraville Wind Farm represents the largest single capital investment that SSE has committed to making so far in the Northern Ireland economy and into the community. Of that total investment, SSE projects that £50 million can be secured by NI businesses, with £15.6 million going to local firms. The investment will create 427 Job Years during construction, with 129 of those in the local area.

Once operational Doraville Wind Farm, which can power up to 85,000<sup>†</sup> homes, will generate £28.8 million in rates payments through its lifetime in addition to £15 million in community fund awards. Additionally, an independent study for SSE's Environmental Statement by BiGGAR Economics indicates that Doraville Wind Farm could contribute £105.8 million over its operational lifetime through year-on-year economic spend to the NI economy. Of that total, £63.2 million would be spent directly in the Fermanagh & Omagh, Strabane and Mid-Ulster District Council areas.

Today's submission by SSE of the Environmental Statement and Community Consultation findings marks the next step forward in the planning process for this major infrastructure project. An initial planning application for the Doraville project was submitted by SSE to DOE in June.

This followed an extensive 12-week period of Community Consultation late last year during which almost 300 members of the public directly engaged with SSE on its proposals. As a result of that consultation process, SSE revised the final planning application submitted to DOE to incorporate changes including a reduction in the number of planned turbines from 42 to 36 and a revised turbine layout that avoids impacting on the most sensitive views that people raised concerned about.

Further findings in the Community Consultation Report have delivered a major boost for SSE's proposals. Published today, the Report highlights significant levels of support for renewable energy development with 53% of respondents saying they are in favour of the wind farm while 72% said they are in favour of renewable energy in general.

#### **Paul Cooley, Director of Renewables for SSE, comments:**

"Since 2008 SSE has invested half a billion pounds in renewables development in Northern Ireland. In doing so, we have always been guided by the key principal of investing in the right renewable energy projects that can help meet Northern Ireland's 2020 decarbonisation targets while delivering an economic return and social dividend to the communities in which each of our projects is located.

“With our Doraville Wind Farm project we are breaking new ground in delivering a sustainable investment that will not only inject £150 million into the NI economy during construction but that will also contribute a sustaining and long-term investment into the community. Over the project’s 25-year lifetime Doraville Wind Farm will contribute over £100 million into Northern Ireland in gross value added spend, on top of almost £50 million in committed community benefit funds and local authority rates payments. This represents the most significant contribution that any wind energy project has ever had the potential to deliver to the local and national economy here.

“I am particularly pleased that the findings of the Community Consultation Report published today show that there is strong support locally for renewable energy, with many recognising the environmental and economic positives that renewable energy and Doraville Wind Farm in particular can bring. These benefits range from helping the environment and delivering jobs and economic investment to bringing new benefit opportunities to. As we move forward with our proposals we will work with the local community to help realise the full potential benefits of this development for local households and organisations, and in doing so making a difference with communities for generations to come.”

In addition to direct project investment during construction SSE is committed to maximizing additional benefits that it can bring to the area through initiatives which will enhance the company’s existing Community and Scholarship Funds and introduce new grant aid support for tourism and recreation facilities in the area as well as improved comfort levels and reduced energy costs for local householders. These initiatives include:

- Expanding the existing scope of the annual Community Fund beyond support for local energy efficiency programmes and the SSE Airtricity Scholarship to introduce a new household energy efficiency scheme aimed at improving household energy efficiency to help reduce home energy costs. The scheme will be available to householders living within 3 miles of the wind farm. At the outset it will see SSE Airtricity undertaking Energy Audits in participating households to identify energy-saving home improvements which can be made, ranging from loft and cavity wall insulation to installation of double glazing and replacement of inefficient boilers and radiators.
- Creating a new £1 million Doraville Area Grant Aid Scheme to further improve and develop tourism and recreation in the area. This scheme will support area access, tourism promotion, and the development and enhancement of recreational facilities and the local economy. SSE will utilise experience from wind farms in other countries including Scotland where projects have delivered new walking and cycling trails, outdoor experiences and educational facilities.

Copies of the Doraville Wind Farm Environmental Statement and the Community Consultation Report are available to members of the public for review at Public Libraries in Cookstown, Draperstown, and Omagh, as well as at Owenkillew Community Centre in Gortin, and Department of the Environment Planning. Further information on the Doraville Wind Farm proposals including summaries of the Environmental Statement and the Community Consultation Report can be found at [ireland.sse.com/doraville](http://ireland.sse.com/doraville) or via the DOE Planning Portal website [planningni.gov.uk](http://planningni.gov.uk) quoting planning reference LA10/2015/0292/F.

*Ends*

*† Projected generation and homes powered calculations based on typical annual consumption of 3,800kWh (Utility Regulator Transparency Report, Nov 2015) and 1 year average recorded capacity factor of SSE wind farms operating in Northern Ireland, April 2013-March 2014. Historic figures quoted are for guideline purposes only - actual future performance may vary.*

*^ BiGGAR Economics Study based on Gross Value Added (GVA) economic measure of the value of goods and services. During each operational year, it is estimated that Doraville Wind Farm can generate £2.5 million GVA for the Fermanagh & Omagh, Strabane and Mid-Ulster District Council areas and £4.2 million across Northern Ireland.*

### **About Doraville Wind Farm:**

Located in the Sperrins in County Tyrone, within the townlands of Derrynoyd, Brackagh North, Tievenameena and Cloghemy Glebe, the proposed 36 turbine Doraville Wind Farm has the potential to generate 115MW of green electricity and would be the largest wind farm in Northern Ireland with the potential to power around 85,000<sup>†</sup> homes.

SSE submitted a planning application for a 36 turbine wind farm at Doraville on 30 June 2015. The Department for the Environment assessed the application as requiring an Environmental Statement, which has been submitted along with a Community Consultation Report which details the findings of a 12-week consultation period conducted by SSE from September to December 2014. The Community Consultation sought the views of the local community through three public events, mail-outs, a questionnaire and door-to-door calls. Almost 500 homes in the immediate 3 mile (5km) area around the Doraville site were informed of the consultation and almost 300 members of the public directly engaged with SSE on its proposals during this period.

### **Commenting on the Planning Application:**

The Planning Application and supporting documentation, including this ES, will be available to view during regular opening hours at the following locations:

Cookstown Library  
13 Burn Road  
Cookstown  
Co. Tyrone  
BT80 8DJ  
*(copy also available for purchase)*

Draperstown Library  
50 High Street  
Draperstown  
Co. Londonderry  
BT45 7AD  
*(please note there are restricted opening hours at this location)*

Owenkillew Community Centre, Gortin  
62 Main Street  
Gortin  
Co. Tyrone  
BT79 8NH

Omagh Library  
1 Spillars Place  
Irishtown Road, Omagh  
Co. Tyrone  
BT78 1HL

DOE Planning  
Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
Belfast  
BT2 7EG

The Planning Application and supporting documentation, including the Environmental Statement, can also be accessed via the Planning Portal website, using the application reference number LA10/2015/0292/F, at: <http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/tools/public-access-info.htm>

A free digital copy of the Environmental Statement is available on CD and copies of the Non-Technical Summary are available free of charge. All documents can be obtained by writing to:

Turley Associates  
Hamilton House  
3 Joy Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8LE

Hard copies of the Environmental Statement can be purchased from Cookstown Library or Turley Associates for a charge of £550 (including VAT).