

Argyll and Bute Council
Kilmory
Lochgilphead
Argyll
PA31 8RT

SSE Renewables
1 Waterloo Street
Glasgow
G2 6AY

Date: 9 September 2025

Dear Argyll and Bute Council

Request for a Screening Opinion for a proposed extension to the permitted operational life of Tangy I (Ref: 21/02556/PP) + Tangy II (Ref: 21/02555/PP) Wind Farms

SSE Generation Limited (hereafter 'SSE') owns and operates Tangy Wind Farm, comprising Tangy I and Tangy II, which currently have planning permission to operate until August 2027.

SSER intends to submit applications under Section 42 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to vary Condition 2 of the respective planning permissions for Tangy I (Ref: 21/02556/PP) and Tangy II (Ref: 21/02555/PP). The purpose of the variation is to extend the permitted operational life of both wind farms.

In accordance with The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, we are seeking a screening opinion to determine whether EIA is required to support the Section 42 applications. Regulation 7 requires that, in reaching this decision, the determining authority considers the relevant matters set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations along with any available assessment results.

Due to the nature of the proposed application, the prospective Applicant does not anticipate any significant environmental effects, either alone or cumulatively, that cannot be appropriately mitigated.

On this basis, we conclude that the proposal does not require to be accompanied by an EIA. Choosing not to require EIA in this instance would also align with the collaborative action agreed through the Onshore Wind Sector Deal, which seeks to accelerate delivery by ensuring a proportionate approach to environmental assessment and reducing unnecessary burdens on decision-makers, consultees, and stakeholders.

Project and planning history

Tangy I, comprising 15 turbines, has been operational since 2003. Tangy II followed in 2007, adding 7 turbines and bringing the total at Tangy Wind Farm to 22.

Decommissioning of the existing site was originally scheduled to coincide with construction of Tangy IV, which was granted Section 36 consent in December 2019 (ECU ref: ECU00000673).

However, following project refinements, Tangy IV's grid connection date was pushed back from 2023 to late 2026. To ensure continued renewable generation in the meantime, the Applicant sought and obtained an extension to the operational period of Tangy I and II until August 2027. Argyll and Bute Council approved this variation to Condition 2 in March 2023.

The Applicant remained committed to progressing Tangy IV, and in 2024 submitted and secured approval for various pre-commencement conditions. However, delays to grid upgrade works across the Argyll peninsula alongside with wider economic pressures on the onshore wind sector meant the project's economics were no longer viable and it was placed on hold.

Following a detailed feasibility review, the Applicant now intends to apply under Section 36C of the Electricity Act 1989 to vary the consented Tangy IV scheme. The proposed changes include increasing turbine tip heights up to 200 meters and making associated infrastructure modifications to improve the project's commercial viability. The Applicant is aiming to submit its S36C application in Spring 2026.

Site Description

Tangy Wind Farm is located on land approximately 9 km north-west of Campbeltown, Kintyre's largest settlement. The closest villages are Tangy Village, approximately 1.5km east of the site, Bellochauty, 3.5 km north-west of the site, and Kilchenzie, 3 km south of the site.

The site comprises several small watercourses/burns, many of which are connected to Tangy Loch, which is approximately 500 m south-east at its closest point. There are no major roads within the site, although there are forest tracks and approximately 3.7km of access tracks that service Tangy I and II. No turbines are located within areas designated for ecological protection at international, national or local scale.

In the wider area, Tangy Loch, located adjacent to the wind farm site to the south-east, is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is a part of the Kintyre Goose Roosts Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site due to the presence of nationally important aquatic plant life (Slender naiad *najas flexilis*) and the Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). The Kintyre Goose Roosts SPA and Ramsar sites, and Kintyre Goose Lochs SSSI, that cover Tangy Loch also include Lussa Loch, located approximately 2.5 km north-east of Tangy I and II.

The Proposal

Tangy Wind Farm currently has permission to operate until August 2027 and the Applicant is proposing to apply to extend this duration until August 2032.

The extension is sought to align with the anticipated construction of the varied Tangy IV development, subject to consent being granted by Scottish Ministers. For clarity, it is intended that the Tangy I and II turbines will be decommissioned prior to the commissioning and operation of the future Tangy IV turbines. A decommissioning strategy will be submitted for the prior written approval of the planning authority, in accordance with any future conditions attached to the varied.

The existing turbines at Tangy Wind Farm have been subject to regular maintenance since becoming operational. It is considered that they are capable of safe and efficient continued operation without any physical alterations beyond planned routine maintenance and corrective interventions. Accordingly, the only change proposed by the application is the extension of the operational lifetime. No physical changes to site use or the scheme's layout are being proposed.

The Environmental Statements prepared for the earlier planning applications remain relevant and should be taken into account. No material change is proposed to the physical development on site, nor to the environmental baselines against which those assessments were carried out. All current operational environmental commitments will continue for the duration of the extended operational life, ensuring that mitigation measures remain in place.

It is recognised that the likely environmental effects identified in Environmental Impact Assessments are generally assessed on the basis of being long term or permanent. Given that no physical changes are proposed and the sole amendment relates to the duration of operation, it is considered that no new or different significant environmental effects would arise.

Conclusion

Given the nature of the proposal, it is concluded that a formal Environmental Impact Assessment is not required. Instead, each application will comprise the planning application form, landowner details, a copy of the Environmental Statement submitted with the original application, a site layout plan, a site location plan, and the requisite planning fee.

We would be grateful if you could confirm whether this proposed approach is acceptable. Should you require any further information or clarification ahead of issuing your formal screening opinion, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Leach
Onshore Consents Strategy Manager

Attached: LN000082-TGY4-SID-SK-0001-05 - Site Layout and Location Plan

APPENDIX A: SELECTION CRITERIA FOR SCREENING SCHEDULE 2 DEVELOPMENT PER SCHEDULE 3 OF THE REGULATIONS

In seeking this Screening Opinion consideration has been given to Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations 2017. The format of the table below therefore follows the criteria set out in the order they appear in that Schedule.

1. Characteristics of development

The characteristics of development must be considered with particular regard to—	Applicant's assessment of potential significance of effects
(a) the size and design of the whole development;	There will be no change to the size and design of the development and, therefore, we consider the proposal will not result in significant environmental effects.
(b) cumulation with other existing development and/or approved development;	No physical alterations to the turbines, infrastructure, or site layout are proposed. Accordingly, there will be no additional environmental effects capable of cumulating with those of other existing or consented developments in the area. In cumulative terms, Tangy I and II already form part of the established baseline, and any subsequent applications nearby will have been required to assess their schemes in that context. The environmental baseline and cumulative position were fully considered through the Environmental Statements submitted with the original applications, and no material change has occurred since that time. On this basis, no new or different cumulative effects are anticipated to arise from the proposed extension.
(c) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;	There will be no change in the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity. All existing operational environmental commitments will remain in place for the duration of the extended period, ensuring that mitigation measures continue to be implemented. Therefore, we consider the proposal will not result in significant environmental effects.
(d) the production of waste;	There will be no change in the production of waste and all existing operational environmental commitments will remain in place for the duration of the extended period. Therefore, we consider the proposal will not result in significant environmental effects.
(e) pollution and nuisances;	There will be no change in the production of pollution and nuisances and, therefore, we consider the proposal will not result in significant environmental effects.
(f) the risk of major accidents and/or disasters relevant to the development concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge;	The proposal to extend the operational period of Tangy I and II does not alter the risk of major accidents or disasters. The turbines have been subject to regular maintenance and inspection since the site became operational, and this regime will continue for the duration of the extended operational life. No physical changes are proposed, and established health, safety, and environmental management practices will remain in place. Accordingly, the proposal does not give rise to any increased risk of major accidents or disasters, nor to any significant environmental effects in this regard.

The characteristics of development must be considered with particular regard to—	Applicant's assessment of potential significance of effects
(g) the risks to human health (for example, due to water contamination or air pollution).	There will be no change to the risks to human health and, therefore, we consider the proposal will not result in significant environmental effects.

2. Location of development

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by development must be considered, with particular regard, to—

The location of development must be considered with particular regard to—	Applicant's assessment of potential significance of effects
(a) the existing and approved land use;	There will be no change to the existing and approved land use as a result of the proposal and, therefore, we consider the proposal will not result in significant environmental effects.
(b) the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground;	There will be no change in the abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area and, therefore, we consider the proposal will not result in significant environmental effects.
(c) the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas: (i) wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths; (ii) coastal zones and the marine environment;	As no physical changes are proposed, the absorption capacity of the natural environment will remain unaffected. The proposal will therefore not give rise to significant environmental effects in this respect.

(iii) mountain and forest areas; (iv) nature reserves and parks; v) European sites and other areas classified or protected under national legislation; (vi) areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards, laid down in Union legislation and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure; vii) densely populated areas; (viii) landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.	
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