



**CONSULTATION MEETING; BEATRICE WIND FARM DEMONSTRATOR PROJECT
FRIDAY 6TH MAY 2005,
TULLOCH CASTLE HOTEL, DINGWALL**

Summary

Aims of the meeting

This meeting was part of Talisman's consultation process for the Moray Firth deep water wind farm demonstration project. The aims of the meeting were to:

- Give an update on the deepwater wind farm project
- Consider the scoping report
- Identify stakeholders' key concerns
- Identify how these concerns might be addressed
- Map out the consultation process during 2005/6

Background – the demonstrator project

As part of the long-term planning, investigation and research into the feasibility of creating a wind farm at the Beatrice Field, Talisman propose to build and run a demonstrator project at the site for a period of 5 years. The demonstrator project consists of 2 wind turbine generating units linked by a subsea cable to the nearby Beatrice platform. This initiative has received funding from the Scottish Executive, the UK Department of Trade and Industry and the European Commission and involves 14 different organisations from 6 European countries.

The purpose of the demonstrator project is to better understand the environmental impact of deepwater wind farms, prove the concept of a deepwater wind farm, share knowledge and experience across Europe and pioneer the development of deepwater wind farms.

A scoping report has recently been produced for the Beatrice Wind farm Demonstrator Project. The scoping report describes the project, identifies possible impacts, key environmental issues and seeks the views of stakeholders and the public. A non-technical summary has been sent to all participants at the meeting. The scoping report and the summary is also available on line at www.beatricewind.co.uk. This is the new website for the Beatrice Wind farm Demonstrator Project and it contains a range of information about the project.

Background – this meeting

As part of the consultation for the Project, Talisman asked the Moray Firth Partnership, in its capacity to provide a forum for discussion, to organise a meeting specifically to discuss the scoping report. The meeting was aimed at representatives of organisations, community and interest groups. Its purpose was to provide an opportunity for comment on how well the scoping report covered the issues, what else needed to be done to identify and address issues, any further concerns on, and benefits to be gained from, the proposal and how different stakeholders would like to be involved in the consultation process proposed through 2005. The meeting was of a number of stakeholders to contribute to the development of this project. The full scoping document is available at www.beatricewind.co.uk. Alternatively, an electronic (CD) or hard copy version of the document is available from environment@talisman.co.uk.

The Moray Firth Partnership were very pleased to be able to facilitate this event which we believed would help broaden and strengthen the consultation process for this new development in the Moray Firth. We were involved in this consultation meeting because we believe that all those interested and who might be affected by the Beatrice Wind farm Demonstrator Project should have the opportunity, at an early stage, to discuss the issues, any concerns and benefits of the project, in a neutral forum and to be part of the consultation process as the project develops.

The meeting

The meeting was attended by 47 participants who came as individuals or representing a wide range of organisations including community councils, local authorities, fishermen's organisations, salmon boards, Aberdeen University, environmental organisations, harbour authorities, agencies and government. Six representatives from the Demonstrator project attended and 3 from the Moray Firth Partnership. A list of participants can be found in **APPENDIX 1**.

Mike Comerford, chair of the Moray Firth Partnership, started the meeting by welcoming the participants. He explained that Talisman had asked MFP to play a part in their consultation process for the wind farm demonstrator project and that MFP had agreed to do so because we believe that all those with an interest and/or might be affected should have the opportunity to discuss issues, concerns and benefits of the project

Mike drew attention to the values upheld by the Partnership and principles of coastal zone management, the basis upon which the MFP works. The aims and structure of the day were explained.

Jan Rusin, Environmental Manager from Talisman then gave an presentation of the demonstrator project and the scoping report. During his presentation a number of questions were asked. These questions, and their answers, can be found in **APPENDIX 2**. (*NB – the meeting was part of a wider on-going consultation and Appendix 2 contains questions which have been raised at other meetings*).

Much of the rest of the day was spent in small work groups looking at the following questions. Discussions in the workshops were captured on pre-prepared sheets and these have been typed up exactly as they were recorded on the sheets by the different groups.

Session 1: Your views about the wind farm demonstrator project - APPENDIX 3.

Session 2: Risks and benefits of the demonstrator project - APPENDIX 4 & 5.

Session 3: Your views about the scoping document - APPENDIX 6.

Session 4: Consultation - APPENDIX 6.

This last session specifically looked at the consultation process for the demonstrator project. Jan Rusin outlined a number of ways in which Talisman hoped to consult with those with an interest in the project including the website www.beatricewind.co.uk. Participants made a number of further suggestions which are listed in **APPENDIX 7**.

Jan Rusin then thanked the participants for their time and energy during the day, stating that Talisman had found the meeting 'immensely useful, so valuable to have so many views brought together on one occasion.' Jan said the success of the meeting highlighted the value of the MFP and its ability to bring people together.

Mike Comerford closed the meeting by thanking participants for their contribution.