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APPENDIX 12-3

NOISE STUDY AREA

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The Institute of Acoustics document Good Practice Guide To The Application Of ETSU-R-97 For The Assessment And Rating Of Wind Turbine Noise states, in section 2.2 in relation to the extent of the study area:

The 'study area' for background noise surveys (and noise assessment) should, as a minimum, be the area within which noise levels from the proposed, consented and existing wind turbine(s) may exceed 35 dB LA90 at up to 10 m/s wind speed. (Note: unless stated, in this document the wind speed reference for noise data is the 10 metre standardised wind speed, derived from the wind speed at turbine hub height as explained in Section 2.6).

With reference to the Cumulative Long List (See Appendix 2-3 the following wind energy developments were considered for inclusion in the cumulative noise assessment:

- ▶ The operational Cloonlusk Wind Farm (ACP Ref: PL 07.232902) at over 20 km,
- ▶ The permitted Derrybrien Wind Farm (ACP Ref: SU07.308019I), at over 23 km,
- ▶ The existing Sonnagh Old Wind Farm (Galway County Council Ref 00/3234) at over 20 km,
- ▶ The permitted Cloonascragh Wind Turbine, (Galway County Council Ref 221175) at over 23 km,
- ▶ The proposed Cooloo Wind Farm (ACP Ref: PC07.316466), at over 18 km,
- ▶ The proposed Derryfadda Wind Farm at over 20 km, and
- ▶ The proposed Killuremore Wind Farm (ACP Ref: PC07.314212) at over 15 km.

Due to the distances of the above permitted and proposed projects from the proposed turbines, no cumulative noise effects are likely.

Cumulative effects in combination with single domestic turbines are not considered due to the closest single domestic turbine being located over 10km away from the proposed turbines. For the purposes of this assessment, single domestic turbines with a tip height of less than 50 metres which are located at distances greater than 5km from the proposed turbines, are deemed to have no significant cumulative effects in combination with the proposed turbines.'

As there are no other wind farms to be included in the cumulative assessment, the study area is defined to be simply the 35 dB LA90 noise contour at maximum sound power level for the turbine, due to the Proposed Wind Farm only, as presented in Figure A12-2-1.

As the set of noise-sensitive locations considered in the noise assessment extends beyond this minimum contour, it is confirmed as appropriate.

Figure A12-2-1 Noise Study Area

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