



EIAR ADDENDUM APPENDIX 4-7A

***ADDENDUM DECOMMISSIONING
PLAN***

EIAR Addendum Appendix 4-7a – Addendum Decommissioning Plan

Laurclavagh Renewable
Energy Development, Co.
Galway





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Prepared By: **MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
Ireland
H91 VW84**



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1. INTRODUCTION

As stated in Section 1.1 of the EIAR Addendum Report “the Report”, this Decommissioning Plan Addendum has been prepared in order to update the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and associated appendices, where appropriate, in order to allow the Commission to complete a robust Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Proposed Project in response to the Commission’s Further Information (FI) Request.

This Decommissioning Plan Addendum details any additional key planning and environmental considerations that must be adhered to and delivered during site construction and operation.

This Decommissioning Plan Addendum should be read in conjunction with Appendix 4-7 of the EIAR, and as an Appendix to the (Response to Further Information) RFI Document.

1.1 Scope of the Decommissioning Plan

This report is presented as a guidance document for the decommissioning of the proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development which will comprise of 8 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure, in the townland of Laurclavagh and adjacent townlands, near Tuam, and a 110kV on-site substation and associated works, including underground 110kV cabling to connect to the national grid at Cloon 110kV substation, in the townland of Cloonascragh, Co. Galway.

This Section of the Decommissioning Plan Addendum should be read in conjunction with the information previously detailed in the corresponding Section of the Decommissioning Plan.

2. SITE AND PROJECT DETAILS

2.4 Decommissioning Methodologies Overview

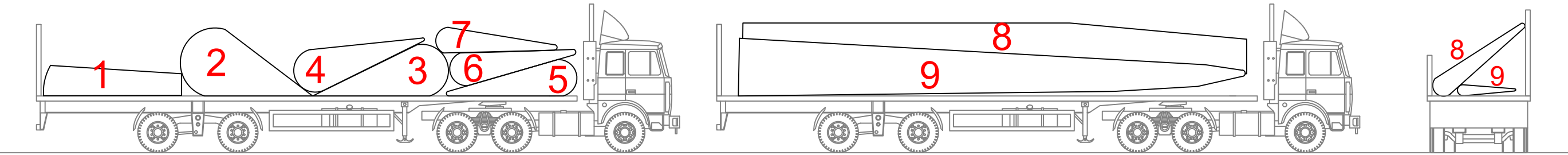
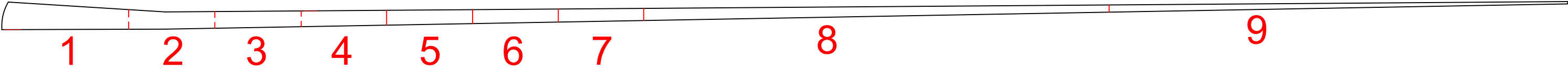
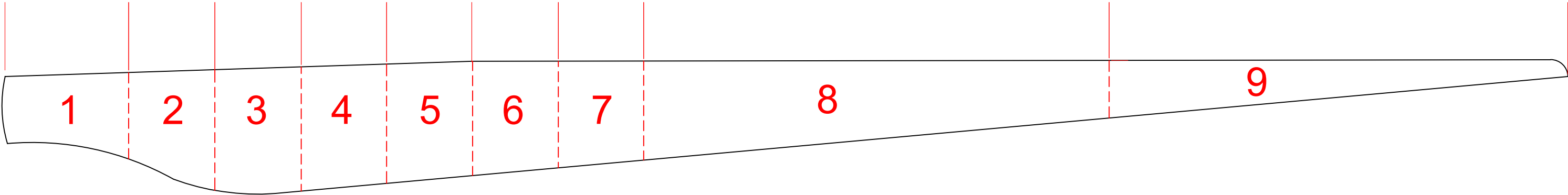
2.4.2 Decommissioning Methodology

2.4.2.1.1 Wind Turbines and Met Mast

As stated in Section 4.10 of Chapter 4: Description of the Proposed Project of the EIAR, as noted in the Scottish Natural Heritage report (SNH) *Research and Guidance on Restoration and Decommissioning of Onshore Wind Farms* (SNH, 2013) reinstatement proposals for a wind farm are made approximately 30 years in advance, so within the lifespan of the Proposed Project, technological advances and preferred approaches to reinstatement are likely to change. According to the SNH guidance, it is therefore:

“best practice not to limit options too far in advance of actual decommissioning but to maintain informed flexibility until close to the end-of-life of the wind farm”.

Figure 2-4 below illustrates the turbine removal process. The methodology for the removal of turbines from the site is detailed in Section 3.7.3 below. The turbines will be disassembled with a similar model of crane that was used for their erection i.e. blades will be removed from the nacelle, the nacelle will then be removed from the top of the tower, and the tower sections will then be removed. A crane will be used to remove the blades from the hub. The blades will then be decommissioned following the methodology set out in Section 2.4.2 of the Decommissioning Plan as submitted, and in Section 3.7.3 below.



DRAWING TITLE: Turbine Blade Decommissioning Detail	
PROJECT TITLE: Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development	
DRAWING BY: KD	CHECKED BY: KB
PROJECT No.: 210627	DRAWING No.: Fig 2-4
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 MKO Planning and Environmental Consultants Tuam Road, Galway Ireland, H91 VW84 •353 (0) 91 735611 email: info@www.mkoireland.ie Website: www.mkoireland.ie	

3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

3.7 Waste Management

3.7.3 Waste Arising from Decommissioning

The treatment and recycling of blades will be in accordance with best practice at the time of decommissioning. Turbines onsite will be removed from site in accordance with Developer policy, whereby all elements of the turbines will be recycled and reused, and no components will be sent to landfill. Current methodology for the decommissioning of the turbine blades is set out below:

- Blades will be segmented into approximately 9 pieces using an excavator mounted shear;
- Technicians will remove root rings and any other associated metal for recycling;
- The construction crew will ensure that there are no contaminants present (e.g. oils, brake dust, grease rubber hoses);
- Blade segments will then be lifted via telehandler to a suitable container for transport (e.g. 40 cubic yard RORO skips and/or trailer mounted articulated bulk carriers);
- Segments will then be transported to suitable licenced processing facilities, such as Barna Recycling Transfer Station (W0106), The City Bin Co. Recycling Centre (W0148) or Galway Metal Company Ltd. (P1006) to be shredded;
- The shredded output will be used in a suitable licenced cement co-processing or a waste-to-energy facility.

The blades will then be decommissioned following the methodology set out in Section 4.3.1.1 The turbine components will be separated and removed offsite. The turbine materials will be transferred to a suitable recycling or recovery facility.

Enabling Works:

- The temporary construction compounds will be established;
- Vegetation and scrub clearance along with some levelling works will be carried out at the turbine hardstand areas and access roads as necessary;
- Improvements to existing roads

Removal of the Turbines:

- Appropriate running surface for cranes will be constructed;
- Dismantle turbines as per the methodology outlined above;

As is in line with Developer company policy, none of the turbine components will be sent to landfill after being removed from site. As outlined in above, all turbine components will be broken down before their removal from site and will be reused in varying capacities.

The turbine nacelle and tower sections are metallic and can therefore also be recycled. The tower will be broken out into its original tower sections and will be transported offsite to a suitable licenced or waste processing facility, such as those listed above.

Following review there are no further updates to the information as detailed in previously submitted Decommissioning Plan.