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Re: Derryclure Energy Centre, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Dear Stephen

PM Group is undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Derryclure Energy Centre at Derryclure, Tullamore, Co Offaly.

The site is approximately 5km south of Tullamore on the N80 Tullamore to Portlaoise Road, adjacent to the Derryclure Landfill.

Project Description

Glanpower Ltd. (www.glanpower.com) plans to develop an Energy-from-Waste facility to be known as Derryclure Energy Centre at Derryclure, Co. Offaly (Figure 1), which will utilise biomass and mixed municipal waste materials to generate renewable energy. The proposed system can process virtually any organic material, converting it into forms of usable energy that can be consumed at the source or supplied to customers via the electricity grid.

At the core of the technology is a process known as Pyrolysis. It is a well-established technology for converting organic materials into a clean-burning natural gas product, which is then used for power production, or can be further processed to produce other fuels.

Glanpower Ltd

Glanpower is a wholly owned and operated Irish Company, dedicated to the development and operation of environmentally sustainable, alternative power generation projects in Ireland and abroad. Glanpower's aim is to produce energy which is dependable, cost-effective, environmentally responsible, and which is derived from renewable sources. In order to achieve this, they make every possible use of innovative, cutting edge technology with proven green credentials.

Project Management Limited t/a PM Group, a private company limited by shares, registered in Ireland. Company Registration No. 043789.

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Process Description

Pyrolysis involves the decomposition of organic substances by heating in the absence of air/oxygen. The proposed system has been developed as an efficient means of converting biomass and waste into a clean gas for use in CHP (combined heat and power) and electricity production without generating hazardous toxins that other technologies may emit.

The proposed system is explained simplistically as follows:

- Incoming fuel is thermally decomposed in a kiln at high temperature in the absence of oxygen.
- The hydrogen rich gases formed in the kiln are scrubbed to remove any contaminants.
- The cleaned gas is then combusted in an engine, gas turbine or a boiler, thereby generating energy.
- Non-volatile fractions in the fuel are turned to a solid char.
- The char is further combusted in a secondary process to deliver the heat to the kiln.

The process will be contained in a purpose designed building which will also contain; waste reception, waste conditioning, Glanpower Ltd head-office and Research and Development facilities.

The waste reception and conditioning will include a range of standard waste handling units for removal of ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals, plastics and drying of the feedstock. The building will be hermetically sealed with active air handling systems to contain and treat and odours.

Environmental Impact Statement

The proposed development falls within the scope of Schedule 5, Part 1 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and therefore an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required and will accompany the planning application.

The primary objective of the EIS is to identify baseline environmental and socio-economic conditions in the area of the proposed development, predict potential beneficial and/or adverse effects of the development and propose appropriate mitigating actions where necessary.

The EIS will be prepared according to the 'Grouped Format Structure' as outlined in the EPA's Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2002). The EIS will be divided into a Non-Technical Summary and chapters as follows:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Description of the Project
- Chapter 3: Planning and Policy Context
- Chapter 4: Human Beings
- Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual
- Chapter 6: Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology

- Chapter 7: Flora and Fauna
- Chapter 8: Noise and Vibration
- Chapter 9: Water and Effluent
- Chapter 10: Air Quality and Climate
- Chapter 11: Waste Management
- Chapter 12: Material Assets - Roads and Traffic
- Chapter 13: Material Assets - Utilities
- Chapter 14: Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Heritage
- Chapter 15: Project Sustainability
- Chapter 16: Interaction Between Environmental Factors

Waste Licence

Waste recovery activities in Ireland are required to hold an authorisation in accordance with the Waste Management Acts, 1996 to 2008. Accordingly, Glanpower will be seeking a Waste Licence from the EPA in advance of the facility becoming operational. The Waste Licence will set limits and requirements for monitoring of any environmental emissions from the facility such as noise and air.

Please revert with any comments or queries with regard to any issues you feel may be of particular importance in undertaking this project. My email address is niall.oloughlin@pmg.ie and direct telephone number is (01) 4040700. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Niall O'Loughlin
Associate Director

cc Brian Gillen/Raphael McEvoy (Glanpower)

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Figure 1: Site Location Map

