

# Auchencorth Wind Power Station Application by E.ON

Dear Resident of Penicuik and District,

*Please take the time to read this. The future of Penicuik and the area for at least the next 25 years is in your hands.*



E.ON, a multinational utility company has applied to Midlothian Council for planning permission to construct a massive wind power station on Auchencorth Moss, just off the A701. This will have an incredible effect on all the natural assets of this area which we hold precious, including the views in and out of the Pentlands Regional Park, the views from in and around the town, and on the approaches from the south and west. This proposal will be likely to damage the wild, unspoilt views around Penicuik and will seriously affect the lives of all of you who have grown up loving this aspect of the area, or have moved here and invested in the town to escape Edinburgh.

This letter is to encourage you to OBJECT to this travesty affecting our countryside, and to tell Midlothian Council that this is simply THE WRONG PLACE.

E.ON's application is for 18 Turbines, each at least at least 100 metres high. These are planned for Auchencorth Moss, which as you know lies just a mile and a half south of Penicuik. The site is where it is because the landowner is willing to have it there. An Environmental Impact Assessment which accompanies the application tells us that the turbines will be clearly seen from parts of Penicuik, and right around the compass from the Pentlands Park to the Moorfoots. You can see this for yourself at the Public Library, or get a copy of the EIA from E.ON themselves at E.ON UK Renewables, Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park, Coventry CV4 8LG. Their website is at [www.eon-uk/renewables](http://www.eon-uk/renewables); the E.ON Project Manager is Darren Cuming, at [darren.cuming@eon-uk.com](mailto:darren.cuming@eon-uk.com)

E.ON's material says it is all about saving pollution and helping to fight Global Warming. It's NOT. It's about money and profits. Very roughly, 18 turbines will earn E.ON around £60 million over 25 years (index linked, of course!) Robert Clerk of Penicuik stands to earn about a tenth of that sum (also index linked, of course!) This is why they are here.

You will be aware of the recent still, high pressure weather. Would the turbines have turned? Not a chance. Your power came from Cockenzie, Longannet and Torness, just as it always has. Even when the wind is blowing, the backup or

reserves from those stations are still required. In recent Public Inquiries in Scotland, Wales and England, **nobody** has been able to demonstrate anything other than a theoretical saving of harmful pollution. And even if that's wrong, the CO<sub>2</sub> saving claimed by E.ON per day for the whole wind farm is more or less the same as that caused by a one way flight to New York.

The EIA has a map showing many more possible wind farms in the planning process for this area. It says that as many as ten wind farms may be visible from the Pentlands. Your television reception may well be affected.

Are we to see not only the setting of our town spoiled, but the view of and from the Pentland Hills ruined in this way, by giant industrial power plants for at least a generation? If they did any good, that might just be OK. But they don't. They are, quite simply, useless in the fight against pollution.

Are we to see our growing tourism sector, Scotland's largest industry (think of all the recent interest in Rosslyn Chapel, for example) threatened by commercial opportunism? Aside from construction jobs for a year or so, there will be no local benefit. Profits are exported.

The planned construction route is through Penicuik and /or West Linton and from the south of Penicuik, adding serious numbers of heavy goods vehicles to our already busy roads. Approximately 8,100 cubic metres of concrete will be poured and **never** removed from the Moss. Thousands of tons of peat will be removed, thus releasing CO<sub>2</sub>. The hydrology of the moor, part of which is designated as an SSSI for its rare vegetation, will unquestionably be affected.

I hope you can think about whether this is a valid and worthwhile scheme for Penicuik and the surrounding area. We think the scheme is potentially ruinous to the established qualities of the district which we hold dear. As the weeks go on, we will be collecting our thoughts about the detail of the EIA, and about E.ON and we will put information on our website. But time is quite short; almost unbelievably so. Although E.ON have had many, many months to prepare for this, the public – you and me -- only has 28 days from the date of the second advertisement, which is quite soon.

Write now if you can and while these issues are fresh in your mind to Mike Shiel at Midlothian's Planning Department, and tell him what you think. His address is Midlothian Council, Fairfield House, 8, Lothian Road, Dalkeith, EH22 3ZQ.

Let's do this for Penicuik and for our next generation, who won't want to be saddled with this useless blot on their horizon, siphoning natural, physical and financial resources away from the area.

Yours sincerely



John Thomson

Chairman, PEPA

Penicuik Environment Protection Association

[www.pepawind.org.uk](http://www.pepawind.org.uk)