

# *BEAM WIND LTD.*

**Administration address:  
7 Main Street, Howth, Co. Dublin**

**Tel. no 01-8322636 Fax no. 01-8326925 email: scanees@iol.ie**

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Paul Brandon,  
CER,  
The Exchange,  
Belgard Square North,  
Tallaght, Dublin 24.

12<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

**Submission of Tie Breaks in Dispatch in the Single Electricity Market.  
SEM – 11- 063**

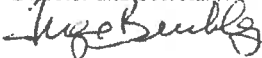
Beam Wind Ltd. owns and operates a 14MW windfarm outside Buncrana, in County Donegal. The windfarm is a Pre-Gate windfarm with Firm Grid connection . It went into operation during the summer of 2006. Beam is fully controllable and is notwithstanding its Firm Access connection, experiencing a lot of constraint.

Beam has studied the Consultation paper and has noted that it is proposed to set up Constraint Groups, one of these in the North West, which we assume will include Beam Windfarm. Beam will be anxious to see , how these groups are proposed to be constructed and what will be the level of transparency with regards to what projects get constrained, when and by how much. Beam has for a long time been unhappy with the lack of transparency in who gets constrained and by how much. As an example, we can mention on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011, when windspeed was 15 – 17 m/sec. This would have allowed full production, in the case of Beam 14MW. However, Beam was constrained down and only allowed to produce less than 1 MW. An adjoining windfarm, using the same shallow interconnection as Beam was sitting at virtual full production at 8.4MW. A third windfarm close by was producing 10MW constrained down from about 38 MW. Apart from the compensation issue, it is technically very hard on the turbines to be constrained to zero or a very low level at regular intervals. Beam would like to see monthly reports setting out in details the level of constraints for individual projects for each node and recommends this should become part of the setting up of constraint groups. Unless there is transparency, a suspicion remains that some projects are being punished more than others.

The Consultation papers proposed 3 categories of Constraint groups, namely 0 – 33%, 33 – 66% and 66 – 100% firm access. EirGrid has also indicated that they have no preference as to what these groups are. Beam firmly believes that 100% firm access should be a category of its own. This also respects the high-level decision that firm capacity should have priority over non-firm capacity.

Inge Buckley

Director and Secretary



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Registered Office: Crolly, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal  
Registration number: 349051  
Company Directors: Denis Roper, John Gillespie, Inge Buckley