



Cush Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Annex 8.1: Planning-Stage Dust Minimisation Plan

Cush Wind Limited

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This outline Dust Minimisation Plan (DMP) has been prepared to outline the measures which will be implemented to ensure that dust emissions do not result in adverse environmental effects. This Plan has been provided in outline form only and will be further developed prior to the commencement of construction. The objective of dust control at the site is to ensure that no significant nuisance occurs at nearby sensitive receptors. In order to develop a workable and transparent dust control strategy, the following management plan has been formulated by drawing on best practice guidance from Ireland, the UK (BRE 2003), (The Scottish Office 1996) (UK Office of Deputy Prime Minister 2002) and the USA (USEPA 1997), (USEPA 1986).

Communications

- Develop and implement a stakeholder communications plan that includes community engagement before work commences on site;
- Display the name and contact details of person accountable for air quality and dust issues on the site boundary; and
- Display the head or regional office contact information.

Site Management

- Regular inspections of the site and boundary should be carried out by an Environmental Manager to monitor dust, records and notes on these inspections should be logged;
- Record all dust and air quality complaints, identify cause(s), take appropriate measures to reduce emissions in a timely manner, and record the measures taken;
- Make the complaints log available to the local authority as required;
- Record any exceptional incidents that cause dust and/or air emissions, either on- or offsite, and the action taken to resolve the situation in the log book; and
- Hold regular liaison meetings with other construction sites within 500 m of the site boundary, to ensure plans are coordinated and dust and particulate matter emissions are minimised. It is important to understand the interactions of the off-site transport/deliveries which might be using the same strategic road network routes.

Monitoring

- Undertake regular on-site and off-site inspections. This should include regular dust soiling checks of surfaces such as street furniture, cars and window sills within 100 m of site boundary, with cleaning to be provided if necessary; and
- Carry out regular site inspections to monitor compliance with the DMP. The frequency of site inspections may be increased when activities with a high potential to produce dust are being carried out or during prolonged dry or windy conditions.

Preparing and Maintaining the Site

- Plan site layout so that machinery and dust causing activities are located away from receptors, as far as is possible;
- Erect solid screens or barriers around dusty activities;
- Fully enclose specific operations where there is a high potential for dust production;
- Keep site fencing, barriers and scaffolding clean using wet methods;

- Remove materials that have a potential to produce dust from site as soon as possible, unless being re-used on site. If they are being re-used on-site cover as described below; and
- Cover, seed or fence stockpiles to prevent wind whipping.

Operating Vehicles / Machinery and Sustainable Travel

- Ensure all vehicles switch off engines when stationary - no idling vehicles;
- Avoid the use of diesel or petrol powered generators and use mains electricity or battery powered equipment where practicable;
- Impose and signpost a maximum-speed-limit of 15kph on site access tracks and work areas; and
- Implement a Travel Plan that supports and encourages sustainable travel (public transport, cycling, walking, and car-sharing)

Operations

- Only use cutting, grinding or sawing equipment fitted in conjunction with suitable dust suppression techniques such as water sprays or local extraction, e.g. suitable local exhaust ventilation systems;
- Ensure an adequate water supply on the site for effective dust/particulate matter suppression/mitigation, using non-potable water where possible and appropriate;
- Use enclosed chutes and conveyors and covered skips;
- Minimise drop heights from conveyors, loading shovels, hoppers and other loading or handling equipment and use fine water sprays on such equipment wherever appropriate; and
- Ensure equipment is readily available on site to clean any dry spillages and clean up spillages as soon as reasonably practicable after the event using wet cleaning methods.

Waste Management

- Avoid bonfires and burning of waste materials.

Measures Specific to Earthworks

- Re-vegetate earthworks and exposed areas/soil stockpiles to stabilise surfaces as soon as practicable;
- Use Hessian, mulches or trackifiers where it is not possible to re-vegetate or cover with topsoil, as soon as practicable;
- Only remove the vegetative cover in small areas during work and not all at once; and
- During dry and windy periods, and when there is a likelihood of dust nuisance, a bowser will operate to ensure moisture content is high enough to increase the stability of the soil and thus suppress dust.

Measures Specific to Construction

- Avoid scabbling (roughening of concrete surfaces) if possible;
- Ensure sand and other aggregates are stored in bunded areas and are not allowed to dry out, unless this is required for a particular process, in which case ensure that appropriate additional control measures are in place; and
- For smaller supplies of fine power materials ensure bags are sealed after use and stored appropriately to prevent dust.

Measures Specific to Trackout

Site roads (particularly unpaved) can be a significant source of fugitive dust from construction sites if control measures are not in place. The most effective means of suppressing dust emissions from unpaved roads is to apply speed restrictions. Studies show that these measures can have a control efficiency ranging from 25% to 80%.

- A speed restriction of 15kph will be applied as an effective control measure for dust for on-site vehicles;
- Use water-assisted dust sweeper(s) on the access and local roads, to remove, as necessary, any material tracked out of the site. This may require the sweeper being continuously in use;
- Avoid dry sweeping of large areas;
- Ensure vehicles entering and leaving sites are covered to prevent escape of materials during transport;
- Inspect on-site haul routes for integrity and instigate necessary repairs to the surface as soon as reasonably practicable;
- Record all inspections of haul routes and any subsequent action in a site log book;
- Install hard surfaced haul routes, which are regularly damped down with fixed or mobile sprinkler systems, or mobile water bowsers and regularly cleaned;
- Implement a dry wheel washing system as required (to dislodge accumulated dust and mud prior to leaving the site where reasonably practicable); and
- Ensure there is an adequate area of hard surfaced road between the wheel wash facility (if required) and the site exit, wherever site size and layout permits.

