

## Press Release

**Date:** Friday 5 April, 2008

**Subject:** Construction power paves the way to green power



One of the largest construction vessels in Europe cruises into north Wales waters next week, signalling the restart of construction of npower renewables' Rhyl Flats Offshore Wind Farm.

The Heavy Lifting Vessel (HLV) Svanen<sup>1</sup> will be installing the foundations necessary to support the 25 turbines at the wind farm site, five miles off the north Wales coast at the eastern end of Constable Bank..

npower renewables' project manager Gareth Penhale said: "The restart of the main offshore construction works is a key milestone in the delivery of this significant renewable energy project.

Once operational, Rhyl Flats Offshore Wind Farm will generate enough power to meet the annual electricity needs of around 61,000 homes, and prevent the release of tens of thousands of tonnes of the main greenhouse gas carbon dioxide every year, that would otherwise be produced by traditional fossil fuel-burning energy generation.”

The HLV Svanen is currently on route from its port in Holland, and is due to arrive off the coast of north Wales during the second week of April, subject to weather conditions.

Shortly after its arrival the vessel will begin work to install the 25 monopiles and transition pieces that make up the wind turbine foundations. .

HLV Svanen has worked around the world on major construction projects. Its distinctive heavy lifting crane is capable of hoisting an incredible 8,500 tonnes and stands over 80 metres above the water.

Planning consent conditions allow the main offshore works to be carried out between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> September, with certain activities such as cable and turbine installation permitted up to mid December. These timings are designed to avoid disturbance to the Common Scoter, a protected bird species.

Installation of the piles will take place during both the day and the night. There will be some sound from the piling work and this may be audible under certain conditions, such as when the wind is blowing from the sea to the shore.

Project manager Gareth Penhale explained: “We will do our very best to avoid carrying out piling work at night and to keep noise to a minimum. As a result of the tight time frames we’ve been given under the planning consent however, some night time work will be inevitable to ensure we have installed the foundations and most of the cables before 30<sup>th</sup> September.

“We are working closely with local environmental health officers to ensure that we do all we can to keep the noise to a minimum, and do not exceed the limits outlined in the consent conditions.”

Ahead of the restart of construction work, npower renewables has produced the first issue of the Rhyl Flats Offshore Wind Farm Construction Newsletter. Thousands of copies have been distributed ahead of the works across north Wales, and will be available from a range of public outlets in Conwy, Denbighshire, Anglesey and Flintshire<sup>2</sup> from 7<sup>th</sup> April. The newsletter is available in large print upon request, and as a download via the Rhyl Flats Offshore Wind Farm pages of the npower renewables website.

For more information about Rhyl Flats Offshore Wind Farm, please visit the project web pages at [www.npower-renewables.com/rhylflats](http://www.npower-renewables.com/rhylflats). If you would like to send us your comments about the Rhyl Flats Offshore Wind Farm, please e-mail us at [rhylflats@npower-renewables.com](mailto:rhylflats@npower-renewables.com) or write to: Rhyl Flats Offshore Wind Farm newsletter, npower renewables, RWE Innogy, Trigonos, Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 6PB.

**ENDS**

### **Editors Notes**

1. HLV Svanen is crewed by up to 40 mariners and construction crew, who work around the clock, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The ship will first anchor close to the north Wales coast, before moving out on to the site of the wind farm to begin piling work.

Once anchored on site, HLV Svanen will begin driving each of the 40m long, 4.7m wide, cylindrical steel piles into the seabed, so that the lower section penetrates the seabed and the upper section rises up through, and emerges above, the surface of the water. The piles will be driven with a large pile hammer lifted into place by the Svanen's crane. Each of the piles will then be topped with a bright yellow steel section called a transition piece, forming solid foundations for each of the wind turbines. Piling work is scheduled to last for 2 to 3 months, subject to the weather. Scour protection will be installed in parallel but will last longer, possibly up to 5 months.

Pile-driving work will take approximately 2 to 4 hours per pile, and is likely to take place once every 2 to 3 days, depending on progress and weather.

2. The full list of local distribution points will also be posted on the npower renewables website at [www.npower-renewables.com/rhylflats](http://www.npower-renewables.com/rhylflats)

## CONWY

- Abergele Library, Market Street, Abergele
- Cerrigydrudion Library, The Old Clinic, King Street, Cerrigydrudion, Corwen
- Colwyn Bay Library, Woodland Road West, Colwyn Bay
- Conwy Library, Town Hall, Castle Street, Conwy
- Deganwy Library, Station Road, Deganwy
- Kinmel Bay Library, The Community Centre, Kendal Road, Kinmel Bay, Rhyl
- Llandudno Junction Library, Maes Derw, Llandudno Junction
- Llandudno Library, Mostyn Street, Llandudno
- Llanfairfechan Library, Village Road, Llanfairfechan
- Llangernyw Library, Ysgol Bro Cernyw, Llangernyw, Abergele
- Llanwrst Library, Plas-yn-Dre, Station Road, Llanwrst
- Penmaenmawr Library, Bangor Road, Penmaenmawr
- Penrhyn Bay Library, Llandudno Road, Penrhyn Bay
- Community Resource Centre, The Square, Off Foryd Road, Kinmel Bay
- Bay of Colwyn Town Council, Town Hall, Rhiw Road, Colwyn Bay
- Conwy Road Sub Post Office, Conway Road, Colwyn Bay
- Old Colwyn Post Office, Abergele Road, Colwyn Bay
- Conwy Post Office, 7 Lancaster Square, Conwy
- Conwy Town Council, Guildhall, Conwy.

## DENBIGHSHIRE

- Pavilion Theatre, The Promenade, Rhyl
- Rhyl Tourist Information Centre, Rhyl Children's Village, West Parade, Rhyl
- Wellington Community Centre, Wellington Road, Rhyl
- Fforddlas Community Centre, Fforddlas, Rhyl

## ANGLESEY

- Amlwch Library, Lôn Parys, Amlwch
- Beaumaris Library, David Hughes Community Centre, Beaumaris
- Benllech Library, Bangor Road, Benllech, Tyn y Gongl

- Cemaes Library, Glascoed Road, Cemaes Bay
- Holyhead Library, Newry Fields, Holyhead
- Llangefni Library, Lôn y Felin, Llangefni
- Menai Bridge Library, Wood Street, Menai Bridge
- Moelfre Library, Y Ganolfan, Moelfre
- Newborough Library, Prichard Jones Institute, Newborough, Llanfairpwllgwyngyll
- Rhosneigr Library, High Street, Rhosneigr
- Amlwch Leisure Centre, Pentrefelin, Amlwch
- Plas Arthur Leisure Centre, Penrallt, Llangefni
- Holyhead Leisure Centre, Kingsland, Holyhead
- Beaumaris Leisure Centre, Rating Row, Beaumaris
- Swyddfa'r Sir Llangefni

#### FLINTSHIRE

- Buckley Leisure Centre, Mill Lane, Buckley
- Deeside Leisure Centre, Chester Road West, Queensferry, Deeside
- Saltney Sports Centre, St David's Terrace, Saltney
- Mold Spots Centre, Wrexham Road, Mold
- Hope Sports Centre, Fagle Lane, Nr Wrexham
- Holywell Leisure Centre, Fron Park, Holywell
- Flint Pavilion, Earl Road, Flint
- Deeside Leisure Centre, Chester Road West, Queensferry, Deeside
- County Offices, County Hall, Mold
- County Offices Flint, Flint House, Chapel Street, Flint
- Bagillt Library, Pentre
- Broughton Library, Broughton Hall Toad
- Buckley Library, The Precinct
- Connah's Quay Library, Wepre Drive
- Flint Library, Church Street
- Garden City Library, Sealand Avenue
- Gwernaffield Library, Community Centre
- Halkyn Library, The Village Hall
- Hawarden Library, The Old Rectory
- Holywell Library, North Road
- Mancot Library, Mancot Lane
- Mold Library, Earl Road
- Mynydd Isa Library, Community Centre
- Queensferry Library, Queensferry Campus
- Saltney Library, Salisbury Avenue.

Anyone who is unable to find a copy of the newsletter, and would like one sent to them in the post, or would like a larger print version of the content, can call Judith Roberts on 0151 648 0896.

3. npower renewables is one of the UK's leading renewable energy developers and operators, committed to developing and operating wind farms and hydro plant to produce sustainable and environmentally-friendly electricity. The company operates 16 hydroelectric power schemes and 19 wind farms in the UK, including the country's first major offshore wind farm, North Hoyle. npower renewables is also working with marine energy technology partners to deliver new wave and tidal stream power projects in the UK.

Through our existing projects and those in development, we are working in close partnership with communities and companies throughout the UK. As Government policy drives the UK towards a target of supplying 10% of electricity from renewables by 2010, and 15% by 2015, we will be at the forefront of realising this aim.

In Wales, the company operates seven hydroelectric power schemes in North Wales, the UK's first major offshore wind farm, North Hoyle, off the North Wales coast and seven onshore wind farms from Neath in south Wales to Anglesey in the nNorth.

npower renewables is a fully owned subsidiary of RWE Innogy, and sister company to RWE npower, a leading integrated UK energy company, whose activities include the co-firing of biomass and the implementation of a major energy efficiency programme. RWE npower, is a major employer in Wales, operating Aberthaw Power Station and two Combined Heat and Power plants at Barry and Bridgend. In all, RWE's installed conventional and renewable energy generation in Wales supplies the equivalent of around one-third of Wales' electricity needs.

For further information about npower renewables and RWE Innogy visit [www.npower-renewables.com](http://www.npower-renewables.com) and [www.rweinnogy.com](http://www.rweinnogy.com). For further information about RWE npower visit [www.rwenpower.com](http://www.rwenpower.com).