

Big UK wind farm developer threatens to quit Scotland

One of the UK's biggest wind farm developers says it will move overseas in protest because of obstacles which could delay the opening of many wind farms by a decade. Wind Energy wants to build 800 MW of onshore wind farms in Scotland, enough to power a city the size of Edinburgh. The company and developers of around 100 other wind farms in Scotland have been told that they will not be connected to the electricity grid before 2016. But under current rules they still have to table deposits upfront to cover the cost of the upgrades to the grid – even if planning permission for their site is not granted and the wind farm does not go ahead. “We are relying on the Government to sort this out in the next six months. Unless things change, we would have to say ‘enough is enough – we are pulling out’,” says Wind Energy managing director, Mike Davies. “We will move to other countries where these projects are easier to develop instead. Trying to get through the regulatory and planning system in the UK is like running in treacle. It needs some movement from the top urgently.” The Government has set a renewable energy target of ten per cent, or about 7000 MW by 2010 rising to 20 per cent by 2020.

[Source esaa news]