We are strongly opposed to this offshore development. We do not wish to see this from our home.
Hi Jessica

I would like to lodge my objection to the wind farm going ahead. As a resident of Portskerra I feel this will totally ruin the view which will have a large affect on the tourism and house prices in this area. As people come here to live and visit for the uninterrupted views where you can see the horizon the whole way from east to west with hoy in the distance not to have this ruined with floating turbines.

I also have great concern over the affect on the migration of the whales that pass having witnessed this for several years I believe this is something that occurs in cycles and not the same every year. So I am concerned that this has not been captured in all your surveys that have been carried out.

Your sincerely

[Name]

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Our household wishes to object to this proposal.
I wish to lodge a rejection to these wind turbines being situated off dounreay for the reasons below. As a resident in the village of portskerra these will turbines will be directly in the view across to hoy. This is not a localised view and these turbines will be visible from a long distance along this north coast. I feel this with have an affect on house prices in this area and also the tourism. As most houses are positioned to take in the endless view of the horizon the placing of turbines in the view can only have a negative effect. As for the tourism the area is advertised as big open sky's and endless views not come look at the turbines with Orkney behind them.

As a resident here so close to the sea I am very aware of the whale migrations through this area of sea. I believe these migration routes are on a cycle and not annual as your surveys have suggested which concerns me that placing these turbines in an area where known migrations happen could have a fatal affect on these mammals.

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Dounreay Tri Floating Wind Demonstration Project

I am writing to formally object to the proposal for the construction of the Dounreay Tri Floating Wind Demonstration Project.

As a resident of Portskerra, where we enjoy clear views across to the islands of Orkney, the installation of these two turbines in the location proposed is entirely unwelcome. Our village is enjoyed by residents and tourists alike and relies upon the views we have from our coastline. Wind turbines are proving to be unpopular in many areas and the installation of two off of our coastline is likely to see the area becoming less popular, particularly with new people moving to the villages of Melvich and Portskerra.

While the plans are for only two turbines to be constructed, the areas from which they will be visible is vast and reaches a considerable distance along the north coast. Our area is already becoming overrun with wind farms and, along with the current proposal for a wind farm at Drum Hollistan, if both of these applications were approved, we would - in a short space of time - go from seeing two wind farms to four in a short space of time. My key concern with this wind farm being given the go ahead is that it will set a precedent for wind farms to be built anywhere in our area with no thought given to the impact this will have on the local residents and population numbers within our villages, in Sutherland as well as Caithness.

To date, there has been little or no employment for local people in the construction of wind farms in the area. In the future we will see the reduction of workforce, and ultimately, the closure of the Dounreay Nuclear site and the MOD Vulcan site, which will cause a considerable percentage of the local population of working age to move elsewhere for employment. Our area becoming a site for numerous wind farms - which provide no employment opportunities - will then hold little attraction for anyone who would otherwise like to live in our villages.

As a community we are fighting with numerous bodies, including local service providers The Highland Council and NHS Highland, over the retention of existing services (our school and care home) in our village. Should these bodies have their way, we will suffer two great losses and this will lead to the beautiful surroundings
and views from the villages of Melvich and Portskerra being one of the only benefits remaining. This proposal would put this advantage at risk as well.

In our villages where levels of fuel poverty are so high and many of us rely solely upon electricity to heat our homes and feed our families, it is a great shame to see that our area is being chosen as the site of so many of these power-generating turbines.

I do hope that the Scottish Ministers will give due thought and consideration to the impact this project could have on the local communities in the vicinity.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Dounreay Tri Floating Wind Demonstration Project

I am writing to formally object to the proposal for the construction of the Dounreay Tri Floating Wind Demonstration Project.

My objection is based on numerous factors and these are highlighted below in no particular order.

I am a home owner in Portskerra and currently enjoy wonderful views over the sea towards Hoy and the Old Man of Hoy. I enjoy the view and enjoy watching the various ships and marine wildlife that frequent the area that is part of the area proposed. This demonstration project, if constructed, will put large turbines (larger than the Old Man of Hoy) approximately half-way between my house and Orkney which will have a significant visual impact for me and will be a significant nuisance as I will no longer be able to enjoy the view that destresses me. The potential visual impact from this project depresses me and it is causing me considerable anxiety as to how much it will impact on our house price as our house has had considerable money spent on it to maximise the benefit of the view. I am concerned that the depression and anxiety that this potential development may cause me could impact on my health.

I note that the development is ‘only’ for a demonstration project however I object to having a demonstration project located in this insensitively selected location as it is the thin end of a wedge which could lead to further wind turbines located here. This type of situation has already occurred off of the east Caithness coast where two ‘demonstration’ turbines were installed and now an entire wind farm is going to be constructed. I object to this development on the basis that there is a significant risk of the developers trying to salami slice their true development intentions.

I am a firm believer that the UK should have a good energy mix, taking into account environmental impact, with energy being generated close to where it is required to minimise transmission losses. Caithness and north Sutherland is already a net exporter of electricity to the rest of the UK from the already installed capacity of wind generation. I object to there being any further wind farms being approved in our area. There has been a steady string of wind farm developments and proposed developments however there is no coherent strategy for the siting of these turbines. The siting of the Dounreay Tri Floating Wind Demonstration Project is one of the most insensitive location placements to date. I believe that there should be one overall strategy for the siting of these developments that has been bought into by all of the local communities impacted. The documents put on the internet by the Dounreay Tri project said that not many people would be affected by the development – the area has a low population so even if 100% of people were affected they can say “not many people would be affected” – the proposal has not considered the percentage of people that live in the area that will be impacted.

The project has not assessed the cumulative visual impact of their scheme in addition to the existing, approved and other planned wind farm developments in the area. Overall the beautiful scenery of the north Sutherland coastline is progressively being degraded by the encouraging industrialisation of the marine environment. This could reduce the number of
jobs in the area from tourism despite the best efforts of the NC500 trying to bring people into this beautiful part of the country.

I mentioned earlier that I support an energy mix for the UK. The installed capacity for these two turbines is stated as 5 MW each so delivering a total generation of 10 MW. Wind turbines are not able to generate electricity in periods of still weather (e.g. high pressure systems) and when the wind is above certain limits – other energy sources should be considered further to ensure that Scotland has a suitable energy mix. We note routinely that the wind turbines at Forss, Bailie and Strathy North are often being paid to not generate despite the conditions being in their operating range so it is not appropriate to construct even more turbines that could be switched off for a considerable amount of time every year.

The fact has not been lost on me that it would take 652 of these wind turbines to generate the same quantity of electricity as one new nuclear power station building (Hinkley C is said to have a future generating capacity of 3260MW). Many people in Caithness and North Sutherland are highly supportive of new nuclear in or near the Dounreay site as it could generate significant electricity for the grid and provide good employment opportunities for many people in the area. The Dounreay Tri Project will not generate any significant medium to long term job prospects for people that live in the area that is impacted by this project. It should be noted that the Baillie Wind Farm only employs one person whereas the combined workforce at Dounreay and Vulcan is in excess of 2000 people.

It is noted that Marine Scotland concluded in their letter of 4th February 2015 that there is a potential for significant environmental effects from the proposal. This development will involve disturbing the no-fishing zone around the Dounreay site. Although the no-fishing zone was originally established due to concerns about radioactive particles in the marine environment, it is now being seen by many local people as being a significantly positive zone for the marine life. The no-fishing zone means that stocks of fish and other marine biota have been recovering in this area. The documents presented by Dounreay Tri did not paint a complete picture – it said that there was not much fishing taking place in the area of the planned development but in fact fishing is banned in some of the area.

The information presented on the internet did mention the gannet colony of Sule Stack (who’s population are routinely seen fishing in the area) and this development could impact on their fishing grounds and subsequently their breeding success.

This development does not appear to have considered the significant puffin colony at the Caithness/Sutherland border and these turbines could impact on the populations of the puffins that feed in this area.

I object to this development as I believe that it could be a significant maritime hazard and a danger to shipping. The area of the proposed development is close to major shipping routes and periodically these ships encounter problems leading to them drifting often in storm force conditions. Only last year a vessel carrying cement sunk following getting into difficulties exiting the Pentland Firth. Many of the vessels travelling close to the proposed development are often carrying significant quantities of dangerous goods such as crude oil, explosives, radioactive materials, nuclear fuel, etc and this development could lead to a greater potential for environmental damage being caused during fault conditions on vessels in the area.

I also object as there is no significant community benefit fund that would partially offset the detriment from this development for the community in Portskerra/Melvich. Portskerra/Melvich have been significantly impacted by successive budgetary cuts and are continuing to be impacted by further cuts (e.g. police station closed, reduced road gritting, grass cutting of road verges not being performed, potential closure of the care home, potential closure of the school, delays increasing in getting fire/ambulance responses to
emergencies, etc). The continuing industrialisation of the countryside and the marine environment in northern Scotland in parallel to reducing the provision of services in the area could potentially lead to a future highland clearances – some of my friends have already emigrated on the basis of too many windfarms being giving approval impacting on the quality of their lives.

I believe that this project should not be given approval to proceed due to numerous different factors and I hope that you will take my objections into account.

Yours Sincerely,