

Date: 12 April 2010

Subject: Construction of hydroelectric project starts

RWE npower renewables has started to construct the £2.5 million Selsset Hydroelectric Project.

The hydroelectric station is being built at Selsset Reservoir, 14 kilometres north west of Barnard Castle in a partnership between RWE npower renewables and Northumbrian Water.

Tim James Project Manager at RWE npower renewables said: "I am delighted that construction has started at Selsset.

"The work should take around 12 months to complete and when operational - in early 2011 - it will generate up to 750 kilowatts of electricity. That's enough to meet the average annual needs of about 1,000 homes."

Northumbrian Water's Project Manager, Andy Downer, said: "During construction our reservoir and the dam wall can still be accessed by members of the public.

"It is just a small area around where the power house is being constructed, at the foot of the dam that will be cordoned off while work is underway."

RWE npower renewables has been in touch with local residents who live close to the site.

And now that construction has begun, RWE npower renewables will be issuing an information leaflet to those households which are located along the access road to the site, to keep residents informed of progress.

Tim James continued: "The work we are undertaking includes constructing a new access road to the foot of the dam.

"The power house will be a small building, approximately the size of a double garage to house the turbine and generator.

"This will be built in the style of a Teesdale farm building in stone and with a pitched roof."

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Editor's notes

Northumbrian Water serves 2.6 million customers in North East England with drinking water and waste water treatment . The company also provides drinking water for an additional 1.8 million in the South East where it operates under the name of Essex & Suffolk Water. For further information visit www.nwl.co.uk

RWE npower renewables is the UK subsidiary of RWE Innogy and 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 electricity. The company operates 18 hydroelectric power projects and

23 wind farms in the UK, including the country's first major offshore wind farm, North Hoyle. RWE 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 focuses on achieving its EU commitment for 15% of UK energy to come from renewables sources by 2020, renewable electricity generation will need to increase to 30% of total output. We will be at the forefront of realising this aim.

In England, RWE npower renewables operates seven onshore wind farms and one hydroelectric power project. The company has numerous other projects at various stages of development throughout the country.

RWE npower renewables is a sister company to RWE npower, a leading integrated UK energy company with around 6.8 million customer accounts. RWE npower also owns and operates a flexible portfolio of conventional power stations as well as a portfolio of cogeneration plant producing more than 10% of the electricity used in England and Wales.

For further information about RWE npower renewables and RWE Innogy visit www.npower-renewables.com and www.rweinnogy.com For further information about RWE npower visit www.rwenpower.com