



Technical Appendix 7-7

Description of Effects (EPA, 2022)

EIAR – Volume 3

Muingmore Wind Farm

SLR Project No.: 501.065301.00001

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Descriptions of Effects (EPA, 2022)

Impact Characteristic	Term	Description
Quality of Effects	Positive Effects	A change which improves the quality of the environment
	Neutral Effects	No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error
	Negative / Adverse Effects	A change which reduces the quality of the environment
Describing the Significance of Effects	Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences
	Not significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
	Slight Effects	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
	Moderate Effects	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
	Significant Effects	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment
	Very Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Profound Effects	An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics
Describing the Extent and Context of Effects	Extent	Describe the size of the area, the number of sites, and the proportion of a population affected by an effect
	Context	Describe whether the extent, duration, or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions (is it the biggest, longest effect ever?)
Describing the Probability of Effects	Likely Effects	Describe the size of the area, the number of sites, and the proportion of a population affected by an effect.
	Unlikely Effects	Describe whether the extent, duration, or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions (is it the biggest, longest effect ever?)
Describing the Duration and Frequency of Effects	Momentary Effects	Effects lasting from seconds to minutes
	Brief Effects	Effects lasting less than a day
	Temporary Effects	Effects lasting less than a year
	Short-term Effects	Effects lasting one to seven years
	Medium-term Effects	Effects lasting seven to fifteen years

	Long-term Effects	Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years
	Permanent Effects	Effects lasting over sixty years
	Reversible Effects	Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration
	Frequency of Effects	Describe how often the effect will occur. (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually.
Describing the Types of Effects	Indirect / Secondary Effects	Likely, significant effects on the environment, which are not a direct result of the project, often produced away from the project site or because of a complex pathway.
	Cumulative Effects	The addition of many minor or significant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.
	Do-Nothing Effects	The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out.
	Worst Case Effects	The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
	Indeterminable Effects	When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described.
	Irreversible Effects	When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
	Residual Effects	The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.
	Synergistic Effects	Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents, (e.g. combination of SO _x and NO _x to produce smog).

