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HOW01 – Deemed Marine Licence Variation

30 October 2015

Our ref. MBROW/MBROW
Doc. no. 2250888
(ver. no.)
Case. 200-12-2161

Dear Ms Southwood,

Hornsea One Offshore Wind Farm (Correction) Order 2015 (SI 2015/1280) Application for Changes to Deemed Marine Licence

Introduction

In February 2015, DONG Energy Wind Power A/S (“DONG Energy”) took full ownership of Hornsea Project One. Hornsea Project One was awarded consent by the Secretary of State on 10 December 2014. The undertakers named in the Development Consent Order (DCO) are Heron Wind Limited (“Heron”) Njord Limited (“Njord”) and Vi Aura Limited (“Vi Aura”) (the “Project One companies”).

The Project One companies are applying under the Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 (the 2011 Regulations) for non-material amendments to the DCO. The MMO is the enforcement body for the Deemed Marine Licence (DML) which is included as Schedule 11 Deemed Marine Licence 4 of the DCO and therefore will be required to consider a variation to the DML following the determination of the non-material change application undertaken by the Secretary of State (SoS), should the proposed amendment be accepted.

The Project One companies are seeking to make non-material amendments to the DCO to increase the length and area of the offshore high voltage alternating current (HVAC) collector substation (OSS) platform and the length, width and area of the offshore HVAC Reactive Compensation Substation (RCS) platform. The applicant also seeks to amend Requirement 10 within the DCO, which refers to no part of the works below Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) commencing without an approved decommissioning programme, to refer instead to the mean low water mark, as per the requirements of Section 105 of the Energy Act and directed within the DECC guidance for industry on the decommissioning of offshore wind farms. The inaccuracy in the terminology is likely to have been the result of a previously unrecognised clerical error within the DCO. This latter amendment does not apply to the DML.

Materiality of Changes and Summary Statement

Enclosed within **Appendix A** of this application is a Technical Note detailing the nature and extent of the proposed changes to the offshore substation platforms, in addition to a reasoned statement on the opinion of the Project One Companies that the proposed changes should be viewed as non-material. Also enclosed within **Appendix B** of this application, is a track changed version of the DCO and DML showing the proposed changes, together with a draft Amendment Order to make the proposed amendments to the DCO and DML within **Appendix C**.

By way of summary (and as explained in greater detail in the Technical Note attached), it is considered that the proposed changes to the DCO are non-material because they:

1. Do not lead to any new effects, significant impacts or increases to the significance of impacts assessed in the original application;
2. Do not introduce the need for a new Habitats Regulations Assessment, or the need for a new or additional licence in respect of European Protected Species (EPS) (in addition to those at the time the original DCO was made); and
3. Do not involve compulsory acquisition of any land that was not authorised through the existing DCO.

Consultation

The Project One companies have conducted a programme of informal pre-application consultation in order to brief stakeholders on the nature of the proposed DCO amendments. The minutes of the meetings with these bodies are included within the Technical Note.

If you have any questions or require clarification on the content of this letter or any accompanying information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



Bronagh Byrne
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