



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

**DIRECTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 35 OF THE
PLANNING ACT 2008 RELATING TO THE GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE
PROJECT FOR TRITON KNOLL OFFSHORE WIND FARM**

By letter to the Secretary of State received on 25 October 2013 RWE Npower Renewables Limited ("the applicant") formally requested that the Secretary of State exercise the power vested in the Secretary of State under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act") to direct that the proposed grid connection infrastructure set out in the applicant's letter be treated as development for which development consent is required. The Secretary of State is satisfied that:

- The development does not currently fall within the definition of a "nationally significant infrastructure project" and therefore it is appropriate to consider use of the power in section 35 of the Act; and
- RWE Npower Renewables Limited's request constitutes a "qualifying request" in accordance with section 35ZA(11) of the Act.

The Secretary of State has made a decision within the primary deadline set out in section 35A(2) of the Act and wishes to convey that decision.

Having considered the details of RWE Npower Renewables Limited grid connection proposals as set out in the letter and Supporting Statement, the Secretary of State is of the view that this development when considered with the proposed Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm is nationally significant, for the reasons set out in the Annex below.

Accordingly, the Secretary of State is satisfied that the proposed grid connection infrastructure development is nationally significant.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE DIRECTS that the development, together with any matters associated with it is to be treated as development for which development consent is required.

The Secretary of State further directs in accordance with s.35ZA(3)(b) and (5)(b) of the Act that:

- Any proposed application for a consent or authorisation mentioned in section 33(1) or (2) of the Act in relation to the grid connection infrastructure for the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm is to be treated as a proposed application for which development consent is required; and
- To the extent that any consultation carried out by the applicant prior to the date of this direction complies with the requirements of Part 5 of the Act (or any legislation made under that Part), those consultation requirements shall be treated as having been complied with notwithstanding that the consultation was carried out prior to the date of this direction.



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This direction is given without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of any application for development consent which is made in relation to the grid connection infrastructure.

Signed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Giles Scott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Giles Scott

A Senior Civil Servant in the Department of Energy and Climate Change
For and on behalf of the Secretary of State

14 November 2013



ANNEX

REASONS FOR THE DECISION TO ISSUE THE DIRECTION

The Secretary of State is of the opinion that the grid connection infrastructure for the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm is of national significance for the following reasons:

- It is needed to deliver the electricity generated by the consented Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm array (a project of national significance) into the national grid transmission system.
- In addition the project:
 - Will benefit from the application being determined in a timely and consistent manner by the same decision maker as the nationally significant Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm;
 - Will benefit from the entire grid connection infrastructure being examined under the streamlined planning process, removing the need to apply for separate consents by the Marine Management Organisation and local planning authorities.