Consenting Cost Reduction Opportunities

Chris Hill Offshore Wind Cost Reduction Task Force 11th January 2012

RENEWABLE

Cost of Consent

•Key Levers to Cost Reduction

Reduce Development Cost (Timelines) - typically costs £50k/MW and takes 9yrs to FID
Reduce Development Risk – improve uncertainty of consenting process to give confidence to sponsors, investors and the supply chain

•Reduce Pre-FID Procurement Exposure - can be additional >£100k-£400k/MW pre FID but need to allow key decisions and commitments pre FID to accelerate delivery

UK Offshore Wind Consenting to date

MW	%	
5,516	92%	(1.5GW Operational & 2GW Under Construction)
486	8%	_(After Submission or Approval)
6,002	100%	_
2,275	5%	(1.7GW with DECC, 550MW with IPC)
39,329	95%	_(32GW is R3)
41,604	100%	_
	MW 5,516 486 6,002 2,275 39,329 41,604	MW%5,51692%4868%6,002100%2,2755%39,32995%41,604100%

Why isn't this success translated into confidence?



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What it Costs Typical Development Costs



•Development Costs typically £50k/MW @ circa 25% Cost of Capital equates to around 3% LCOE

 In addition pre FID Construction Costs can be >£100k-£400k/MW (Grid Security & Procurement costs) depending on risk profile & sponsor appetite (Cost of Capital?)

Example Development Timeline & Key Decision Gates Parallel Activities – Fastest Possible Programme?



Impact of Design on Cost



•Project Design Statements being "frozen" this year for 1st tranche of R3

•Start of a new industry and technology development – expect significant change over coming years with large potential to reduce cost

•Need to secure supply chain partners (alliancing/frameworks etc)

•Flexibility of design statements affected by:

- 1. Stakeholder understanding and approach ("precautionary principal v pragmatism)
- 2. Planning Regime (IPC approach to "Rochdale Envelope")
- 3. Consent Validity currently 5yrs
- 4. Inability to amend applications sub optimal v new application



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Giving Confidence To Sponsors, Investors & the Supply Chain

Pre-application streamlining (on average 2.5 to 3yrs)

- Pragmatic approach from stakeholders to data collection, cumulative impact assessments and conditions (balanced use of "precautionary principal")
- Stakeholder resources, quality & quantity (10s of jobs to "unlock" 10,000s of jobs)
- Interaction with European Designated Sites
- Need to capitalise on learning to date
- Local Authority support and "buy in" to Government Policy
- "Joined up" Government to resolve key issues & drive through strategic level solutions (radar/oil & gas etc)

Flexible wind farm specification

- Clear & understood guidance on "Rochdale Envelope"
- Allow use of yet untested technology
- Allow greater cost optimisation
- Encourage more suppliers price competition
- Include cost to consumer as an IPC decision making criteria?



Giving Confidence

To Sponsors, Investors & the Supply Chain

Predictability of determination timings (IPC - 15.5mnths)

- Eliminate timing uncertainty for consent determination
- Allow projects to actively progress engineering, procurement and grid solutions in parallel to consent
- SoS Decision Making <3mnths
- "How big will the market be?" confidence to supply chain to invest
- Improve regulator feedback during pre-consent & determination & allow provision of supplementary information

Expiry of consent (5yrs)

- Support healthy flow of projects (no more "Project Gap")
- Encourage early development of projects to give confidence to pipeline
- Reduce Burden of Consent and monitoring conditions
 - "Standardised conditions template" (including across jurisdictions) with mechanism to make project specific
 - Feedback and learning from existing projects to reduce future requirements



Other Issues

Accelerating Demonstration Projects

- Reduce delivery time for new cost saving technologies
- Consenting of ancillary works
 - Ports & supply chain requirements (Green port Hull, Marine Energy Park)
 - Needs supplier confidence in consenting process
- Clear OFTO Regime
 - What is most efficient route (early, late, customer build?)

Challenge to National Grid?

- National Grid selection of grid selection point open to challenge due to lack of environmental consideration
- Is a co-ordinated network the solution? How to consent stranded assets?



Conclusions: Key Levers for Consenting Cost Reduction

Reduce Development Cost (Timeline) Reduce Development Risk	 Little scope to reduce £50k/MW, scope to reduce timeline (25% cost of money) Streamline consenting process to increase confidence (RUK NIRAS Study due February) Joined up Government with Local Authority support & buy in Predictable determination timings with SoS decision making <3mnths Reduce consent monitoring conditions Potential to improve environment to enable key commitments pre-FID Flexible wind farm specifications (post application amendments) Predictable determination timings with SoS decision making <3mnths Expiry of consent >5years Greater use of framework & alliancing relationships to incorporate supplychain in early design phase
Reduce Pre FID Procurement Exposure	 Large potential to reduce pre-FID procurement exposure Reduce development cost (timeline) Reduce development risk Increase supply chain – more competition Greater use of framework and alliancing relationships to work together on commitments Reduce grid security & related requirements

