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Marine Management Organisation

26 April 2022

The Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm Order 2021

Application for a Non-material Change (removal of maximum export capacity and reduction in turbine numbers)

Norfolk Boreas Limited and Norfolk Vanguard East Limited (the **Applicant**) has submitted an application to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (**BEIS**) seeking a non-material change to the Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm Order 2021 (the **Application**) in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 (as amended) (**2011 Regulations**).

The Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm Order 2021 (the **Order**) granted consent on 10 December 2021 for the development of an offshore wind farm located approximately 73km from the coast of Norfolk (at the closest point) (the **Project**). The Project, located in the southern North Sea, covers an area of approximately 725km². Offshore cables transmitting power from the Project make landfall south of Happisburgh. From there underground cables continue approximately 60km to an onshore project substation, and connect into the National Grid substation near Necton, Norfolk.

On 17 December 2021, Norfolk Vanguard East Limited entered into an agreement for lease with The Crown Estate in respect of (i) part of the wind farm array area and (ii) the cable corridor. Therefore, Norfolk Boreas Limited and Norfolk Vanguard East Limited both hold an interest in the land to which the Order relates and are making this Application as a joint applicant.

The Application seeks to remove the limit on the maximum export capacity for the Project. It also seeks a reduction in turbine numbers from 158 to 137. These amendments are sought to allow the Project to benefit from continuing technological developments in the offshore wind industry and to further reduce the costs of energy produced by the Project to the consumer in line with government policy. On 27 June 2019, following advice from the Committee on Climate Change, the UK Government announced a new carbon reduction 'net zero' target for 2050 which resulted in an amendment to the Climate Change Act 2008; the target for the net UK carbon account for 2050 changed from 80% to 100% below the 1990 baseline. The Energy White Paper, Powering our Net Zero Future, was published on 14 December 2020. The white paper puts net zero and the UK government's effort to fight climate change at its core, following the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. Facilitating an increase in the capacity of the Norfolk Boreas Wind Farm will further the contribution of the project to the government's goals and further assist in the fight against climate change.

The Supporting Statement for the Application concludes that the proposed amendments will not result in any new or materially different likely significant effects from those described in the original Environmental Statement and will not adversely affect the integrity of any protected site forming part of the National Site Network.

The Application does not seek any changes to the onshore elements of the Project.

A separate application has been made to you to vary the Deemed Marine Licences in line with the changes in this Application.

In order to assist your consideration of the Application, we enclose copies of the documents outlined below:

1. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1.1 This document includes:

- 1.1.1 The details of the proposed non-material change to the Order as prescribed by the 2011 Regulations;
- 1.1.2 An explanation as to why the proposed change is considered non-material; and
- 1.1.3 Considers whether the changes sought would give rise to likely significant effects on the environment or would adversely affect the integrity of any protected site forming part of the National Site Network.

1.2 A copy of the Supporting Statement was also sent to you in support of the separate application to vary the Deemed Marine Licences.

2. THE DRAFT AMENDMENT ORDER

2.1 The enclosed draft Amendment Order sets out the amendments proposed to the Order to reflect the changes sought.

3. A TRACK CHANGES VERSION OF THE ORDER

3.1 This document highlights, in tracked changes, the proposed amendments to the Order.

4. A TRACKED CHANGES VERSION OF THE DEEMED MARINE LICENSES

4.1 As a separate, parallel, application has been made to you to vary the Deemed Marine Licences (DMLs), a copy of the DMLs with the proposed changes shown in tracked changes, has been enclosed for reference.

5. A COPY OF THE NEWSPAPER NOTICE REQUIRED BY REGULATION 6 OF THE 2011 REGULATIONS (NOTICE)

5.1 Notice of the Application is being published as required by Regulation 6 of the 2011 Regulations, and pursuant to Regulation 7(1) of the 2011 Regulations, a copy of the Notice is enclosed for your information.

5.2 Any representation about the Application should be sent by email to the Planning Inspectorate at NorfolkBoreas@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. Alternatively, representations can be sent to the Planning Inspectorate in writing to: **National Infrastructure Planning, The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square Temple Quay Bristol BS1 6PN**. The Planning Inspectorate's reference for the Application (EN010087) should be quoted in any correspondence. If you have difficulty in submitting a representation by email, please contact NorfolkBoreas@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or 0303 444 5000 and a member of the Planning Inspectorate's case team will be able to assist you.

5.3 Please note that any representations received by the Planning Inspectorate in response to the consultation will be handled in compliance with the United Kingdom's General Data Protection Regulation and published on the relevant page of the Planning Inspectorate's Infrastructure Planning Portal (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/>) with all personal information removed.

5.4 The deadline for the receipt of representations in relation to the Application is 23:59 on Friday 10 June 2022.

We would be grateful if you would acknowledge safe receipt of this letter and its enclosures.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Lean'.

Ruari Lean
Norfolk Boreas Project Manager

Enclosures:

1. The Supporting Statement;
2. The draft Amendment Order;
3. The tracked changes version of the Order;
4. The tracked changes version of the Deemed Marine Licences; and
5. The newspaper notice as required by Regulation 7(1) of the 2011 Regulations.