

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE DEEMED MARINE LICENCE CONTAINED WITHIN THE DOGGER BANK  
CREYKE BECK OFFSHORE WIND FARM ORDER 2015 (AS AMENDED)**

The proposed variation pertains to Condition 15(2)(a) Construction Monitoring, as detailed within the variation 7 of Schedule 9 Part B, deemed Marine Licence (dML) 2. The full text of the proposed variation is set out in the table in Appendix 1, accompanied by a tracked change version of the dML in Appendix 2.

The effect of the proposed variation is to enable the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck Offshore Wind Farm (the Project) to measure the underwater noise (UWN) generated from four of the first twelve structures with piled foundations to be installed at Dogger Bank B(DBB) (i.e. monitoring any four of the first twelve monopile foundations). As the substance of the Condition remains unchanged this change is not material and falls within the MMO's authority under section 72(3)(d) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the MCAA 2009).

The DBB monopile foundation installation campaign (and the UWN monitoring of the foundations that would accompany this) was originally scheduled to commence in September 2023. However, due to various reasons, the DBB campaign will now commence in March 2024. Unavoidable piling delays were incurred after a mechanical fault in the monopile lifting tool was discovered following the Dogger Bank A (DBA) foundation installation campaign. As a result, the campaign will now coincide with the installation of foundations at the nearby Sofia Offshore Wind Farm (SOWF), which is scheduled to commence piling in January 2024. Due to the proximity of the projects, the Project has identified a risk that the UWN generated from the SOWF piling campaign has the potential to be detected by the noise monitoring equipment deployed for the DBB piling campaign and could contaminate the measurements. This would likely result in ambiguity regarding the source of any detected pile strikes, and isolation of the strikes originating only from DBB may not be possible. This would result in poor data quality and could compromise the DBB UWN monitoring campaign. Furthermore, the piling vessel Strashnov has demobilised for essential planned maintenance, after which she is contracted for a separate job in Angola over the winter period. It may be that either of these activities are delayed, in which case she will be coming onto site at a later date, a scenario over which the Project has no control and, as such, will require more detailed coordination with SOWF.

Due to the reasons outlined above, the Project believes that obtaining some flexibility in selecting which foundations are monitored for UWN at DBB is a sensible approach to ensure that any corruption of data is avoided and it will better enable the projects to work around each other during required UWN monitoring operations. There would be no alteration to the number of foundations where UWN is monitored, nor the timeframe for submission of the data to the MMO following the completion of the monitoring campaign. The Project recognises that the purpose of the monitoring campaign is to validate the mitigation measures outlined in the Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) and the predictions made in the Environmental Statement (ES) at the earliest opportunity to allow for any adjustments if necessary. The Project does not anticipate any conflicts with either the MMMP or ES predictions. Nonetheless, by permitting UWN monitoring to be undertaken on any four of the first twelve foundations, a sufficient number of foundations remain for installation post-completion of the monitoring campaign, should any further monitoring be required.

A precedent exists to support this request. The Hornsea 2 Offshore Wind Farm (HO2WF) committed to UWN monitoring at four of the first twelve foundations, as outlined in Section 4.2 of their Offshore

Environmental Monitoring Strategy - Construction Noise Monitoring Survey Proposal a proposal and approved by the MMO in 2020.

The Project is seeking a variation in the dML to accommodate the proposed changes. The proposed variation ensures that the substance of the Condition remains unchanged. The Project has informed the MMO of the proposed variation prior to submission of this request.

The proposed variation does not vary the nature of the licensed activities. Reviewing the substantive requirements of the Conditions in turn:

1. The Project will continue to be required to take measurements of noise generated by the installation of 1 pile from 4 structures with piled foundations;
2. Measurements must still be submitted to the MMO; and
3. The MMO must still determine whether further noise monitoring is required.

Consequently, the proposed variation will not introduce any new or materially different environmental effects and will not vary future monitoring obligations.

In summary, the proposed variation to dML 2 aims to allow more flexible UWN monitoring at DBB without altering the core Condition. This adjustment, communicated to the MMO in advance, follows a precedent set by the HO2WF and is designed to maintain data accuracy amidst operational challenges. The variation does not change the nature of the licensed activities or introduce new environmental effects, ensuring continued adherence to the MCAA 2009.