

Sent via e-mail:

Hannah.Towner@marinemanagement.org.uk

Hope.Armstrong@marinemanagement.org.uk

January 2021

Document reference: EA3-GEN-CON-REP-IBR-000380

**Subject: East Anglia THREE; DML Disposal Allowance Redistribution Strategy**

Overview

Further to the EA3 Project Update meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021, this letter is to inform the MMO of East Anglia THREE Limited's (EATL) proposal to redistribute the consented disposal allowances within the EA THREE Deemed Marine Licences (DMLs). There are six DMLs associated with the EA THREE assets; each asset and associated licence has a disposal allowance. The EA THREE DMLs comprise of the following:

DML Reference	Licence
DML 1 – Schedule 10	Generation assets (licence 1- phase 1)
DML 2 – Schedule 11	Generation assets (licence 2 - phase 2)
DML 3 – Schedule 12	Transmission assets (licence 1 - phase 1)
DML 4 – Schedule 13	Transmission assets (licence 2 - phase 2)
DML 5 – Schedule 14	Interconnection assets (licence 1 - phase 1)
DML 6 – Schedule 15	Interconnection assets (licence 2 - phase 2)

This letter provides a summary of the revised disposal allowances across the DML assets and considers these in the context of the consented envelope. It is important to note this is not an application for additional disposal volume, rather a readjustment of the consented volumes allocated to the different activities consented across the EA THREE DMLs. In addition, the EA THREE DML's consent the disposal of all material associated with construction activities in the designated disposal site, HU212. This proposal does not seek to increase the cumulative volume consented for disposal within this site nor does it amend the location of the site or the type of activities associated with disposal. It is therefore EATL's view that the proposed amendments to the DML are an administrative change that do not represent an amendment to the consented envelope. This note provides the justification to support this position.

To support this proposal reference is made to EA THREE's Development Consent application, in particular the following documents:

- 6.1.7 Volume 1 Chapter 7 Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes
- 6.1.8 Volume 1 Chapter 8 Marine Water and Sediment Quality
- 6.1.10 Volume 1 Chapter 10 Benthic Ecology
- 6.1.11 Volume 1 Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology
- 8.18 Site Characterisation Report

#### Proposed re-distribution

The EA THREE consent comprises six DMLs, within which disposal allowances for construction activities are separated across the different assets and construction activities, as relevant. The values, as stated in the DMLs are presented in Table 1. As illustrated below, the maximum volume of material that can be disposed within disposal site HU212 during construction of EA THREE is 4,151,302 m<sup>3</sup>

Alongside the values stated in the DMLs, Table 1 provides confirmation of the proposed redistributed values. In summary, there is a reduction in the value associated with the Offshore Electrical Station and Wind Turbine Generators, and an increase for Export Cables and Inter-Array Cables. These redistributed values represent an increase in the Transmission Assets total allowance, and a decrease in the Generation Assets total allowance. However, in terms of the total disposal value that can be disposed of within HU212, there will be no change in the overall consented value.

As noted previously, each asset DML has two licences to allow a phased build out of the Project. Currently the DMLs permit the disposal of the asset allowance in full or in part under the licences for the phased works. It is the intention of EATL to maintain this flexibility. Therefore, the disposal allowances presented in Table 1 represent the cumulative total disposal allowance for each asset, noting that this allowance can be disposed of in full or in part under either licence but never exceeding the total as presented.

*Table 1 EA THREE disposal volumes across the DMLs. As noted, the volumes presented represent the total disposal allowance across the two licences associated with each of the assets. EATL do not intend to split the total disposal allowance between each phase licence.*

<b>Transmission Assets DMLs (Schedule 12 and 13)</b>					
<b>Asset</b>	<b>Export Cable</b>	<b>Offshore Electrical Station</b>	<b>Cable Installation</b>		<b>Transmission Assets Total</b>
Current DML Values	324,484 m <sup>3</sup>	439,350 m <sup>3</sup>	41,316 m <sup>3</sup>		805,150 m <sup>3</sup>
Redistributed Values	1,430,000 m <sup>3</sup>	18,750 m <sup>3</sup>	41,316 m <sup>3</sup> (No change)		1,490,066 m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Generation Assets DMLs (Schedule 10 and 11)</b>					
<b>Asset</b>	<b>Inter-array Cables</b>	<b>Wind Turbine Generators</b>	<b>Accommodation Platform</b>	<b>Met Masts</b>	<b>Generation Assets Total</b>
Current DML Values	94,684 m <sup>3</sup>	3,010,000 m <sup>3</sup>	73,225 m <sup>3</sup>	20,750 m <sup>3</sup>	3,198,659 m <sup>3</sup>
Redistributed Values	1,219,768 m <sup>3</sup>	1,200,000 m <sup>3</sup>	73,225 m <sup>3</sup> (No change)	20,750 m <sup>3</sup> (No change)	2,513,743 m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Interconnector Cable DML's (Schedule 14 and 15)</b>					
<b>Asset</b>	<b>Cable Installation</b>				<b>Interconnector Cable Total</b>
Current DML Values	147,493 m <sup>3</sup>				147,493 m <sup>3</sup>
Redistributed Values	147,493 m <sup>3</sup> (No change)				147,493 m <sup>3</sup> (No change)
<b>Total DML Disposal Allowance</b>					<b>4,151,302 m<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Total Redistributed Disposal Allowance</b>					<b>4,151,302 m<sup>3</sup></b>

The presented allowances have been calculated via a series of post-consent assessments utilising up to date, site specific data that was not available during the development consent application. These assessments identified that there is a requirement for an increased disposal allowance for the installation of EA THREE export cable and inter-array cables due to the identification of mobile sediment sandbank of greater thickness along the cable corridors than originally considered. This increase will ensure there is sufficient allowance to achieve the necessary cable burial depth. The reduction in the wind turbines generators and offshore electrical stations has been achieved via Project refinement and understanding of a more realistic build out scenario.

#### Consented envelope consideration

It is EATL's view that the proposed amendments to the DML are an administrative change to the DMLs and do not represent an amendment to the consented envelope, on the basis of the following:

- The proposed changes are limited to the DMLs, with no required amendments to the DCO parameters.
- Based on the revised volumes, the maximum disposal volume consented for EA THREE will not be exceeded.
- The relevant ES assessments (listed previously) concluded that potential impacts associated with disposal activities would not result in significant effects. As there will be no increase in the maximum additive volume stated in the consent, the magnitude of the potential impacts will not change. It can therefore be considered that there will be no greater, nor additional impacts, to those assessed in the EA THREE EIA. In addition, whilst it is noted that the scale of sediment removal is increasing in some areas and decreasing in others this will not alter the assessments because all sediment types were previously assessed and given their sensitivities this does not alter the conclusions of the assessments.
- The HRA concluded that potential impacts associated with disposal activities would not result in the potential for likely significant effect. Based on the proposed amendments, there will be no new or different impacts or sensitivities and therefore no change to the HRA conclusion.
- Disposal site HU212 was consented on the basis of the conclusions of both the EA THREE EIA and the Site Characterisation Report. The Site Characterisation Report remains valid because the material will only be disposed of in the consented disposal site, will be consistent with the sediment types assessed and will not exceed the maximum consented volume. Therefore, no new impacts are expected to arise and the findings of the previously assessed impacts remain valid (i.e. they will not be significant).
- The Site Characterisation Report considered material to be disposed of during seabed preparation for foundations, drill arisings when installing foundations and seabed levelling for cable installation. No additional activities generating spoil for disposal are proposed by this amendment. In addition, the method of seabed levelling will not change from what was assessed in the EIA. Therefore, no new impacts are expected to arise and the findings of the previously assessed impacts remain valid (i.e. they will not be significant).



Summary

On the basis of the information presented in this note, it is EATL's view that the proposed amendments to the DML are an administrative change and do not represent an amendment to the consented envelope.

EATL request that the MMO consider the detail presented and confirm that a variation to the DMLs can be progressed.

Yours sincerely,

Fraser Murdoch  
Assistant Project Manager  
ScottishPower Renewables, on behalf of East Anglia Three Limited.