



UK Government

Department for Energy Security and  
Net Zero

3-8 Whitehall Place  
London  
SW1A 2AW

Orsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Limited  
5 Howick Place,  
London,  
England,  
SW1P 1WG

T +44 (0)207 215 5000  
E [energyinfrastructureplanning@energysecurity.gov.uk](mailto:energyinfrastructureplanning@energysecurity.gov.uk)  
W [www.gov.uk/desnz](http://www.gov.uk/desnz)

22 December 2025

By e-mail only: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## **ENERGY ACT 2004: OFFSHORE WIND ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATION**

### **SAFETY ZONE APPLICATION – HORNSEA THREE OFFSHORE WIND FARM**

#### **1. The Application**

- 1.1 I am writing regarding the Hornsea Three Offshore Wind Farm Safety Zone application submitted on 7 October 2025 (“the Application”), for which you are the appointed agent representing Orsted Hornsea Three (UK) Limited (“the Applicant”).
- 1.2 I am directed by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (“the Secretary of State”) to refer to the Application to consider a safety zone notice to be issued under section 95(2) of the Energy Act 2004 (“the Act”) declaring that the areas specified in the Application be safety zones for the purpose of securing the safety and protection of the Hornsea Three Offshore Wind Farm and individuals and vessels in its vicinity during its construction and operation when major maintenance is undertaken.
- 1.3 Details of the Application were set out in a document titled “Hornsea Three Wind Farm Safety Zone Application” (document reference 08818358\_B, Final Version B dated 1 September 2025) prepared by Anatec Limited on behalf of the Applicant. The Applicant has requested that safety zones should be declared in the following terms:

#### Construction Phase

- “Rolling” (i.e. active only where construction is ongoing) 500 metre (“m”) safety zones established around each structure and/or their foundations whilst construction works are in progress, as indicated by the presence of a

construction vessel. The safety zones will be active whenever a vessel is on station at a structure and undertaking construction activities.

- Pre-commissioning 50 m safety zones established around each structure and/or their foundations when construction works have been completed but prior to commissioning or where construction works have only been partially completed. These safety zones will be active at any structure during the construction phase where a construction vessel is not present.

#### Major Maintenance within the Operation and Maintenance Phase

- 500 m safety zones established around each structure where “major maintenance” work is being undertaken, where major maintenance is as per the definition given in the Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Application Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007 (“the 2007 Regulations”). The safety zones will be active whenever a major maintenance vessel is at the structure during the operational phase.

- 1.4 The Applicant is not seeking permanent safety zones around any structure.
- 1.5 In paragraph 8 of the Application, the Applicant has noted that safety zones triggered by Service Operation Vessel (“SOV”) Walk to Work systems during the operation and maintenance phase are not being included in the Application. However, it is noted that the Applicant will continue to risk assess, including monitoring of ongoing activities and traffic patterns, and may apply for additional safety zones at a later date.
- 1.6 Notice of the Application (“the Public Notice”) was published and served by the Applicant in accordance with the requirements of the Act and regulations 4 and 5 of the 2007 Regulations on 9 and 16 October 2025. Any representations to the Public Notice were requested to be made to the Secretary of State no later than 13 November 2025, being 28 days from 16 October 2025 as the final publishing date.

## **2. Representations**

- 2.1 This section provides a summary of the views provided by individual consultees:
- 2.1.1 The Mineral Products Association confirmed they had no comments.
- 2.1.2 The UK Chamber of Shipping stated it had no specific objections to this project, but sought clarification on the maximum number of concurrent construction safety zones for the Hornsea Three Offshore Windfarm.
- 2.1.3 The Marine Management Organisation noted the parameters of the proposed safety zones as set out in the Application to be standard industry practice. It stated that it defers to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (“MCA”) and Trinity House on the appropriateness of the

information contained within the Application, and specifically lighting and marking, along with the assessment of the data to inform navigational risk within the area.

2.1.4 The MCA stated it agrees with the contents of the Application and fully supports the safety zones applied for as described in the Public Notice and sections 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 of the Application. In addition, it stated it is content with sections 8 (Safety Zone Overview) and 9 (Justifications for Safety Zones) and agrees with the summary given by the Applicant in section 12 (Summary). The MCA noted in paragraph 45 of the Application that notifications will be issued and therefore requested the Applicant to include four His Majesty's Coastguard ("HMCG") email addresses as part of the notifications. The MCA stated that provided all the maritime safety legislation is followed, its comments are addressed, and the original conditions of consent and advisories continue to be adhered to, it confirms it is content with the documentation and has no objections to the Application on this occasion.

2.1.5 The Royal Yachting Association stated it had no comments.

2.2 No representations were received from any other persons in response to the Public Notice.

### **3. The Applicant's Responses to Representations**

3.1 In response to the comments from the UK Chamber of Shipping, the Applicant confirmed that the current assumption is for 7-8 rolling safety zones during construction. Following this clarification by the Applicant, the UK Chamber of Shipping stated that it is accepting and comfortable with 7-8 concurrent safety zones, but added that were it to be significantly more than 7-8, then it would potentially have concerns, but not at present.

3.2 In response to the comments from the MCA, the Applicant confirmed that the HMCG emails addresses provided by the MCA were added to the Notices to Mariners distribution ("NtM") list for the Hornsea Three Offshore Wind Farm and therefore will be informed of any works for which the safety zones will apply.

### **4. Secretary of State's consideration of the Application and the Representations Received**

4.1 The Secretary of State notes that there was acceptance that safety zones of the sort requested in the Application were necessary during the construction and/or major maintenance operations of an offshore wind farm. The Secretary of State also notes that there were no objections to the requested safety zones.

4.2 The Secretary of State is aware that regulation 2 of the 2007 Regulations defines a "standard safety zone" in the following way:

*“(a) in the case of the proposed or ongoing construction, extension or decommissioning of a wind turbine, or of major maintenance works in respect of such an installation, a safety zone with a radius of 500 metres measured from the outer edge at sea level of the proposed or existing wind turbine tower; or*

*(b) in the case of the proposed or ongoing operation of a wind turbine, a safety zone with a radius of 50 metres measured from the outer edge at sea level of the proposed or existing wind turbine tower.”*

- 4.3 The Secretary of State considers that the Application falls under the definition of “standard safety zone”.
- 4.4 The Secretary of State notes that paragraph 102 of the Application sets out the vessel scenarios that would trigger a safety zone during the construction and operation and maintenance phases. The scenarios are set out as follows:
- *Any construction operation involving a vessel Restricted in Ability to Manoeuvre stationed at a structure (within 500 m);*
  - *Any construction or major maintenance operation involving any kind of attachment to a structure (e.g., goods transfer, power cabling); and*
  - *Any construction or major maintenance operation involving a vessel that is required to be anchored to the seabed next to the structure for the purposes of that operation (e.g., heavy lift operations).*
- 4.5 The Secretary of State notes that the UK Chamber of Shipping confirmed it was content with the application, following confirmation from the Applicant that the assumption is for 7-8 rolling safety zones during construction.
- 4.6 The Secretary of State notes that the Applicant has added HMCG email addresses provided by the MCA to the NtM distribution list for the Hornsea Three Offshore Wind Farm, as requested by the MCA. The Secretary of State has further considered the MCA’s response, which stated that, provided its comments were addressed, maritime safety legislation is followed, and the original conditions of consent and advisories continue to be adhered to, it was content with the documentation and raised no objections to the safety zone application.
- 4.7 Having considered the representations received on the Application, the Secretary of State is content that the issues raised have been adequately resolved.

## **5 The Secretary of State’s Decision**

- 5.1 Where objections to the requested safety zones have been submitted to the Secretary of State, Schedule 16 to the Energy Act 2004 gives the Secretary of State a power to determine whether a public inquiry should be held to consider them. The Secretary of State notes that there were no objections to the

requested safety zones for the Hornsea Three Offshore Wind Farm and that the question of whether to hold a public inquiry does not arise.

- 5.2 The Secretary of State notes that the Applicant does not seek a Direction that safety zones should be put in place around SOVs attached to the structures that form part of the Hornsea Three Offshore Wind Farm. The Secretary of State is aware that other recent applications for safety zones for offshore wind farms have included requests that safety zones should be put in place around SOVs and that these requests have been granted. However, the Secretary of State notes that while he is able to follow precedent where that is appropriate, the decision-making process requires that he should take account of any relevant matters that have been submitted to him as part of the Application for the Hornsea Three Offshore Wind Farm of which SOV safety zones do not form part of. However, the Secretary of State notes that such an application may come forward in future.
- 5.3 The Secretary of State has considered and is content with the information provided to him as part of the Application, the representations submitted to him in respect of the Application and the relevant provisions of the Act, the 2007 Regulations and the revised Guidance Notes on Applying for Safety Zones Around Offshore Renewables Installations issued by the Department of Energy and Climate Change in 2011<sup>1</sup>.
- 5.4 The Secretary of State is also content with the evidence of publication provided in respect of the Public Notice for consultation purposes.
- 5.5 In light of the matters above, the Secretary of State considers that the declaration of safety zones of the type requested during the construction of and major maintenance to the Hornsea Three Offshore Wind Farm is necessary for the purpose of securing the safety of installations comprising the Hornsea Three Offshore Wind Farm and individuals working thereon because it will help reduce the inherent navigational risk of interference or collision by vessels.

## **6. The Declaration**

- 6.1 The Secretary of State is, therefore, hereby content to issue the notice declaring safety zones on the following terms:

### During the construction phase

- 6.2 “Rolling” (i.e., active only where construction is ongoing) 500m safety zones established around each structure and/or their foundations whilst construction

---

1

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7ec505e5274a2e8ab4816c/Safety\\_Zones\\_DECC\\_2011.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7ec505e5274a2e8ab4816c/Safety_Zones_DECC_2011.pdf)

works are in progress, as indicated by the presence of a construction vessel. The safety zones will be active whenever a vessel is on station at a structure and undertaking construction activities; and

- 6.3 Pre-commissioning 50m safety zones established around each structure and/or their foundations when construction works have been completed but prior to commissioning or where construction works have only been partially completed. These safety zones will be active at any structure during the construction phase where a construction vessel is not present.

During major maintenance and operation phases

- 6.4 500m safety zones established around each structure where “major maintenance” work is being undertaken, where major maintenance is as per the definition given in the 2007 Regulations. The safety zones will be active whenever a major maintenance vessel is at the structure during the operational phase.
- 6.5 This notice comes into force from the date of this letter.
- 6.6 For the purposes of this notice, the Hornsea Three Offshore Wind Farm comprises the offshore wind turbines and offshore sub-stations for which development consent was granted by the Secretary of State under the relevant provisions of the Planning Act 2008 on 31 December 2020 as subsequently amended under the provisions of the same Act.

Yours sincerely,



**John Wheadon**  
**Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery & Innovation**  
**Department of Energy Security & Net Zero**

ci

Mineral Products Association  
UK Chamber of Shipping  
Marine Management Organisation  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
Royal Yachting Association