



UK Government

Department for Energy Security and
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(By e-mail only: brady@orsted.com)

Dear Mr Brady,

ENERGY ACT 2004: OFFSHORE WIND ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATION

SAFETY ZONE APPLICATION – WESTERMOST ROUGH OFFSHORE WIND FARM

1. The Application

1.1 I am directed by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (“the Secretary of State”) to refer to the application submitted on 28 April 2026 on behalf of Ørsted (“the Applicant”) for a notice to be issued by the Secretary of State under section 95(2) of the Energy Act 2004 (“the Act”) designating safety zones to secure the safety of the Westermost Rough Offshore Wind Farm and individuals and vessels in its vicinity during major maintenance operations (“the Application”).

1.2 The Applicant has requested that safety zones should be declared in the following terms:

Major Maintenance within the Operation and Maintenance Phase

- 500 metre (m) safety zones around all major maintenance being undertaken around a wind turbine generator or the offshore substation as denoted by the presence of a major maintenance vessel

1.3 The Applicant is not seeking permanent safety zones during the normal operation of the Development or safety zones triggered by service operational vessels (“SOVs”) attached to the structures that form part of the Westermost Rough Offshore Wind Farm.

1.4 A 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 Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Application Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007 (the “2007 Regulations”). The Public Notice was published on 23 April 2026 in the Guardian, London Gazette, Lloyds List, Grimsby Telegraph, Scunthorpe

Telegraph, Fishing News and Kingfisher Bulletin, and a second time in the Grimsby Telegraph and Scunthorpe Telegraph on 30 April 2026.

2. Representations

2.1 A summary of the views of individual consultees and the Applicant are set out below:

i) The Marine Management Organisation deferred to the views of the Maritime & Coastguard Agency and Trinity House, specifically on lighting and marking, along with the assessment of the data (using AIS data from 2025 only) to inform navigational risk within the area.

ii) The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (“MCA”) requested that the Applicant includes the following email addresses when issuing the Notice to Mariners, as outlined in paragraph 81 of the Application: zone8@hmcg.gov.uk; zone9@hmcg.gov.uk and offshoreenergy.notifications@mcga.gov.uk.

Provided the above is completed, the MCA is content with the documentation and agreed with the safety zones as applied for.

iii) Trinity House had no objections.

iv) The Royal Yachting Association noted that no permanent safety zones are being applied for during normal operations and had no objections to the implementation of standard 500m safety zones around relevant structures, in conjunction with other proposed mitigation measures.

v) The UK Chamber of Shipping confirmed it had no comments.

vi) Associated British Ports (“ABP”) supports the application, noting that the application area sits outside of ABP’s Statutory Harbour Area for the Humber

vii) The Mineral Products Association confirmed they had no comments.

2.2 No representations were received from any other persons in response to the publication of the Public Notices.

3. The Applicant’s Responses

3.1 In response to the MCA’s comments the Applicant confirmed that the HMCG email addresses provided are included on its Notice to Mariners distribution list.

4. Secretary of State’s consideration of the Application and the Representations Received

4.1 The Secretary of State notes that there was an acceptance that safety zones of the sort requested in the Application are necessary during major maintenance operations. The Secretary of State also notes that there were no objections to the requested safety zones.

- 4.2 Regulation 2 of the 2007 Regulations defines a “standard safety zone” in the following way:

“...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.”

- 4.3 The Secretary of State considers that the Application falls under the definition of “standard safety zone”.

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 of 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 Westernmost Rough Offshore Wind Farm and considers 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 Westernmost Rough Offshore Wind Farm. The Secretary of State notes that the Applicant would have to seek permission through a future formal application and subsequent official direction if it wished to establish safety zones around any SOVs.

- 5.3 The Secretary of State has considered 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 Energy Act 2004, the 2007 Regulations and the revised Guidance Notes on Applying for Safety Zones Around Offshore Renewables Installations issued in 2011.

- 5.4 In light of the matters above, the Secretary of State considers that the declaration of safety zones of the type requested during major maintenance to the Westernmost Rough Offshore Wind Farm is necessary to secure the safety of installations comprising the Westernmost Rough Offshore Wind Farm and individuals working thereon, as they will help reduce the inherent navigational risk of interference or collision by vessels.

6. The Declaration

- 6.1 The Secretary of State hereby issues the notice declaring safety zones in the following terms:

Major Maintenance Within the Operation and Maintenance Phase of Westernmost Rough Offshore Wind Farm

- 500 metre (m) safety zones around all major maintenance being undertaken around a wind turbine generator or the offshore substation as denoted by the presence of a major maintenance vessel (“major maintenance” as defined within the Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Application Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007).

6.2 This notice comes into force from the date of this letter.

6.3 For the purposes of this notice, the Westermost Rough Offshore Wind Farm comprises the offshore wind turbines and offshore sub-stations for which development consent was granted by the Secretary of State under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 on 29 November 2011 as subsequently amended under the provisions of the same Act.

Yours sincerely,

John Wheadon

John Wheadon
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery

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Cruising Association
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Marine Management Organisation
National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisation
North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Royal Yachting Association
Trinity House
UK Chamber of Shipping
Associated British Ports
Bridlington Harbour
Mineral Products Association