

Stakeholder Meeting Note

File reference	EN010024 – Isle of Wight Windfarm
Status	Final
Author	Tom Carpen

Meeting with	Eneco
Meeting date	21 April 2010
Attendees (IPC)	Janet Wilson, Tom Carpen
Attendees (non IPC)	Helen Cassini, Chris Sherrington, Andrew Prior, Richard Guyatt
Location	IPC Offices Bristol

Meeting purpose	Project Introduction and pre-application process discussion.
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Summary of outcomes	<p>Discussion topics:</p> <p>The IPC advised Eneco that it would not be able to comment on the merits of the proposal, and that it in line with its policy of openness did not hold any confidential information.</p> <p>A project team will be assigned with EIA, legal and planning expertise, along with a pre-application commissioner.</p> <p>Project introduction</p> <p>Eneco gave a presentation covering the company background, the proposed project, including some early challenges that have been identified, and the anticipated timescale for the project.</p> <p>The indicative capacity of the project is 900MW, subject to change following consultation with stakeholders and more detailed design.</p> <p>Key considerations include addressing commercial and leisure navigation issues, landscape considerations, Ministry of Defence issues, the location of any onshore grid connection, and conservation considerations.</p>
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In response to an IPC question, Eneco does not anticipate including port works into a future application.

The project timescale is to start construction in 2016 and operation in 2018.

Consultation process

Eneco gave an overview of its approach to consultation. It is currently undertaking informal consultation with stakeholders to gather environmental information and introduce the project. It intends to begin formal consultation in line with section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 once it has defined the project in more detail, currently intended to be the first quarter of 2011.

Discussion concentrated on how the pre-application process could effectively deal with consideration of alternative options, for example the location of on-shore grid connections, and the role of the IPC where disagreement exists (see record of advice and follow up work below).

Environmental Impact Assessment

Eneco intends to seek screening and scoping opinions from the IPC during the course of the pre-application process. It anticipates making a scoping request in the first quarter of 2011.

Discussion focused on how to make the most of the pre-application process, including the IPC, so that statutory consultees could usefully shape the Environmental Statement (see record of advice and follow up work below).

Eneco raised a query about how the IPC would deal with Habitat Assessment as the Competent Authority and the extent to which it would rely on other bodies. The IPC agreed to provide further details in a specifically arranged meeting on this and other EIA matters.

IPC relationship with other bodies

The roles of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the Crown Estate were discussed to explore ways in which they were working with the IPC. In particular for the MMO, how they would input into the IPC process given their resources and for the Crown Estate, whether there was scope for the IPC to work with them to address work common to all off-shore wind farms (see follow up work below).

	<p>Outreach</p> <p>The IPC has a policy commitment to engagement with stakeholders and is taking forward an outreach programme / event in areas where Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are anticipated.</p> <p>The event would be independent of any consultation carried out by the applicant but timed to support the process. The focus would be on how to engage with the application process and the role of the IPC.</p> <p>The first step would be to hold an inception meeting with the relevant local authorities and the applicant to scope an event to be held a month or so in advance of the formal consultation process.</p>
<p>Record of any advice given</p>	<p><i>The IPC encourages applicants to submit a draft scoping report and to support it in identifying statutory consultees. Although we would not be able to comment on the merits of the scoping report we would look to ensure it is sufficient to allow statutory consultees to provide meaningful responses to inform our eventual opinion. This should be done in good time before submission of the scoping request. Statutory consultees will need to be contacted once we receive knowledge that the applicant intends to produce an Environmental Statement, or requests a screening opinion.</i></p> <p><i>When considering how to be sure if you have consulted all the relevant people, early discussion with the local authorities should help in establishing who within the local community should be consulted and how. The Planning Act 2008 (section 55) sets out the considerations for the IPC at the acceptance stage, which include any guidance on pre-application produced, the view of the local authorities on the adequacy of consultation and details set out in the applicant's consultation report.</i></p> <p><i>When considering how much detail to go into on alternatives, it will have to be project specific. The IPC's experience to date indicates that stakeholders may raise options that may not have been considered or may wish to see detailed consideration of options that have been rejected.</i></p>
<p>Specific decisions/follow up required?</p>	<p>Meeting to be arranged to cover detailed EIA scoping and Habitat regulations matters (TC/HC)</p> <p>IPC to review discussions with Crown Estate on work</p>

	<p>relating to all off-shore wind farms (TC).</p> <p>IPC to send links to relevant guidance on the pre-application and EIA process (TC)</p> <p>Eneco to provide a more detailed pre-application project timetable (HC)</p> <p>Outreach event to be planned and taken forward in line with pre-application project timescale (TC)</p>
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Circulation List	Attendees + Tracey Page (IPC Communications)