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Mr C Merritt
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Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010024

Date: 19 June 2014

Dear Mr Merritt

Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

Application by Navitus Bay Development Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the proposed Navitus Bay Wind Park

Thank you for your letter to His Royal Highness Prince Charles and the Rt Hon David Cameron of 27 May 2014 about the proposed Navitus Bay Wind Park.

Your letter has been past to me as it relates to a proposed nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP). I have been asked to reply as the Planning Inspectorate, an agency of the Department for Communities and Local Government, is responsible for examining NSIP applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008).

Offshore generating stations in England or Wales that have a capacity of more than 100 megawatts are classified as NSIPs. Therefore, for any development of this nature and above the threshold an applicant is obliged to submit an application to the relevant Secretary of State for development consent under the PA2008. This application was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 April 2014, and was then subsequently accepted for examination on 8 May 2014.

We are currently in the relevant representations period, which is when members of the public can register with the Planning Inspectorate and make a "relevant representation" so that they will become an "interested party". This gives members of the public an opportunity to participate in the examination of the application.

Shortly after the close of the period for making a relevant representation the Secretary of State will appoint the 'Examining Authority' to examine the application. The Examining Authority has up to 21 days to review the application and all relevant representations and identify the principal issues for examination. Following this, the Planning Inspectorate invites all interested parties to attend a meeting, known as the Preliminary Meeting, which is held to consider how the application will be examined.

The meeting may include questions and answers about the key issues that will need to be examined, the timetable for the examination and other important organisational details. The merits of the application will not be discussed at the Preliminary Meeting, which is purely procedural. The Examining Authority will investigate the merits of the application during the examination stage which starts the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

The Examining Authority has a statutory duty to complete its examination within 6 months. The examination is a formal legal process, during which careful consideration is given to all the important and relevant matters, including the representations of all interested parties, any evidence submitted and answers provided to questions set out in writing and explained at hearings.

Within three months of the six month examination period closing the Examining Authority must prepare a report on the application to the relevant Secretary of State, in this case the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. The report will include a recommendation. The Secretary of State then has a further three months to make the decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent.

The Planning Inspectorate has published a series of advice notes which explain the process, including information on how to get involved. These are available at the following web address: <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes> . I would draw your attention in particular to advice notes 8.1 through 8.5. If you have not done so and you wish to register as an interested party you will be kept informed of the Examination and be invited to engage in the process further by making detailed written representations (and oral representations at hearings).

Relevant Representation forms must be completed at the relevant time. The deadline for making a representation is 23 June 2014, and registration can be done on-line at the following web address <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/south-east/navitus-bay-wind-park> . You may also wish to sign up on this webpage to receive email alerts on the progress of the project.

I hope this information is of assistance. If you have any further queries please send them to the Navitus Wind Park case team at the above address.

Yours sincerely,

Simone Wilding
Head of Service NI Casework

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.