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Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010033

Date: 14 January 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rules 13 and 16**

**Application by SMart Wind Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent
for the Hornsea Offshore Wind Farm (Zone 4) - Project One**

Notification of site inspections and hearings

I write to advise you of the dates, times and places of the forthcoming site inspection and hearings which will be held during the course of the examination of the above application.

Open Floor Hearing

An open floor hearing will be held on **Tuesday 11 February 2014** at the **Humber Royal Hotel, Littlecoates Rd, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire DN34 4LX**.

The open floor hearing is being held to provide an opportunity for interested parties to make oral representations about the application, subject to the Examining Authority's (ExA's) powers of control over the conduct of the hearing.

Each interested party should assume that they will be allowed a maximum speaking time of 10 minutes in total for all submissions that they wish to make in this session. If the ExA decides that it is necessary to provide an agenda for this hearing, this will be published on the National Infrastructure pages of the Planning Portal website <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/hornsea-offshore-wind-farm-zone-4-project-one/> no later than Thursday 30 January 2014.

Interested parties taking part in the hearing should be prepared to be questioned on their representations or evidence by the ExA.

Site inspection in the company of interested parties

The ExA intends to make a site inspection, in the company of interested parties, of the following locations related to the above application:

- Landfall site, near North Coates Village
- Louth Canal Crossing
- Team Gate Drain Crossing
- A160 roundabout crossing
- HVDC Converter/HVAC substation site

A [draft itinerary](#) and [route plan](#) can be found through these hyperlinks and on the National Infrastructure pages of the Planning Portal website .

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/hornsea-offshore-wind-farm-zone-4-project-one/>

A final itinerary and route will be published no later than **Thursday 30 January 2014**.

The site inspection will be made on **Wednesday 12 February 2014**. The site inspection will commence from the **Humber Royal Hotel, Littlecoates Rd, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire DN34 4LX**, where participants who have confirmed attendance for the whole site visit will be able to leave vehicles. Transport for the site visit will be provided. Participants are asked to assemble **from 8.15am** ready for departure and commencement of the site inspection at **8.30am**. The early start time is due to hours of daylight available and the need to view the landfall site at low tide.

The ExA welcomes interested parties to join the site inspection at the locations identified above. However, to ensure the smooth running of the site inspection, we ask that you inform the Case Manager, Katherine Chapman, by **5pm on Thursday 6 February 2014** if you wish to meet the ExA on site, providing contact details.

Please note that the site inspection is not an opportunity to provide any oral representations on the scheme. Participants may be invited by the ExA to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

Issue-specific Hearings

An issue-specific hearing relating to identified issues and the principle of the development and the Development Consent Order will take place on **Thursday 13 February 2014** at the **Humber Royal Hotel, Littlecoates Rd, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire DN34 4LX**. An agenda for this hearing will be issued no later than **Thursday 30 January 2014**. The main purpose of this hearing will be to examine how the applicant has constructed the draft Development Consent Order, the scope of the powers sought, the Requirements envisioned and the operation of the draft Deemed Marine Licences and the protective provisions.

A further issue-specific hearing will take place on **Tuesday 11 March 2014**, continuing on **Wednesday 12 March 2014** as required, **also** at the **Humber Royal**

Hotel, Littlecoates Rd, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire DN34 4LX. Topics to be covered during this hearing are listed below, but please note that this list is not exhaustive:

- HRA, methodology and impacts on birds and marine mammals
- Impacts on fishing and navigation
- Construction impacts and socio-economic matters
- Monitoring, management and mitigation plans and provisions

An agenda for this hearing will also be issued no later than Thursday 30 January 2014.

A compulsory acquisition hearing will commence on **Thursday 13 March 2014** at the **Humber Royal Hotel, Littlecoates Rd, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire DN34 4LX.**

An agenda for this hearing will be issued no later than **Thursday 30 January 2014.**

Agendas for the issue-specific and compulsory acquisition hearings will be published under the relevant project page of the National Infrastructure pages of the Planning Portal website: <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/hornsea-offshore-wind-farm-zone-4-project-one/>.

Should further hearings be required, these will take place on 29 April, 30 April and 1 May 2014, indicated as dates reserved in the examination timetable at Serial 13. The hearings will be held at **Humber Royal Hotel, Littlecoates Rd, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire DN34 4LX.**

Procedure

On each hearing day, we ask that attendees should **arrive by 9.45am** to ensure a prompt start as the hearing will **begin at 10.00am.**

Rule 14(5) of the Examination Procedure Rules 2010 states that –

The Examining authority shall be responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence (“A”) except where, in the view of the Examining authority, oral questioning of A by another person (“B”) is necessary in order to ensure—

- (a) adequate testing of any representation; or
- (b) that B has a fair chance to put B's case.

Questioning at the hearings therefore will be led by the members of the Panel.

Each interested party is entitled to make oral representations at the hearing (subject to the ExA's powers of control over the hearings).

A day has been allocated for each of the hearings. If, however, the consideration of the issues takes less time than anticipated, the ExA may conclude the hearings as soon as all relevant contributions have been made and all questions asked and responded to. If there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions

that take a considerable amount of time at the hearings there may be a need to continue the hearings for longer on the day, or adjourn the hearings to continue at a later date.

Please note

If you wish to attend any or all of these hearings, please inform the Case Manager, Katherine Chapman, by **5pm on Thursday 6 February 2014**.

It would assist us if you could notify us of any special requirements you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc). Please ensure that you include your interested party reference number in your correspondence.

Participants are advised that they will be requested, once agendas have been issued, to bring to the hearings three copies of any speaking note, or a written summary of any remarks they intend to make, for the benefit of all involved. It may be helpful to the Panel if any scripts could be provided prior to the hearings.

Please provide your interested party reference number in any communication and mark it for the attention of the 'Hornsea Offshore Wind Farm team'.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the case team.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Upton

Robert Upton
Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

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.