



Department for
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& Industrial Strategy

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Natural England,
Marine Management Organisation & The Applicant
(By e-mail)

Our Ref: EN010051
Your Ref:

21 February 2019

Dear Sir or Madam

PLANNING ACT 2008

APPLICATION TO MAKE NON-MATERIAL CHANGES TO THE DOGGER BANK TEESSIDE A AND B OFFSHORE WIND FARM ORDER 2015

I refer to the application by Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Limited (“the Applicant”) of 15 June 2018 seeking proposed changes to the Dogger Bank Teesside A and B Offshore Wind Farm Order 2015 (“the Order”).

Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Secretary of State considers it necessary to undertake an HRA to assess the materiality of the Application. The Secretary of State notes that the need for an Appropriate Assessment is not necessarily of itself determinative of whether a change should be considered material.

The Secretary of State now requests that **Natural England** and **MMO** provide any comments they may have on the draft HRA enclosed with this letter.

Draft Additional Requirement

The Secretary of State considers that to ensure there can be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Southern North Sea candidate Special Protection Area before the conclusion of the Review of Consents, the following additional requirement would also

need to be included in any Amendment Order that he may decide to make in due course:

“No stage of Project B Offshore Works shall commence until the review of consents granted prior to the designation of the Southern North Sea as a Special Area of Conservation has been completed and the Secretary of State has affirmed, modified or revoked the decision in respect of the Project B Offshore Works under regulation 33(4) of the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (S.I 2017/1013)”

In the circumstances, the Secretary of State would particularly welcome any comments **the Applicant, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation** may have on the above draft requirement.

The deadline for a response is 8 March 2019.

The response should be submitted by email to:

DBTeessideAB@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk>

Please also send any hard copy response to the Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Project Team, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, c/o the Planning Inspectorate, Eagle Wing 3/18, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN. If you will have difficulty in submitting a response by the consultation deadline, please inform the Project Team as soon as possible.

Responses will be published on the Dogger Bank Teesside A and B/Sofia Offshore Wind Farm project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning Portal website as soon as possible after 8 March 2019.

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision whether or not to grant the changes sought to Dogger Bank Teesside A and B Offshore Wind Farm Order 2015, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Leigh
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning