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To all interested parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010053

Date: 28 April 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure)
Rules 2010**

**Application by SMart Wind Limited for an Order Granting Development
Consent for the Hornsea Offshore Wind Farm (Zone 4) – Project Two**

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED
HORNSEA PROJECT TWO OFFSHORE WIND FARM- EN010053**

Following the completion of the examination on 16 December 2015, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on 16 March 2016. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.

Since the close of the examination of Hornsea Project Two Offshore Wind Farm, Government has launched a consultation into a possible Special Area of Conservation ("pSAC") for Harbour Porpoise: the Southern North Sea pSAC:

- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/SACconsultation>

On 29 March 2016, the Secretary of State invited comments from Natural England ("NE") and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee ("the JNCC") on the latest conservation advice for the Southern North Sea pSAC. The response from NE and JNCC, can be viewed at:

- <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/hornsea-offshore-wind-farm-zone-4-project-two/?ipcsection=docs&stage=5&filter=DECC+Consultation>

In light of the response, the Secretary of State invited the Applicant to provide any additional information for the purposes of a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the likely effects of the Project, both alone and in-combination with other plans and projects, on the Harbour Porpoise feature of this site. The Applicant's response of 21st April can be viewed at:

- <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010053/2.%20Post-Submission/DECC%20Consultation/Dong%20-%20Hornsea%20Project%202%20-%204.pdf>

The Secretary of State now invites comments from **NE, the JNCC** and **any other Interested Party** on the Applicant's response of 21st April, to allow her to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the likely effects of the Project, both alone and in-combination with other plans and projects, on the Harbour Porpoise feature of the Southern North Sea pSAC.

The deadline for a response is 11 May 2016.

The response should be submitted by email to Hornsea2@pins.gsi.gov.uk Please send any hard copy response to Hornsea Two Offshore Wind Farm Project Team, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, c/o the Planning Inspectorate, 3B Eagle, 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.

Your response will be published on the Hornsea Two Offshore Wind Farm project page of the Planning Inspectorate website as soon as possible after 11 May 2016.

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision whether or not to grant development consent for the Hornsea Two Offshore Wind Farm project, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully

Giles Scott

Giles Scott
Head of National Infrastructure Consents