



The Planning
Inspectorate

Project update meeting for East Anglia THREE Offshore Wind farm

File reference	EN010056
Status	Final
Author	Philippa Davey
Date	22 July 2015
Meeting with	East Anglia Offshore Wind Ltd (EAOW)
Venue	TQH
Attendees	<u>Planning Inspectorate</u> Kenneth Taylor (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Katherine King (Case Manager) David Price (EIA Manager) Alison Down (EIA Advisor) Philippa Davey (Assistant Case Officer) <u>EAOW Ltd</u> Keith Morrison (Senior Project Manager)
Meeting objectives	Progress update
Circulation	All

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Welcome and Introductions

The applicant was made aware of the Planning Inspectorate's (the Inspectorate) openness policy and that any issues discussed or advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the applicant (or others) can rely.

Project update

The applicant, East Anglia THREE Limited (EATL), gave an update of the progress of the project to date. They confirmed they will be seeking consent for both the 1 x 1200MW or the 2 x 600MW design option. The onshore cable route will follow that of East Anglia ONE (EA1), utilising the ducts provided as part of the East Anglia ONE project. If the 2 x 600MW option is chosen, it is anticipated that there will be no longer than 18 months between the two phases.

The applicant has been carrying out s42 consultation to gather responses to the phasing option and other matters. This consultation is due to end on 23 July 2015. A good number of responses had been received to date, particularly from statutory consultees and interested parties living near the cable route. Responses reviewed so far have mainly focused on traffic and access issues.

The applicant informed the Inspectorate that one further affected person has been identified and they plan to consult this person as soon as possible. The Inspectorate advised that this is not unusual, but that it should be reflected clearly in the consultation report when this person was identified and how they were consulted at a later stage.

Evidence Plan (EP)

The last EA3 Evidence Plan meeting was in June. The Inspectorate has taken over the chairing role from Major Infrastructure Environmental Unit (MIEU) and will chair the next EP meeting on 4 August 2015. The applicant reported that the meetings have worked well, and that it seems likely that the majority of issues will be resolved by the time the application is submitted.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The applicant advised that the onshore red line boundary of the project site has now been finalised. A number of access points along the onshore cable route have been dropped as they are now not needed. The offshore red line boundary has been refined after consultation with internal engineering and The Crown Estate. Formal agreement is expected over the next few months.

Environmental Statement

The Environmental Statement (ES) is near to completion and will undergo internal review before selected draft chapters are circulated for comment, including to the Inspectorate, Natural England (NE), and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). Potential cumulative effects with other schemes are covered in individual topic chapters.

Transboundary Issues

The Netherlands are the only European Economic Area (EEA) state that has responded to transboundary consultation carried out by the applicant. Concerns raised mainly related to shipping but also included impacts on marine mammals and migratory birds. The applicant confirmed that they had taken account of DECC's recent policy guidance on consideration of European sites in other EEA states, and that to date no European sites had been identified in the Netherlands on which there was likely to be impacts.

Draft Documents

The Inspectorate's Environmental Services Team (EST) offered to review, subject to resources, the applicant's draft ES methodology and project description chapters, along with the draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report.

The Inspectorate suggested that a plan that showed the inter-relationship between EA1 and EA3 would be useful, and advised that EAOW should be aware of the Hornsea Project 2 wind farm as a useful example of this. This will help to clarify which works relate to which project and how they will interact. The applicant is considering whether there is a mechanism by which sections of the haul road to be constructed for EA1 can be left in place so that it could also be used for the construction of EA3. The EA1 Development Consent Order (DCO) requires that it is removed after construction. EAOW is exploring options to address this matter and will update the Inspectorate in due course. The applicant confirmed that the draft ES assumes that the EA1 road will have been removed and that a new haul road would need to be constructed for EA3.

The application is anticipated to be submitted to the Inspectorate on 18 November 2015. The applicant intends to submit draft documents to the Inspectorate, including the draft DCO containing the Deemed Marine Licences, for review before this. The Inspectorate advised that it would be useful to see at the same time the draft explanatory memorandum and works plans to support the review of these documents. At this stage the applicant is working alongside statutory undertakers to discuss protective provisions.

The applicant advised that the Inspectorate would receive the draft HRA report around the end of July for feedback. They also advised that in August the Inspectorate would also receive other draft documents for review including land plans, the book of reference, the consultation report, and the funding statement. The Inspectorate advised that the book of reference, land plans and statement of reasons should be submitted together for review. The consultation report and funding statement could be reviewed in isolation if required.

The applicant intends to submit, as far as is possible, completed statements of common ground (SoCGs) alongside the application submission in November. The Inspectorate informed the applicant that it would be useful to see a draft structure of one of these documents alongside the other draft documents. The applicant informed the Inspectorate that SoCGs on ecological and ornithological issues were currently under discussion between the applicant and Natural England via the Evidence Plan process.