



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES

2010

East Anglia ONE North Offshore Wind Farm

Appendix G6 to the Natural England Deadline 9 Submission

Natural England's Comments on EA1N/EA2 DCO Application Version 6

For:

The construction and operation of East Anglia ONE North Offshore Windfarm, a 800MW windfarm which could consist of up to 67 turbines, generators and associated infrastructure, located 36km from Lowestoft and 42km from Southwold.

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010077

15th April 2021



Natural England's Comments on EA1N and EA2 DCO Application Version 6

This document is applicable to both the East Anglia ONE North (EA1N) and East Anglia TWO (EA2) applications, and therefore is endorsed with the yellow and blue icon used to identify materially identical documentation in accordance with the Examining Authority's (ExA) procedural decisions on document management of 23rd December 2019. Whilst for completeness of the record this document has been submitted to both Examinations, if it is read for one project submission there is no need to read it again for the other project.

Introduction

In formatting this response, the following documents have been considered on both projects:

- Update Draft DCO [REP8-004]
- Schedule of Changes [REP8-005]

Summary

Natural England welcomes the headway that has been made in addressing a large majority of our outstanding concerns. And we hope that the remaining ones can be resolved by the 'new' close of examination.

Detailed comments

EA2 / EA1N or both?	Point	Document section	Natural England's Comment	Risk
DCO schedule of Changes				
Both	Page 25	Schedule 1, Part 3, Requirement 13	Natural England welcomes the changes to include consultation with MMO and the relevant SNCB for the landfall construction method statement and monitoring plan.	
Both	Page 67	Schedule 13, Part 2, Condition 16	Natural England notes the updated wording and that we will be provided a copy of the close out report for UXO. This change is welcomed and we have no further comment to make on this condition.	
Both	Page 69	Schedule 13, Part 2, Condition 17 (1)(e)(vi)	Natural England notes the changes to this condition and support the change to make it clear that the best practice protocol must be adhered to during the overwintering period for RTD.	
Both	Page 71	Schedule 13, Part 2 Condition 21	Natural England notes changes to revert the condition to an earlier version. We have no concerns with the new wording.	



		(3)		
Both	Page 78, 79	Schedule 13, Part 2, Condition 26 and 27	Natural England notes the SIP condition has been split into two conditions one for piling and one for UXO detonation. This resolves the issue we raised at Deadline 8 regarding the potential need for separate UXO and piling SIP documents.	
Both	Page 82	Schedule 13, Part 2, Condition 31	Natural England notes and supports the inclusion of a close out condition within the DML. This resolves our concerns regarding the need for a close out condition.	
Both	Page 83-	Schedule 14	Comments above on conditions repeated in Schedule 14 should be considered submitted in respect of both schedules and for brevity will not be repeated here.	
Draft DCO Version 5				
Both		Schedule 18, General Point	It is noted that parts 2-6 have been amended to allow consideration of work to reduce by-catch to be considered as a compensatory measure. However, please see our Deadline 9 Appendix A15c on the matter. However, the comments raised by Natural England within Deadline 8 Appendix G5 have not been resolved by the changes.	
Both		Schedule 18, Part 5 Condition 3	It is noted this condition now shows in full and Natural England's comments raised at Deadline 8 Appendix G5 regarding the adequacy of these conditions remain relevant.	



Risk Ratings – Please read the definitions below. The idea is to eventually filter out the yellow and green issues and just present the Red, Amber and Purple issues. However, please still highlight and raise the yellow and green issues as we may need to increase the risk level on them if further evidence does / doesn't come about.

<p>Red</p> <p>Natural England considers that unless these issues are resolved it will have to advise that (in relation to any one of them, and as appropriate) it is not possible to ascertain that the project will not affect the integrity of an SAC/SPA and/or comply fully with the Environmental Impact Assessment requirements and/or avoid significant adverse effect on landscape/seascape, unless the following are satisfactorily provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• new baseline data;• significant design changes; and/or• significant mitigation; <p>Natural England feels that issues given Red status are so complex, or require the provision of so much outstanding information, that they are unlikely to be resolved during examination, and respectfully suggests that they be addressed beforehand.</p>	
<p>Amber</p> <p>Natural England considers that if these issues are not addressed or resolved by the end of examination then they would become a Red risk as set out above. Likely to relate to fundamental issues with assessment or methodology which could be rectified; preferably before examination.</p>	
<p>Yellow</p> <p>These are issues/comments where Natural England doesn't agree with the Applicant's position or approach. We would flag these at the PEI stage with the view that they would be addressed in the Application. But otherwise we are satisfied for <u>this particular project</u> that it will not make a material difference to our advice or the outcome of the decision-making process. However, it should be noted that this may not be the case for other projects. Therefore it should be noted by interested parties that just because these issues/comments are not raised as part of our Relevant Representations in this instance it should not be understood or inferred that in other cases or circumstances Natural England will take this approach. Furthermore, these may become issues should further evidence be presented.</p>	
<p>Green</p> <p>Natural England supports the Applicant's approach.</p>	