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Mr Rory Stracey
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Your Ref: RQS.35237.1
Our Ref: EN010077
Date: 13 January 2020

Dear Mr Stracey

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 51

Application by East Anglia ONE North Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the East Anglia ONE North Offshore Wind Farm

In response to your letter dated 5 December 2019 which requested that the Secretary of State for Communities, Housing and Local Government takes no steps to set up Preliminary Meetings for the East Anglia ONE North or East Anglia TWO offshore Wind Farm Applications, pending a possible review of proposals for an Offshore Ring Main (ORM), I write to inform you of the current position and process for arranging Preliminary Meetings.

It is for the Planning Inspectorate to arrange Preliminary Meetings during the Pre-examination stage of the Planning Act 2008 process. The Department for Communities, Housing and Local Government has published statutory guidance: 'Planning Act 2008: examination of applications for development consent' on the process to be adopted (see link below).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-act-2008-examination-of-applications-for-development-consent>

This guidance states that whilst there is no specified timeframe in legislation within which a Preliminary Meeting has to be held, it is the Secretary of State's expectation that a Preliminary Meeting should take place within a period from six weeks to two months from the receipt of the relevant representations in most cases. That expectation would only change if, for example, the Secretary of State had undertaken to hold a review of policy relevant to the consideration of an ORM proposal within a timescale that made it applicable to the Examination of an Application.

Examinations of Applications for energy generation Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects take place within a policy framework set out in the designated EN (energy) suite of National Policy Statements made under Part 2 of the Planning Act 2008. These National Policy Statements are not currently under review. It is for the Secretary of State to decide whether and when to review National Policy Statements

in compliance with Part 2 of the Planning Act 2008 (Sections 5 – 13), but no such decision has been taken. The Planning Inspectorate is therefore required to prepare to examine the East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO applications in compliance with the NPS policy and in the timescales set out in the guidance in force at this time.

Yours sincerely

Simone Wilding

Simone Wilding
Head of Major Casework Management

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