



Meeting note

File reference	EN010077 and EN010078
Status	Final
Author	Marie Evans
Date	6 July 2016
Meeting with	Scottish Power Renewables (SPR)
Venue	Temple Quay House, Bristol
Attendees	Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Ltd (the Applicant) Helen Walker (Senior Project Manager) Mandy King (Planning and Environmental Advisor) Julia Bolton (Assistant Project Manager) The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Marie Evans (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor)
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

The meeting was held under the Inspectorate's openness policy along with the requirement under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) for the Inspectorate to publish any advice it provides on making an application. Advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the applicant (or others) can rely.

Actions from last meeting 19 May

All actions from the previous meeting were noted as complete.

Grid connections update

The Applicant provided an overview of the historic and current situation in respect of the proposed grid connection agreements for the East Anglia ONE North (EA1N) and East Anglia TWO (EA2) projects.

The Applicant was previously in a joint venture with Vattenfall and had agreements with National Grid for three projects to connect from the landfall at Bawsdey to Bramford, Suffolk. These were East Anglia ONE (EA1), East Anglia THREE (EA3) and East Anglia FOUR (EA4 - subsequently withdrawn). The grid agreements have now been modified by the Applicant to accommodate EA2 and EA1N. [Following the end of the joint venture, Vattenfall is responsible for its own connection agreements.]

Onshore cable routing and ducting

Requirement 29 of the EA1 DCO requires the installation of cabling for EA1 and cable ducting for future projects (EA3 and EA4) to be undertaken at the same time. The aim of this requirement is to minimise local disruption by pre-installing cable ducts for all expected projects at the same time.

The reduction in the size of EA1 has led to a change in the transmission technology from Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC). The alternative (AC) technology will require a greater width of cable corridor than was previously anticipated. This means that, at certain locations, it will not be practicable to install ducting for all future projects. For this reason, a decision has been made to install cabling for EA1 and ducting for EA3 only. The Applicant wrote to the Department of Business, Energy, Industry and Strategy (BEIS, formerly known as the Department of Energy and Climate Change, DECC) on 27th June 2016, setting out this position.

Therefore, the Applicant will be looking in some locations for a new routing strategy for the EA1N and EA2 projects and will be seeking separate consents for the installation of the ducting and cabling. Public consultation will also be undertaken on the route options.

The Applicant confirmed that as per the consented EA1 project and the EA3 project currently in examination, the EA1N and EA2 projects intend, where possible, to follow the same offshore and onshore grid connection route and connect to the National Grid at Bramford as per their connection agreements.

The EA1N and EA2 projects are likely to be smaller in scale and capacity than EA3 and therefore, SPR are also looking at an AC solution for these projects. EA3 remains a DC project.

Evidence plan and stakeholder engagement

The Applicant is finalising the initial Evidence Plan for EA1N and EA2. The next Steering Group meeting is likely to be in September 2016. A Benthic Expert Topic Group will also be held in September.

It was confirmed that offshore bird surveys are planned to commence in September 2016, together with a review of existing bird data.

The Applicant queried whether the EIA Scoping and its associated consultation could be used as a broader public consultation on matters including the route selection. The Inspectorate advised that the Scoping Opinion would only address EIA matters, in accordance with the EIA Regulations, and that the consultation undertaken as part of this process is the Secretary of State's consultation with prescribed consultation bodies, as set out in legislation and explained in PINS Advice Notes 3 and 7. The Scoping Opinion would not include responses from other persons/groups that had not been directly consulted by the Secretary of State. Additional responses, if received, would be forwarded directly to the Applicant. The Applicant will consider their approach further.

Programme update

The routing strategy is currently being looked at by the Applicant. Initial discussions with Local Authorities have taken place and wider consultation will be undertaken. Engagement with the Local Authorities regarding the Statement of Community

Consultation (SOCC) is likely to take place late autumn 2016, with the SOCC issued late 2016. Scoping for both projects is anticipated in early 2017.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- PINS to inform SPR of availability for a meeting in September 2016