National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
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Our ref: AE/2018/123154
Your ref: EN010079
Date: 16 January 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

APPLICATION BY NORFOLK VANGUARD LIMITED FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE NORFOLK VANGUARD OFFSHORE WIND FARM: WRITTEN REPRESENTATION

Summary

This letter outlines the issue that remains outstanding following our submission of Relevant Representations submitted 7 September 2018.

We are pleased that substantial progress has been made on most of the issues that we raised, so that they are now recorded as 'agreed' or 'under discussion' in the Statement of Common Ground. However, the issue of storing spoil in the floodplain is not agreed and remains a concern for the Environment Agency.

1.0 Storage of Spoil in the Floodplain

1.01 The storage of spoil in the floodplain is referenced in our Relevant Representations at section 2 (2.10) Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) and section 4 (4.3) Chapter 20. Volume 1. Environmental Statement: Water Resources and Flood Risk.

1.02 The applicant has proposed that spoil can be stored in the floodplain in separate piles to enable floodwater to pass through the floodplain. This is referenced in the Outline CoCP at Section 3.2 'Construction Site Layout and Housekeeping' at paragraph 45.

1.03 This issue is a matter of concern to the Environment Agency because of its potential effects in relation to flood risk and the ecology of waterbodies.

1.2 Flood Risk

1.2.1 It is not our practice to permit any activity in the floodplain of a river that could reduce the capacity to store floodwater in a flood event. This is because a reduction in

the capacity of the floodplain could cause flood water to extend further or increase flood depth. This could cause areas or properties that would not normally be subject to flooding to suffer flooding in a sufficiently significant flood event; or increase the depth of a flood.

1.3 Water Quality and Ecology

1.3.1 The storage of spoil in the floodplain is also unacceptable in respect of ecology and water quality, this is because in a flood event or periods of heavy rainfall sediment or soil could be mobilised.

1.3.2 Norfolk is characterised by a concentration of chalk stream rivers representing 30% of the global quantity. Chalk river beds are important to the ecology of rivers because they provide gravels for spawning fish, without these, important fish species will be unable to reproduce. Mobilisation of soils or sediment in a flood event could cause gravels to be covered over which would damage this important feature. In some events it could cause turbidity of the waterbody.

1.3.3 In addition, nutrients present in soils deposited in spoil piles could be released into the river in flood events with the potential to cause enrichment which could create ecological imbalance in the waterbody.

1.4 Overcoming the Environment Agency's concerns

1.4.1 To overcome our concerns, any proposal to store spoil in the floodplain would need to be assessed for each individual location.

1.4.2 We will require an assessment to be undertaken for each site where it is proposed to store spoil in a floodplain to determine the impact of spoil piles on flood storage and flood flow; without this we will not permit. In addition it will be necessary for the landscape and ecological management plan to include procedures to monitor and mitigate for effects during heavy rainfall events when runoff or mobilisation is likely to occur.

We trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

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