

05 April 2019

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Our ref: VJR2/JT8/47583.46 Your ref:

**Dear Sirs** 

Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm Development Consent Order (DCO) (the Project)

Case reference no: EN010079

The Applicant: Norfolk Vanguard Limited

#### **Deadline 6 Submissions**

We write further to the Planning Inspectorate's Rule 8 letter dated 19 December 2019 (the Rule 8 letter). In accordance with the deadlines at Annex A of the Rule 8 letter, we enclose the following in response to Deadline 6:

- 1. Response to further information requested by the Examining Authority (ExA);
- 2. Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases.

The Applicant refers the ExA to the Guide to the Application (Document Reference 1.4 (Version 7)) for a full list of documents submitted by the Applicant as part of Deadline 6.

# **Action Points**

The Applicant has responded to Action Points raised throughout the issue specific hearings and compulsory acquisition hearings; the documents and position statements submitted in response to the Action Points are identified in the Guide to the Application. The Applicant has included an update below in relation to actions that are currently ongoing and/or captured within associated examination documents.

# **Development Consent Order (DCO) Hearing:**

With regards to Action Point 7 from the from Issue Specific Hearing 5: Draft Development Consent Order (28 March 2019), the Applicant has engaged in initial discussions with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) regarding the use of cable protection during operation and maintenance. The Applicant intends to clarify the outcome of the ongoing discussions with the MMO and Natural England within the Outline Haisborough Hammond and Winterton Special Area of Conservation Site Integrity Plan, which the Applicant expects to submit at Deadline 7.

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In relation to Action Points 4, 11, and 12 from Issue Specific Hearing 5: Draft Development Consent Order (28 March 2019), the Applicant can confirm that the Requirements on skills and employment and operational drainage have been agreed with NCC. The Applicant and NNDC have also agreed revisions to Requirement 17 (Landfall Method Statement) which includes proposals for monitoring of the ducts at the landfall. The Applicant will include these Requirements within the next version of the draft DCO, which will be submitted to the ExA no later than one week before the DCO hearing (scheduled for 25 April 2019).

The Applicant can also confirm that the next version of the draft DCO will contain mitigation measures for minimising disturbance of red-throated diver due to vessels transiting the Greater Wash SPA and/or Outer Thames SPA during the operations and maintenance phase of the project.

#### **Compulsory Acquisition Hearing:**

Action Point 4 from the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (28 March 2019) has been addressed within the Written Summary of the Applicant's oral case at the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (Document Reference ExA; CAH; 10.D6.11).

# Offshore Ornithology:

The offshore ornithology submissions at Deadline 6 comprise the following:

- 1. Collision risk modelling calculated using the Band (2012) deterministic Excel spreadsheet for both Norfolk Vanguard East and Norfolk Vanguard West for the 10 MW turbine which replaces the previous worst case 9 MW turbine (Document Reference: ExA; AS; 10.D6.15).
- 2. A revised version of the migrant non-seabird collision risk modelling report submitted at Deadline 3 (Rep3-038) addressing Natural England's comments. This revised version reaches the same conclusions as the previous version of no significant impacts and no adverse effects on integrity (Document Reference: ExA; AS; 10.D6.18).
- 3. A report on the outputs from a population viability analysis (PVA) model for the Alde-Ore Estuary SPA population of lesser black-backed gull. These outputs have been used to inform conclusions on the assessment of potential effects of collisions on this population (Document Reference: ExA; AS; 10.D6.16).
- 4. An updated impact assessment for the project alone and cumulatively (EIA) and for the project alone and in-combination (HRA) due to potential population impacts of collision risk (gannet, kittiwake, lesser black-backed gull, herring gull), displacement (gannet, puffin, razorbill, guillemot and red-throated diver) and displacement and collision risk combined (gannet) (Document Reference: ExA; AS; 10.D6.17).

The Applicant is progressing the following documents and the Applicant hopes to be in a position to submit these no later than one week prior to Issue Specific Hearing 6 (scheduled for 24 April 2019):

- Updated screening and integrity matrices in pdf and MS Word format, taking into account any relevant revisions in documents submitted at Deadline 6.
- 2. Screening matrices for the following French SPAs: Cap Gris Nez and Banc des Flandres.

We would be grateful if you could kindly confirm safe receipt.

Yours faithfully

# Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP

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