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Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010080

Date: 24 January 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 9

Application by Orsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm

Proposed design changes to the original application

We are writing to inform you of the procedural decision made by the Examining Authority (ExA) regarding the Applicant's proposed changes to the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application.

The Applicant submitted a request to the ExA to accept proposed design changes with the Deadline 4 (D4) submissions (Examination Library reference [REP4-008]). The Applicant considers that the proposed changes are minor, do not alter the assessments made within the Environmental Statement (ES) and, as such, should be considered to be non-material.

The proposed changes are described as:

- Minor realignment around land owned by the John Innes Centre to maintain the integrity of scientific studies being undertaken in the field
- Minor widening of the road access point at the proposed onshore HVAC booster station (at the intersection with the B1149) for highway safety reasons to provide sufficient visibility and abnormal load swept path to accommodate the transportation of transformers to the site
- Additional minor widening of land on the internal (private) access road to accommodate the transportation of transformers to the site

The ExA has reviewed the information provided and assessed the Applicant's request in line with paragraphs 109 to 115 of DCLG Guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Examination of Applications for Development Consent' and the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 16.

The ExA notes that the changes at the John Innes Centre would avoid disruption to land being used for scientific studies. The changes would have some different effects, for example in relation to the location of the crossing point at Bawburgh Road, effects on trees and vegetation and potential effects on undesignated archaeological assets. The realigned cable corridor would be around 40m closer to properties on Bawburgh Road.

The ExA notes that the changes at the access to the proposed onshore HVAC booster station are intended to improve highway safety and accommodate abnormal loads. The changes would have some different effects, for example in relation to trees and vegetation and potential effects on undesignated archaeological assets.

In all cases the ExA concludes that overall there would be no change in the significance of environmental effects, as reported in the ES. The ExA therefore agrees that the changes are non-material and can be accepted for consideration in the Examination as part of the application.

The ExA notes that the applicant will be publicising the changes in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010. In addition to that statutory consultation the ExA directs that the Applicant should arrange for site notices to be posted in similar form to the press notices required by those regulations. The site notices should be posted at Bawburgh Road and at the B1149 in the vicinity of the proposed changes. The period for submitting relevant representations should align with the press notices. It would be helpful to any additional affected persons or additional interested parties if the site notice could also draw attention to the current Examination timetable.

Yours sincerely

David Prentis

Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors