

Hornsea Project Three
Offshore Wind Farm



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Response to the Secretary of State's Consultation
Appendix 1 Annex B – Law and Policy Update

Date: February 2020

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Orsted

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5 Howick Place,

London, SW1P 1WG

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Front cover picture: Kite surfer near a UK offshore wind farm © Orsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Ltd., 2020.

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1. Law and Policy Updates

- 1.1 This Annex provides a summary of the key law and policy updates relevant to Hornsea Three since the submission of the Planning Statement (APP-177).

The IPCC SR1.5 Report

- 1.2 In October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ("IPCC") published a 'Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels' ¹("SR1.5") in response to an invitation contained in the Decision of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to adopt the Paris Agreement.

- 1.3 SR1.5 concludes that human-induced warming reached approximately 1°C above preindustrial levels in 2017. At the present rate, global temperatures would reach 1.5°C around 2040. SR1.5 makes clear that:

"delayed action, limited international cooperation, and weak or fragmented - policies that lead to stagnating or increasing greenhouse gas emissions would put the possibility of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels out of reach....warming will not be limited to 1.5°C or 2°C unless transformations in a number of areas achieve the required greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Emissions would need to decline rapidly across all of society's main sectors, including buildings, industry, transport, energy, and agriculture, forestry and other land use."

- 1.4 Actions that reduce emissions are referenced and include increasing the amount of energy produced from renewable sources and electrifying transport. SR1.5 also underlines the need for action now – limiting global warming to 1.5°C is said to require "rapid and far reaching" transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities and require "unprecedented changes".

The CCC Net Zero Report

- 1.5 Following the publication of IPCC SR1.5, the Government and devolved administrations wrote to independent experts, the UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC), and asked them to update their advice to Government on setting targets for carbon emissions in light of the IPCC SR1.5 report and to consider whether the UK needs to reduce carbon emissions at a faster rate or to a greater extent than originally planned.

¹ IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty

- 1.6 In their report “*Net Zero: The UK’s contribution to stopping global warming*”² (published May 2019), the CCC recommended a new net zero greenhouse gas emissions target for the UK by 2050, which they note would enable the UK to respond to the latest climate science and fully meet its obligations under the Paris Agreement³. The CCC warned that achieving net zero will only be possible if clear, stable and well-designed policies to reduce emissions further are introduced. Noting that although many of the policy foundations are in place a “major ramp-up” in policy effect with “far greater urgency” is now required, with most sectors needing to reduce emissions close to zero.
- 1.7 The report considers the progress that has been made over the last decade, including significant developments in scientific knowledge and international law, as well as falling costs for key technologies indicating major changes to what is possible and at what cost. The CCC’s net zero scenarios require “*consistently strong deployment of low-carbon generation [...] in order to quadruple low- carbon supply by 2050*”, including at least 75GW of offshore wind.

The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019: “Net Zero”

- 1.8 In July 2019, in response to the CCC’s recommendation, the UK government amended the 2050 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target in the Climate Change Act 2008, from at least 80% to at least 100%. The UK is the first major economy to legally commit to this target, otherwise known as ‘net zero’, which will require the UK to end its contribution to climate change.
- 1.9 It is noted that policies contained within the NPSs reflect the UK’s legally binding decarbonisation targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008, and not the 2050 Target Amendment “Net Zero”, which increases the urgency and importance of securing new low carbon generation. It also post-dates the Examining Authority’s Recommendation in respect of the Hornsea Three application and is a matter which is both important and relevant to the consent determination for Hornsea Three.

² <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/>

³ https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf