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Town and Country Planning

Vattenfall Wind Power Limited

PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED)

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT (EIA) REGULATIONS 2017

NOTIFICATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT DEVELOPMENT LIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN ANOTHER EEA STATE

PROPOSED APPLICATION BY VATTENFALL WIND POWER LIMITED (THE APPLICANT) FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE NORFOLK BOREAS OFFSHORE WIND FARM (THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT)

Vattenfall Wind Power Limited has formally notified the Secretary of State of its intention to submit an Environmental Statement.

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (2017 Regulations) came into force in England and Wales on 16 May 2017. Regulation 37 of the 2017 Regulations provides transitional arrangements for the continued applicability of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) 2009 Regulations (as amended) (2009 Regulations). The transitional provisions apply to any application for an order granting development consent or subsequent consent where an Applicant has requested the Secretary of State or the relevant authority to adopt a Scoping Opinion (as defined in the 2009 Regulations) before the commencement of the 2017 Regulations in respect of the development to which the application relates.

On 8 May 2017, the Applicant requested the Secretary of State to adopt a Scoping Opinion in respect of the Proposed Development. Since the Applicant's request for a Scoping Opinion was made before the 16 May 2017, the 2009 Regulations continue to apply. Subsequent references to 'the EIA Regulations' in this document are therefore made in relation to the 2009 Regulations unless otherwise stated.

The Proposed Development comprises an offshore generating station of up to 257 wind turbines (each with a generating capacity of up to 20MW) with a generating capacity of up to 1,800MW. The offshore wind farm array would be located 72km off the coast of Norfolk, England (at the closest point). Other key offshore components would include: up to six offshore substation platforms; an offshore accommodation vessel of fixed platform; inter-array cables; and scour protection. Electricity would be exported from the offshore wind turbines via up to six offshore export cables which would make landfall between Bacton and Eccles within the county of Norfolk.

The onshore connection would be between the landfall and the existing Necton 400kV National Grid Substation, approximately 50km west-southwest. It would comprise up to 18 no. underground cables if HVAC technology is chosen and up to four cables if HVDC technology is chosen. It would also include: link boxes; jointing pits; a cable relay station (if HVAC technology is chosen); a new onshore substation in proximity to Necton 400kV National Grid Substation; up to 12 no. 400kV underground interface cables between the new onshore substation and the existing Necton 400kV National Grid Substation; and temporary construction areas and access roads.

The Proposed Development will be designed to share onshore infrastructure with the Norfolk Vanguard project (for which a separate application will be made). It is proposed that the Norfolk Vanguard project would be consented first and would construct transmission infrastructure (cable ducts; access routes to jointing pit locations; extension of the Necton 400kV National Grid substation and overhead line modifications; and landscaping and planting around infrastructure) which would be used by Norfolk Boreas. However, the application for Norfolk Boreas will also include these design elements in order to safeguard the Proposed Development in the event that Norfolk Vanguard is not consented/constructed.

Information about the Proposed Development and about its likely significant effects is available in the scoping report and the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion, which is available electronically on the Planning Inspectorate's website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/?ipcsection=docs>

and in hard copy at the following location:

The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN

Based on the current information provided by the Applicant to the Secretary of State, and applying a precautionary approach, the Secretary of State is of the view that the Proposed Development is likely to have significant effects on the environment of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and the Netherlands. In accordance with Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations, the Secretary of State has provided information to the above mentioned EEA States about the Proposed Development and its likely significant effects, and these States have been asked to indicate by **4 September 2017** whether or not they wish to participate in the procedure for examining and determining the application under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008).

The Proposed Development is currently at the pre-application stage of the process. The Applicant has not yet submitted an application to the Secretary of State. If the application is accepted for examination, the application will be examined in public and, subject to the provisions of the PA2008, the examination must be completed within a period of six months. Further information about how to participate in the examination procedure under the PA2008 and the way in which the Secretary of State will notify and consult EEA States in accordance with Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations is available on the Planning Inspectorate's website: www.planningportal.gov.uk/infrastructure.

Following examination of the application and having taken the environmental information into consideration, the decision maker may refuse or grant development consent. If development consent is granted, this may be subject to requirements which, if necessary, will secure measures to avoid, reduce or offset the major adverse effects of the Proposed Development.

Signed by the Planning Inspectorate for and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Date: 26 July 2017

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