

Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm Orsted Hornsea Project Three BEIS Letter, 31st October 2019

Applicant: Norfolk Boreas Limited
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Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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To:
Mr Andrew Guyton
Orsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Limited

Your Ref: HOW03_CON_20191008
Our Ref: EN010080

Date: 31 October 2019

Cc:
Marine Management Organisation
Natural England
All other interested parties

Dear Mr Guyton,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by Orsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm and associated offshore and onshore infrastructure

1. Thank you for your letter of 8 October 2019. In reply, the Secretary of State considers that you have correctly summarised the information she is seeking under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and section 126(7) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
2. The Secretary of State notes from your letter that there are areas of disagreement amongst the Applicant, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation as to the extent and implications of impacts on the features of the SAC/SPA/MCZ, and as such, your letter seeks clarification from the Secretary of State about the level of detail and extent of environmental compensation.

Extent of compensation

3. The Secretary of State has requested the Applicant, in consultation with Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation, provides information on possible environmental compensation measures for the features of the three Natura 2000 sites identified in her letter of 27 September 2019 and set out in the table of your letter of 8 October 2019. These compensatory measures should, if possible, be agreed by Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation as at least sufficient, to offset the potential residual harm to the features of the Natura 2000 sites.

Level of derogation detail

4. In order that The Secretary of State can consider fully the application she requests the Applicant in consultation with Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation to provide as much information as possible to explain the compensatory measures proposed and the feasibility of those measures. Details of the steps required to implement the compensation and proposed timescales to establish the compensatory measures should also be provided. Where disagreement remains between the parties on the assessment and quantification of an impact, compensation proposals should be provided for a range of scenarios.
5. Responses are requested by midnight Tuesday 31 December 2019.
6. Responses on the information requested in paragraphs 2-6 of the Secretary of State's letter dated 27 September 2019 should be submitted by email to: HornseaProjectThree@planninginspectoate.gov.uk
7. Please also send any hard copy response to the Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm Team, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, c/o the Planning Inspectorate, 3D Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN. If you have difficulty in submitting a response by the consultation deadline, please inform the Project Team as soon as possible. An explanation of the reasons for this should also be provided.
8. Responses will be published on the Hornsea Project three Offshore Wind Farm project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/hornsea-project-three-offshore-wind-farm/> as soon as possible after 31 December 2019.
9. Comments will then be invited from interested parties within a further 28 days on the matters set out in the Secretary of State's letter of 27 September 2019 only. The Secretary of State will then consider the responses and information received in reaching a decision on the Application.

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision whether or not to grant development consent for the Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm and associated onshore and offshore infrastructure, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully

Gareth Leigh
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning