

Norfolk Boreas Offshore Windfarm ExQ2
Via Email: norfolkboreas@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Our Ref: 18_01028_Q

5 March 2020

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing on behalf of the Water Management Alliance consortium of Internal Drainage Boards in response to the Examining Authority's further written questions and requests for information (Ex2). Firstly I would like to apologise for the delay in response, however we have no record of being directly consulted, despite Q2.15.0.1 being addressed to ourselves.

Under normal circumstances the regulatory regime, and specifically the Byelaws (created as per Section 66 of the Land Drainage Act 1991), of each WMA Member Board safeguards the ability of each Internal Drainage Board (IDB) to secure the efficient working of the drainage system or effectiveness of flood risk management work within their Internal Drainage District. I note that the DCO has proposed to dis-apply the Board's Byelaw's, replacing these with the details in Schedule 17, part 7 of the DCO application. I would like to seek assurance from the applicant that the following provisions of the WMA Member Board's Byelaws (specifically Byelaws 3 and 28 of the Broads 2006 Internal Drainage Board and the Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board) have been considered and are safeguarded within Schedule 17:

- Byelaw 3. Byelaw 3 regulates the introduction of water and increased total volume of flow to the Board's Internal Drainage District. While Schedule 17, part 7 does include changes to 'the volumetric rate of flow of water' as part of 'specified works', we are concerned that this does not include the possible increase in total volume of water entering the Internal Drainage District.
- Byelaw 28. Byelaw 28 enables the Board to apply appropriate conditions when granting consent. As such, each WMA Member Board attempts to partially recover the additional costs incurred by the Board resulting from additional flows consented under Byelaw 3. This is done by requiring a Surface Water Development Contribution (SWDC), calculated in line with the Board's Charging Policy.

It is highly probable that the Board would incur financial costs should there be an additional total volume of water entering the district as a result of the authorised project. I am concerned that these costs may be beyond the 'protective works' highlighted in paragraph 72 of the draft DCO. I would therefore appreciate assurances that provisions of byelaws 3 and 28 are considered and included within the 'reasonable requirements' of paragraph 71 (3c). Furthermore please note that as the Board



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MEMBER INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

Broads (2006) IDB, East Suffolk IDB, King's Lynn IDB,

Norfolk Rivers IDB, South Holland IDB



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regulates and maintains watercourses (as opposed to owning them), article 15(3) of the draft DCO does not apply.

I hope the above proves useful and please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Kind Regards,

Cathryn

Cathryn Brady
Sustainable Development Manager
Water Management Alliance