

8 April 2020

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Our ref:  
VJR2/JT8/47583.36  
Your ref:  
EN010087

Dear Sirs

**Norfolk Boreas Limited**  
**Development Consent Order (DCO) application for Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm**  
**Application Ref: EN010087**

### **Deadline 8 Submissions**

We write further to the Planning Inspectorate's Rule 8 letter dated 19 November 2019 and the amended examination timetable dated 19 March 2020. In accordance with Annex A of the amended examination timetable, we enclose the following in response to Deadline 8:

1. Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's (**ExA**'s) third round of written questions;
2. Updated Statements of Common Ground (**SoCG**);
3. Other information (Additional Submissions) including Comments on Deadline 7 submissions.

The Applicant refers the Examining Authority (**ExA**) to the Guide to the Application (Document Reference 1.4 (Version 9)) for a full list of documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 8.

### **Statements of Common Ground**

The Applicant has progressed matters with the majority of stakeholders in relation to SoCGs, as outlined in the Statement of Commonality.

In relation to SoCGs with the Local Authorities:

1. The Applicant has been in discussions with Norfolk County Council and the Applicant is confident that a final SoCG can be submitted for Deadline 9;
2. The Applicant will liaise further with North Norfolk District Council and the Applicant is confident that a final SoCG can be submitted at Deadline 9;
3. An updated SoCG with Broadland District Council has been submitted at Deadline 8, and the parties are working towards a final SoCG for Deadline 9; and
4. The SoCG with Breckland Council, as submitted at Deadline 2 [REP2-039], is final and agreed by both parties.

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There are only a very small number of outstanding matters with the Local Authorities and the Applicant expects to resolve these matters through the final SoCGs, or by the parties reaching final positions by the close of Examination.

As the ExA are aware, in their response to the Rule 6 letter Natural England explained that they are not proposing to issue mid-examination SoCGs (i.e. at Deadlines 2 and 6); instead, Natural England proposes to work with the Applicant to submit a final SoCG, once all issues have been either resolved or progressed as far as possible (at Deadline 9).

The Applicant also notes the requests raised by Local Authorities and some interested parties to delay the Examination in view of Covid-19, as well as concerns raised by those parties that it may not be possible to meet the deadlines set in the revised timetable issued on 19 March 2020. Whilst the actions required in the outstanding deadlines fall primarily on the Applicant, the Applicant recognises the difficulties which face all those participating in the Examination as a result of Covid 19 and will assist parties wherever possible. Whilst the Applicant is able to meet the revised Examination deadlines, where the Examining Authority exercises its discretion to accept late submissions the Applicant is also willing to be flexible to respond to late submissions as soon as practicable. As the Examination was front loaded, many of the issues which were capable of resolution have now been resolved and where matters cannot be resolved, the parties' respective final positions are already known and clearly set out. Therefore the Applicant is also of the view that any remaining issues can be dealt with in writing within the time still available before the close of the Examination on 12 May 2020.

We would be grateful if you could kindly confirm safe receipt.

Yours faithfully

**Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP**