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

Dear Sian

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

Deadline 14 Submissions

We write further to the Planning Inspectorate's Rule 8 letter dated 19 November 2019, and the updated examination timetable dated 19 May 2020. In accordance with Annex A of the updated examination timetable, we enclose the following in response to Deadline 14:

1. Responses to fifth round of Written Questions; and
2. Any other information as requested by the Examining Authority (**ExA**).

The Applicant refers the ExA to the Guide to the Application (Document Reference ExA.GtA.D14.V15 (Version 15)) for a full list of documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 14.

Context for additional submissions

Please also note the following specific further context in relation to the additional submissions detailed in the Guide to the Application:

- At Deadline 11 the Applicant reported that it had completed a second agreement with BT to allow the Applicant to cut and remove the remaining two out of service cables located within the HHW SAC. At Deadline 14 the following documents have been updated to reflect the agreement reached and the associated reduction in the area impacted by cable protection:
 - EIA and DCO reconciliation Document (Document 6.7);
 - Outline Scour Protection and Cable Protection Plan (Document 8.16);
 - Outline Norfolk Boreas Haisborough Hammond and Winterton Special Area of Conservation Site Integrity Plan (Document 8.20); and
 - Outline Norfolk Boreas Haisborough Hammond and Winterton Special Area of Conservation Cable Specification, Installation and Monitoring Plan (Document 8.20).

The draft DCO was updated at Deadline 13 to reflect these changes.

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- In response to reference R17.1.31 of the ExA's Rule 17 letter issued on the 17 July 2020 the Applicant has undertaken a Greenhouse Gas Emissions (including Carbon) assessment for the Norfolk Boreas project. The report identifies that the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Norfolk Boreas project could create approximately 1.9million tonnes of greenhouse gasses over the lifespan of the project. Using future estimations of the GHG intensity of the UK energy mix in 2027 the carbon payback of emissions from the Norfolk Boreas project is likely to be within 1 to 2 years of the project becoming operational.
- In response to the ExA's Rule 17 Letter issued on 18 August 2020, the Applicant has provided further information regarding:
 - The ongoing dialogue with Mid-Norfolk Railway Preservation Trust (**MNRPT**), including confirmation that the proposed development will not affect MNRPT's undertaking, and the need to include compulsory acquisition of new rights in land within the dDCO in relation to MNRPT. The Applicant also understands that MNRPT have now withdrawn the representation referred to in the letter;
 - The Applicant's position concerning the assessment of noise impacts at Cawston and the Applicant's willingness to commit to a scheme of noise monitoring should there be construction works that overlap with a consented Hornsea Project 3; and
 - The Applicant's agreement with the MMO to amend the Statement of Common Ground to correct the error identified by the ExA at Deadline 16.
- An updated version of the Works Plans (Version 4) (Document 2.4) has been submitted at Deadline 14 to correct a referencing error in Version 3 submitted at Deadline 13. The error has been corrected on Sheet 19 and now includes the correct cross-reference to Requirement 16(13)(t) in respect of the trenchless crossing zone required in the circumstances specified in that Requirement.

Protective Provisions and National Grid

As the Applicant explained in the Issue Specific Hearing 5 Action Points Tracker submitted at Deadline 13 [REP13-017], the Applicant obtained the approval of National Grid to amend the protective provisions to incorporate the relevant minor changes from the as made Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm Order 2020 (**the NV Order**). National Grid, however, has asked the Applicant to draw to the Examining Authority's attention that the protective provisions included at Schedule 17, Part 2 of the dDCO have been agreed between the parties and these protective provisions contain necessary modifications from those contained in the NV Order, in particular with respect to paragraph 12, Schedule 17, Part 2 of the dDCO.

As we understand National Grid will explain in their response to the ExA's fifth round of written questions, the agreed wording at paragraph 12 was included at the request of National Grid and is designed to protect National Grid against a transfer of benefit to parties without sufficient covenant strength to meet the indemnity provisions in the Protective Provisions without having to seek amendments to the Article dealing with Transfer of Benefit and is accordingly important to National Grid. Therefore, should the ExA, or the Secretary of State, wish to make any amendments to these protective provisions then National Grid request that they are consulted before doing so.

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

Yours faithfully

Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP