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Norfolk Boreas Limited
All Interested Parties

Our ref EN010087
Your
ref

Date: 22 September 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

Application by Norfolk Boreas Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm and associated offshore and onshore infrastructure (“the Norfolk Boreas project”)

1. The Secretary of State has received responses from the Applicant and other Interested Parties to his consultation letter dated 9 July 2021 by the 20 August 2021 deadline. The Secretary of State considers the information provided by the Applicant in response to those letters to contain new environmental information and invites comments from the **Applicant** and **Interested Parties** on the representations received.
2. The Secretary of State also requests further information from the **Applicant** in relation to a number of specific issues.
3. **Necton substation**
The **Applicant** is asked to consider and respond to the points raised by Interested Parties in relation to the Necton substation.
4. **Dillington Hall Nature Recovery Project**
The **Applicant** and **Natural England** are asked to consider and respond to the recent email from Dillington Hall Estate (https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010087/EN010087-002865-Post%20Recommendation%20Submission%20-%20Dillington%20Hall%20Estate_Redacted.pdf) highlighting that the Norfolk Boreas cable route will pass through a Natural England Nature Recovery Project (“NRP”). Information is requested on any implications the NRP has in respect of the Application and confirmation or otherwise that the conclusions of the EIA remain valid.
5. **Alde-Ore Estuary Special Protection Area**
In relation to the in-principle compensation measures proposed for the lesser black-backed gull feature of Alde-Ore Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA), the **Applicant** is asked to provide the following:
 - An update on compensation site selection, along with details of when the site is expected to be secured.

- Confirmation of how the purchase/ lease of the proposed site will be secured in the DCO.
- Details of alternative compensation measures to be adopted, should the preferred compensation sites not be secured.
- Updated Collision Risk Models (CRM) and Population Viability Analysis (PVA) for lesser black-backed gulls, using Natural England's latest advised avoidance rates¹; and a comparison with the counterfactual SPA population size after 30 years. In-combination assessments should include all projects up to and including Hornsea Project 3.

6. **Flamborough and Filey Coast Special Protection Area**

In relation to the in-principle compensation measures proposed for the kittiwake feature of Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA, the **Applicant** is asked to provide the following:

- An update on compensation site selection, along with details of when the site(s) is expected to be secured.
- Confirmation of how the purchase/ lease of the proposed site(s) will be secured in the DCO.
- Details of alternative compensation measures to be adopted, should the preferred compensation sites not be secured.
- Updated CRM and PVA for kittiwake and gannet, using Natural England's latest advised avoidance rates¹; and a comparison with the counterfactual SPA population size after 30 years. In-combination assessments should include all projects up to and including Hornsea Project 3.

7. **Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton Special Area of Conservation**

(i) In respect of the in-principle compensation measures for the reef and sandbank features of Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the **Applicant** is asked:

- To confirm the number of marine debris retrieval campaigns to be completed during the lifetime of the project.
- To identify the existing oil and gas infrastructure proposed for removal, along with an update on engagement with the current owners of such infrastructure.

(ii) The **Applicant** is also asked to provide:

- Details of modifications to the Norfolk Boreas project, which would avoid the need for all cable rock protection within the SAC (except for cable crossing points). This should include the provision of more detailed information on micro-siting and/or the use of marker buoys to protect unburied cables, by identifying their location.
- Further information is also requested to demonstrate that all reefs can be avoided during cable installation.

8. **Responses are requested by 23.59 on 21 October 2021.** All parties are asked to note that the Secretary of State does not presently intend to conduct further consultations in relation to the Norfolk Boreas project and that his decision will be reached on the basis of the information received by the end of the current consultation.

9. Due to Covid-19, responses on the information requested above should be submitted by email only to: NorfolkBoreas@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

¹ Cook, A (2021) Additional Analysis to Support SNCB Recommendations Regarding Collision Risk Modelling. BTO Research Report 739.

10. Responses will be published on the Norfolk Boreas project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/> as soon as possible after the deadline.
11. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Norfolk Boreas project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully,

Gareth Leigh

Gareth Leigh
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning