



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES

2010

Boston Alternative Energy Facility

Appendix F5 to Natural England's Deadline 8 Submission

Natural England's Comments on Draft Development Consent Order [REP6-003]

For:

The construction and operation of Boston Alternative Energy Facility (AEF) that would generate approximately 102 MW of renewable energy and is located immediately south of Boston town, Lincolnshire.

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010095

15th March 2022

Natural England's Comments on Draft Development Consent Order [REP6-003]

Introduction

In the production of this response Natural England have reviewed the following documents:

- Draft Development Consent Order (Clean and tracked) [REP6-002, REP6-003]
- Schedule of Changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) [REP6-031]

Please note Natural England provided comments on Schedule 11 of the DCO at Deadline 7 [REP7-028].

Summary

Natural England have concerns over the maximum electricity that may be generated, and that this cap may be exceeded with the approval of the relevant planning authority. We would welcome further information on this issue and request this is amended to include consultations of the Relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB).

Table 1. Detailed Comments on the DCO schedule of changes

No.	Pg.	Section	NE Comments	RAG status
1.	10	Item 24 Requirement 25	Natural England notes this requirement limits the maximum electricity that may be generated, and that this cap may be exceeded with the approval of the relevant planning authority. We would request that this requirement is amended further, to include a requirement to consult the Relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB) to ensure that the impacts are not materially different to those assessed. However, we also question if such a change should be controlled through the DCO non-material change process rather than through the post consent approvals process.	
2.	11	Item 25 Requirement 26	As above in our comments on Requirement 25, Natural England requests this requirement be amended to include the need to consult the relevant SNCB should any request to exceed the tonnage cap be received.	
3.	38	Item 74 Schedule 11	Natural England refers to our response to the ExA written questions at Deadline 7 Appendix F4 [REP7-028] where we have provided detailed comments on this schedule.	

4.	NA	NA	As noted in appendix C4 section 2 vi, the vessel mitigation of speed limit has been removed from the Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan. But the MMMP continues to discuss reducing vessel speed as mitigation. In order to secure the mitigation of a speed limit, Natural England would advise that a condition in the DML should be added.	
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