

**THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATIONS PROCEDURE) RULES 2010**

**HORNSEA PROJECT FOUR OFFSHORE WIND FARM**

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**SUMMARY OF WRITTEN REPRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF NEO ENERGY (SNS)  
LIMITED**

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CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP  
Saltire Court  
20 Castle Terrace  
Edinburgh EH1 2EN  
T +44 131 228 8000  
F +44 131 228 8888  
cms.law

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**SUMMARY OF FULL WRITTEN REPRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF NEO ENERGY (SNS)  
LIMITED**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 NEO Energy (SNS) Limited (“**NEO**”) owns and operates oil and gas assets located in the UK Continental Shelf, including the Southern North Sea. NEO owns and operates the producing Babbage Field (the “**Babbage Field**”), which is located 4.3km from the site which is the subject of an application by Orsted (the “**Applicant**” or “**Orsted**”) for a development consent order (“**DCO**”) for the Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm (the “**Development**”).
- 1.2 A detailed description of the Babbage Field, including its operating structure, is set out in **Section 2** of the full written representation.
- 1.3 NEO does not object in principle to the Development; however, it does object to the Development being carried out in close proximity to the Babbage Field unless and until suitable protective provisions, and related agreements regulating the position, have been secured to their satisfaction.
- 1.4 As a licence-holder under the Petroleum Act 1988, NEO is required to comply with the terms of its licence in the delivery of its statutory responsibility. NEO, and its joint venture partner Dana Petroleum (E&P) Limited, in collaboration with Offshore Design Engineering Limited (“**ODE**”), as Duty Holder, Installation and Pipeline Operator, must ensure that its activities and assets continue to operate safely.
- 1.5 **Section 3** of the full written representation sets out the legislative and regulatory framework for the operation of the Babbage Field, including the compliance measures required by NEO (and its operating partners) to ensure that the Babbage Field continues to operate safely.
- 1.6 NEO maintains that, in the absence of suitable protective provisions and secured mitigation, the Development will adversely impact its ability to operate the Babbage Field in a safe and efficient manner and in compliance with the terms of its licence on the following grounds:
- 1.6.1 aviation (helicopter) impacts; and
- 1.6.2 shipping and navigation impacts.
- 1.7 Additionally, the Development may prejudice future exploration of oil and gas resources from, and future development at, the Babbage Field, which prevents NEO from meeting its central obligations under the Oil & Gas Authority Strategy.

**2. AVIATION**

- 2.1 NEO are in ongoing discussions with the Applicant to understand the impact of the Development on helicopter operations to the Babbage Field. However, it is clear that given the proximity of the Babbage Field to the Development, helicopter operations are almost certain to be affected.
- 2.2 NEO relies on helicopter access to the Babbage platform for both routine operational matters (e.g. essential maintenance work to ensure the safety of the asset and efficient operations and production) and emergency evacuations (including search and rescue helicopter access).
- 2.3 Ideally, and in compliance with the industry standard distances for safe access to offshore infrastructure, the windfarm would be located at least 7 nautical miles from the Babbage platform. NEO is engaging with the Applicant regarding possible solutions to accommodate the Development. However, NEO wish to ensure that the minimum distance to the nearest turbine is sufficient to:

- 2.3.1 ensure that the one engine inoperative manoeuvre can be safely executed using the industry standard procedures that Southern North Sea (“SNS”) helicopter operators train and maintain, and
- 2.3.2 that the number of flights to the asset is not substantially increased.
- 2.4 NEO has commissioned expert technical reports in response to the Applicant’s Helicopter Access Report, included as Appendices A and B to the full written representation.
- 2.5 The key findings of these reports are set out in **Section 4** of the full written representation, which addresses the impacts of the Development on aviation activities connected with the Babbage Field.

### **3. SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION**

- 3.1 ODE, as Duty Holder of the Babbage Field, conducted a technical review of the Application and Environmental Statement in so far as it relates to shipping and navigation impacts relevant to the Babbage Field, which is included as Appendix C to the full written representation.
- 3.2 The key findings of this review are set out in **Section 5** of the full written representation, which sets out the impacts of the Development on shipping and navigation together with proposed mitigation.
- 3.3 It is recognised by NEO that a commercial solution is possible in this case and, in a collaborative and compromising manner, discussion is ongoing with the Applicant to reach a commercial solution.

### **4. FUTURE PROJECTS**

- 4.1 NEO are committed to investing in the Babbage Field to improve operational efficiency, reduce emissions and enhance production. The Development presents strategic challenges which might interfere with this commitment, including the potential to impact on *inter alia* decommissioning activities and the future reuse of the Babbage Field.
- 4.2 **Section 6** of the full written representation sets out the potential impacts of the Development on future activities at the Babbage Field.

### **5. PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS**

- 5.1 NEO considers it necessary for the protection and continued safe operation of the Babbage Field that protective provisions be included within the DCO, and it has commenced discussion with Orsted as to the content and form of proposed protective provisions. It is NEO’s position that these protective provisions are necessary and reasonable to avoid an adverse impact on and serious detriment to NEO’s existing (and future) operations and to ensure that the Babbage Field can be operated safely and in compliance with all regulatory and licence obligations.
- 5.2 Separate discussions with Orsted are ongoing with a view towards reaching a commercial agreement that would further mitigate the impacts of the Development on the Babbage Field. As this engagement continues, it may be that NEO can reach an appropriate agreement with Orsted which would allow it to withdraw some (or all) of its objection to the Development.

**CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP**

**29 March 2022**