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(By email only)

Planning Inspectorate Reference:
EN010098
MMO Reference: DCO/2018/00014
Identification Number: 20029896

25 April 2022

Dear Jo Dowling,

Planning Act 2008 - Application by Ørsted Hornsea Project Four (UK) Limited (“Ltd”) for an Order Granting Development Consent for Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm

Submission in Lieu of attendance at Issue Specific Hearings 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (“ISH2-6”) on week commencing 25 April 2022.

Thank you for the invitation from the Examining Authority (“ExA”) for the Marine Management Organisation (“MMO”) to speak at the ISH2-6. In the interests of efficient team resource management, the MMO will not be attending these hearings. This is due to capacity issues faced by the MMO at present. However, we have reviewed the detailed agendas and would like to offer our comments in writing on the agenda items we consider to be of relevance to the MMO. Additionally, we are happy to address any further points in writing as part of any future Written Questions from the ExA, and we will continue to provide written representations at each future deadline until such time as the examination comes to a close.

This written representation is submitted without prejudice to any future representation the MMO may make about the Application throughout the examination process. This representation is also submitted without prejudice to any decision the MMO may make on any associated application for consent, permission, approval or any other type of authorisation submitted to the MMO either for the works in the marine area or for any other authorisation relevant to the proposed development.



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1. Issue specific Hearing 2: Onshore environmental matters

1.1 The MMO has no comment to make on the topics due to be discussed at ISH2 due to our organisational remits limitation to Mean High Water Springs.

2. Issue specific Hearing 3: Offshore environmental matters

2.1 The MMO has no comment to make on the topics due to be discussed at ISH3, however we may provide comments on the topics if needed following review of the transcripts and respond to any action points raised at Deadline 4.

3. Issue Specific Hearing 4: Marine Environment

3.1 Agenda Item 2: Activities in the coastal and intertidal zone

3.1.1 The MMO notes the response from the Applicant to our Section 56 response regarding the profile of the beach and the potential for changes to the beach profile over the lifetime of the project in relation to the cable corridors. We will review the transcript on this item and raise any comments we have at Deadline 4.

3.2 Agenda Item 3: Dredge sampling, characterisation, monitoring and disposal site

3.2.1 In our Deadline 3 submission [REP3-052] the MMO raised issues regarding the marine sediment contaminants revision:1 [REP1-066].

3.2.2 The major concerns on this topic, as raised at Deadline 3, are as follows:

3.2.3 In respect of contaminants within the sample analysis results, these cannot currently be accepted. The analysis laboratories are noted as "Gardline Limited" for the array samples and "Bibby HydroMap Limited/Benthic Solutions Limited" for the Export Cable Corridor. Neither of these are validated laboratories by the MMO for analysing marine sediments. Confirmation of the analysing laboratories is required to allow the interpretation of the results.

3.2.4 The MMO additionally request that the Applicant confirms the units of the polyaromatic hydrocarbon results, the inclusion of the laboratory certificate of analysis would also be preferential.

3.2.5 The MMO has requested this information from the Applicant, however, has been advised that due to time pressures it may be a number of weeks before this information is forthcoming. Therefore, the MMO will provide a fuller response at a later deadline.

3.2.6 The MMO notes that the disposal site coordinates for dredging has been changed following our comments in our S56 response [RR-020] that we cannot designate overlapping disposal sites. The MMO reviewing the new coordinates and will provide comments at Deadline 4.

3.3 Agenda Item 4: Further geophysical surveys



3.3.1 The MMO will review the transcript on this agenda item and raise comments if applicable in our Deadline 4 submission.

3.4 Agenda Item 5: Piling maximum design scenario

3.4.1 The MMO will review the transcript on this agenda item and raise comments if applicable in our Deadline 4 submission.

3.5 Agenda Item 6: Control of impacts on marine mammals

3.5.1 The MMO notes the ongoing discussions regarding the impacts on marine mammals and will provide comments at Deadline 4 if applicable.

3.5.2 The MMO also reiterates that all mitigation for impacts on marine mammals should be clearly stipulated within conditions within the Deemed Marine Licences (DML).

3.6 Agenda Item 7: Impacts on Herring Spawning

3.6.1 The MMO notes that the applicant has provided an updated Clarification note on Peak Herring Spawning and seasonal piling restriction [REP2-032]. The MMO is currently awaiting advice from our technical advisors at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) and will provide comments on this document at Deadline 4.

3.7 Agenda Item 8: Baseline surveys and modelling

3.7.1 The MMO has raised concerns within our Deadline 3 response [REP3-052] regarding coastal processes and the Flamborough Front.

3.7.2 The MMO will continue to monitor Natural England and the Applicant's responses regarding the sensitivity of the Flamborough Front and will continue to raise comments where appropriate.

3.7.3 The MMO raised concerns in our S56 response [RR-020] and our Deadline 2 response [REP2-077] regarding impacts on Smithic Bank. The MMO will await further documentation from the Applicant and will provide further comments at a subsequent Deadline.

3.8 Agenda Item 9: Identification of marine and coastal processes receptors

3.8.1 The MMO notes that the Applicant submitted "G3.9 Clarification Note: Marine Processes Supplementary Work Update - Revision: 01" [REP3-038] at Deadline 3. The MMO raised concerns with the timing of this submission within our response to Examiners Questions at Deadline 2 [REP2-077]. The MMO will review this document and aim to provide at Deadline 4.

4. Issue Specific Hearing 5: Marine and Coastal Ornithology

4.1.1 The MMO defers to Natural England as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB) on matters of ornithology. The MMO will continue to be part of the



discussions relating to securing any mitigation and monitoring or the development of any plans.

4.1.2 The MMO will continue to monitor the ongoing discussion between the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Applicant regarding compensation measures and may provide comments at a subsequent Deadline.

4.1.3 The MMO will review the transcript and action points for this hearing and raise comments if applicable in our Deadline 4 submission.

5. Issue Specific Hearing 6: Habitats Regulations Assessment

5.1.1 The MMO defers to Natural England as the SNCB on matters of ornithology. The MMO will continue to be part of the discussions relating to securing any mitigation and monitoring or development of any plans.

5.1.2 The MMO will review the transcript and action points for this hearing and raise comments if applicable in our Deadline 4 submission.

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Gregg Smith
Marine Licencing Case Officer

[Redacted Contact Information]

