



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Web:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-energy-security-and-net-zero>

To:

Our Ref: EN010098

Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Limited
Alpha Petroleum Resources Limited
Energean UK Limited
RSPB
Natural England

Date: 20 March 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

Application by Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm (“Hornsea Project Four”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 22 August 2022, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 22 November 2022. The statutory deadline for taking a decision on the application for development consent has been extended from 22 February 2023 to 12 July 2023.
2. On 16 December 2022, 9 February 2023, and 3 March 2023 the Secretary of State issued requests for information to the Applicant and other parties.
3. The Secretary of State would be grateful if **the Applicant** and other Interested Parties could provide further information, as set out below.

The Applicant

4. In relation to collision impacts on the gannet and kittiwake features of the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA, the **Applicant** is requested to provide revised mortality estimates by applying Natural England’s interim avoidance rates to the collision risk models for the Project alone; and to confirm the updated in

combination totals and any changes to the counterfactual growth rate (CFGR) and counterfactual population size (CFPS) figures for these species.

5. With regards to securing a site for a new offshore Artificial Nesting Structure (ANS), the **Applicant** is requested to provide an update on securing a Marine Licence from the Marine Management Organisation; and to provide evidence that it has now secured an Area for Lease from The Crown Estate.
6. With regards to adverse effects on the red-throated diver and common scoter features of the Greater Wash SPA: the **Applicant** is requested to confirm whether it will include all measures recommended in Natural England's '*Best Practice Protocol for Vessels in Red-throated Diver SPAs*' in the Vessel Management Plan.
7. The without-prejudice alternative draft DCO Schedule 16 [REP7-079] describes the proposed compensation measures both for kittiwake, and for guillemot and razorbill together. The **Applicant** is requested to provide both clean and tracked versions of a without-prejudice alternative draft DCO Schedule 16, which presents the proposed compensation measures for kittiwake, guillemot and razorbill separately.
8. With regards to the proposed monitoring of the effects of the gravity-based structures on the Flamborough Front¹, the **Applicant** is requested to confirm the trigger levels for adaptive management, and any adaptive management it anticipates in those circumstances.

Natural England and RSPB

9. With regards to the proposed predator eradication programme, the **RPSB** and **Natural England** are invited to comment on the further information provided by the Applicant in their response of 8 March 2023.

The Operator of the Wenlock Platform

10. **Alpha Petroleum Resources Limited** and **Energiean UK Limited** are invited to comment on the Applicant's Platform Repurposing: Transfer of Regulation² document and the Applicants comments on repurposing in its response to the Secretary of States letter dated 9 February 2023³. Alpha and Energiean are specifically invited to provide any update that might be available as to discussions with the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED) as to whether the Wenlock platform can be repurposed as an ANS. As Alpha and Energiean have not registered as interested parties, the Secretary of

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010098/EN010098-002056-Hornsea%20Project%20Four%20-%20Other-%20F2.7%20Outline%20Marine%20Monitoring%20Plan.pdf>

² <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010098/EN010098-002071-Hornsea%20Project%20Four%20-%20Other-%20G7.3%20Platform%20Repurposing%20Transfer%20of%20Regulation.pdf>

³ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010098/EN010098-002245-Orsted%20submission%20to%20SoS%20-%20Final.pdf>

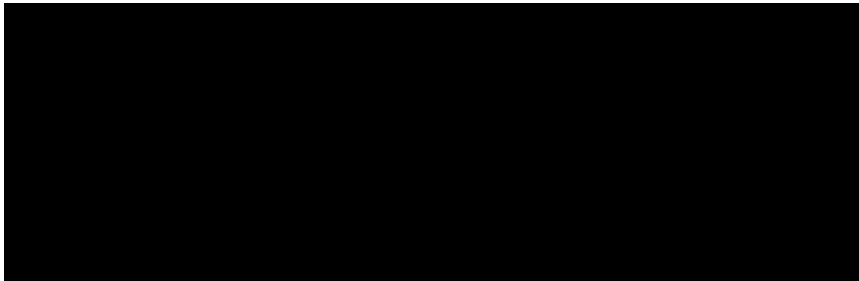
State would be grateful if **the Applicant** could also forward this request to the appropriate contacts for those parties to ensure that the request is received.

11. Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to hornseaprojectfour@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by 23.59 on 17 April 2023.

12. Responses will be published on the Hornsea Project Four project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 17 April 2023:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/hornsea-project-four-offshore-wind-farm/>

13. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Hornsea Project Four or any part of the 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 sincerely,



David Wagstaff OBE
Deputy Director, Energy Infrastructure Planning
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero