



HEARING AGENDA

Application by Equinor New Energy Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project

| Issue Specific Hearing 2 | Strategic Onshore Matters |
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| Date | Friday 20 January 2023 |
| Timings | Hearing Start Time: 10:00 am Arrangements Conference for virtual attendance online: 09:00 am Seating for in-person Hearing available at the venue from: 09:00 am |
| Location | Blackfriars Hall, The Halls, St Andrew's Plain, Norwich NR3 1AU Microsoft Teams for virtual attendance online |

REQUESTED ATTENDEES

1. Applicant
2. Anglian Water
3. Environment Agency
4. National Highways
5. Natural England
6. Norfolk County Council
7. North Norfolk District Council
8. South Norfolk and Broadland District Council

In addition, the Examining Authority welcomes involvement from all parties at Issue Specific Hearing 2. You were required to confirm attendance at Issue Specific Hearing 2 by Procedural Deadline A, Thursday 05 January 2023.

PURPOSE OF ISSUE SPECIFIC HEARING 2

The main purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing 2 is to clarify and get views on strategic onshore matters relating to:

1. Development Scenarios;
2. Construction Effects – Onshore;
3. Land Use;
4. Noise and Vibration;
5. Traffic and Transportation;



6. Water Quality and Resources;
7. Landscape Effects;
8. Seascape Effects;
9. Design;
10. Cumulative Effects Assessments; and
11. Draft Development Consent Order.

These matters are covered in some detail in the Examining Authority's First Written Questions. At the Hearing we are looking for clarity on the Applicant's strategic approach on the matters listed here, and parties' views on that approach. We expect the representations at the Hearing to set the scene for the more detailed responses to First Written Questions.

DOCUMENTS

The Examining Authority referred to several documents in the preparation of this agenda, and some of the documents that we will be referring to during the Hearing are listed here. These documents can be located using the Examination Library reference number in [] square brackets:

1. Environmental Statement Chapter 4 Project Description [APP-090]
2. Outline Code of Construction Practice [APP-302]
3. Environmental Statement Chapter 17 Ground Conditions and Contamination [APP-103]
4. Environmental Statement Chapter 18 Water Resources and Flood Risk [APP-104]
5. Flood Risk Assessment [AS-014]
6. Outline Operational Drainage Plan [APP-307]
7. Onshore Substation Drainage Study [APP-210]
8. Environmental Statement Chapter 19 Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation [APP-105]
9. Environmental Statement Chapter 23 Noise and Vibration [APP-109]
10. Road Traffic Noise Assessment [APP-265]
11. Construction Noise Assessment [APP-266]
12. Environmental Statement Chapter 24 Traffic and Transport [APP-110]
13. Transport Assessment [APP-268]
14. Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-301]
15. Design and Access Statement – onshore [APP-287]
16. Offshore Design Statement [APP-312]
17. Project Vision [APP-313]
18. Draft Development Consent Order Revision B [AS-009]
19. Explanatory Memorandum Revision B [AS-012]
20. Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap [APP-282]
21. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112]
22. Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-111]
23. Environmental Statement Appendix 20.15 - Arboricultural Survey Report [APP-228]



HEARING FORMAT

The Hearing will be a blended event, whereby the principal means of conducting the Hearing will be face-to-face within the venue cited above. Participants may join online if they wish using the Microsoft Teams platform and, if you have registered to join using this format, the joining link for the virtual Issue Specific Hearing will be sent to parties the day before, or on the day of, each session. Observers may attend in person or can watch remotely via the livestream of the event, the link for which will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure website on the day of the Hearing. The Examining Authority will not accept representations at the Hearing in the form of video or audio recordings.

The virtual event will be open 60 minutes prior to the start of the Hearing to enable a prompt start. Hearings will finish as soon as the Examining Authority deems that all those present have had their say and that all matters have been covered.

The agenda is for guidance only. It is not designed to be exclusive or exhaustive. The Examining Authority may add other issues for consideration, may alter the order in which issues are considered and will seek to allocate sufficient time to each issue to allow proper consideration of them. Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a hearing does not preclude further examination of this issue, including the asking of further written questions.

AGENDA

The Hearing will start promptly at the indicated time of 10:00 am. All other times in the Agenda are indicative. The Examining Authority will close the Hearing at 05:30 pm, or sooner if all relevant matters have been covered.

09:00 am Arrangements Conference for virtual attendance

1. Registration by the Case Team

09:00 am Seating available for in-person attendance

2. Registration by the Case Team

10:00 am Issue Specific Hearing 2 (session 1)

- 1. Welcome by Lead Member of the Examining Authority**
- 2. Procedure for running the Issue Specific Hearing**



3. Development Scenarios

- i. Clarification on when the preferred scenario would be decided; the process of consultation, notification and any related consents; if the chosen scenario could change; where this process is clarified and assessed and/or secured within the Environmental Statement, draft Development Consent Order and Deemed Marine Licenses
- ii. Whether the Draft Development Consent Order allows the construction of both Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project in isolation from each other but with some cross over period (so neither concurrently or sequentially) and if so, if this has been assessed in the Environmental Statement
- iii. In relation to the sequential scenario, the level of excavated material set out in the Environmental Statement [APP-103, Table 17-2] suggests that haul roads and compounds would be completely restored by the first project and then provided again for the second project. The Examining Authority would like to explore the practicalities and the effects of the proposed approach

4. Construction Effects – Onshore

- i. Applicant's approach and proposed timescale for the completion of drafts of management plans in the Outline Code of Construction Practice, and discussion if these should be provided during the examination
- ii. Whether the Outline Code of Construction Practice includes all necessary mitigation and sufficient detail
- iii. Details of the ground investigation campaign at the landfall and whether there is any uncertainty about the use of Horizontal Directional Drilling, including the location of a former sewage works at landfall
- iv. Justification for the cable corridor width for trenched and trenchless crossings

11:30 am **Break**

11:45 am **Issue Specific Hearing 2** (session 2)

5. Land Use

- i. The impact on Agri-environment Schemes [APP-105] and what work has been done to date to reach landowner agreements
- ii. Whether an agricultural land survey to determine whether land associated with the onshore substations is Grade 3a or 3b is required



6. Noise and Vibration

- i. Whether the baseline survey methodology is adequate and the justification for not undertaking baseline noise surveys at sensitive receptors along the onshore cable route, including receptors around the main construction compound
- ii. An explanation of the assumption of a Category A threshold value along the onshore cable route
- iii. Justification for the location of identified sensitive receptors at landfall and whether all residential receptors have been identified along the cable corridor, including Avenue Farm, Bodham
- iv. Why the cumulative noise assessment from construction traffic only considers the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project concurrent scenario
- v. Whether sequential construction activities being undertaken could cumulatively result in noise levels over the Threshold Value for 10 days in any given 15 days [APP-109, Paragraphs 150-155]
- vi. Whether identified moderate and major adverse impacts during construction activities, including during the night-time period from trenchless crossing works can be sufficiently mitigated

7. Traffic and Transportation

- i. Applicant's methodology of looking at sensitive links on the local road network and the adequacy of the assessment of potential adverse effects at junctions on the local road network
- ii. The current position with highway improvement schemes close to the Proposed Development (A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Development Consent Order and A47-A11 Thickthorn Junction Development Consent Order) and whether severe traffic and transport impacts on the A47 can be avoided in their absence
- iii. How the proposed mitigation to limit vehicles movements to agreed 'caps' on some links will work in practice across other projects and what discussions/agreements have been reached with other developers, in this regard

01:15 pm **Lunch Break**

02:15 pm **Issue Specific Hearing 2** (session 3)

8. Water Quality and Resources

- i. The relevance of recent revisions to the Flood risk and coastal change section of the Government's Planning Practice Guidance to the Proposed Development
- ii. The application of the sequential test and whether this has been applied robustly before the exceptions test



- iii. Whether there is sufficient information for the Examining Authority to be confident that surface water can be suitably managed at the proposed substation site, including the potential for upgrades to be required to the Anglian Water foul water sewer infrastructure
- iv. Whether the Environmental Statement is justified in selecting the concurrent scenario as the worst-case for potential impacts 'Increased sediment supply' and 'Supply of contaminants to surface and groundwaters'
- v. Whether it is appropriate to undertake site-specific hydrogeological risk assessments and produce crossing methodologies post-consent or if these must be in Examination

9. Landscape

- i. Parties' view on the Applicant's Landscape Visual Impact Assessment, assessment of landscape effects during construction and operation of the Proposed Development, and the proposed mitigation measures for these effects; identifying areas where they may not be in agreement with the Applicant's approach
- ii. The Applicant's proposed strategy for the removal and subsequent replacement of existing trees and hedgerows
- iii. The potential effects of the Proposed Development on ancient woodland

10. Seascape

- i. The existing baseline and its effect on the statutory purpose of the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- ii. The extent of additional harm to the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which would result from the Proposed Development
- iii. The need, or otherwise, for a Cumulative Impact Assessment to be undertaken in relation to the impact of the Proposed Development on the statutory purpose of the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- iv. The factors which may prevent agreement between parties on the significance of effects and the likelihood of agreement being reached during the course of the Examination

03:45 pm **Break**

04:00 pm **Issue Specific Hearing 2** (session 4)

11. Design

- i. Suitability and adequacy of the Applicant's approach to design to cover: landfall design, cable corridor design, substation design and the offshore wind farm infrastructure



- ii. If the proposed principles for good design and the design outcomes for: landfall design, cable corridor design, substation design and the offshore windfarm infrastructure, are adequately defined and committed
- iii. Proposed Design Principles for substation design to cover all development scenarios
- iv. If the proposed approach [APP-287] [APP-312] [APP-313] would meet the policy requirements in National Policy Statement EN-1 Section 4.5 relating to sensitivity to place and contributing to the quality of the area in which it would be located
- v. How are the design and vision documents currently secured
- vi. Applicant's proposed iterative design development process post consent (if consent is granted), engagement with parties, and how that can be secured

12. Cumulative Effects Assessments

- i. Whether the approach of the Environmental Statement to cumulative effects assessment, namely the high-level approach to some subject areas where it is assumed other projects will mitigate their own impacts, is suitably robust
- ii. The justification for excluding the Norfolk Boreas Project in some of the cumulative effects assessments, most notably traffic and transport and noise and vibration

13. Draft Development Consent Order

- i. How the activities currently excluded in the definition of commence are controlled, monitored and mitigated; the need for a definition for pre-commencement works and an accompanying management plan
- ii. Explanation of "phase" of the Proposed Development as defined in Article 2, in Requirement 9, and the Environmental Statement; the meaning of the words "part" and "stage" in the definition of "phase"
- iii. If "to the extent assessed in the environmental statement" is an adequate bar in the definition of maintain to limit maintenance activities authorised under the draft Development Consent Order and the Deemed Marine Licenses to those that are assessed within the Environmental Statement
- iv. The need for a definition of "land adjacent to order limits", as used in Article 4
- v. Explanation of the process, due diligence and risks in Article 5 the transfer of benefits of the order to a subsidiary company
- vi. Adequacy of 14 days' notice period for Article 16 relating to authority to survey and investigate land, given the nature of work



to make trail holes and dig trenches; would the notice include an indication of the work required; and meaning of "as soon as practicable" in Article 16(5)

- vii. Concerns or support from parties for the provision and drafting of Article 45 Modification of DOW section 36 consent; precedence if any exists; implications for future applications for development consent order
- viii. Steps taken to mitigate any risks that surveys, findings and conclusions of the Environmental Statement might be out of date and therefore unreliable given that Requirement 1 seeks that the time limit for commencing the authorised development would be seven years from the date on which the Order comes into force
- ix. Progress with the conversations with the Ministry of Defence regarding the operation of defence sites and the drafting of Requirements 10, 27 and 28

(Matters relating to Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession will be covered under First Written Questions and later Hearings)

14. Procedural decisions, review of actions and next steps

15. Closing remarks

05:30 pm

Close of Issue Specific Hearing 2