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All Interested Parties, Statutory  
Parties, Affected Persons,  
Category 3 Persons and Other  
Persons

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

EN010109

Date:

30 May 2023

Dear Sir/ Madam

**The Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) – Sections (s) 59, 89, 102, 102A and 102B, and The Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (CA Regulations) – Regulations 9, 13, 14, 15 and 16, and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (EPR) – Rule 8(3), 9, 10, 13 and 15**

**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**

**Changes to the Examination Timetable and other Procedural Decisions**

## 1. Applicant's change request

Following our acceptance of the Applicant's recent request for changes to the Proposed Development by the Examining Authority (ExA) with the letter dated 17 April 2023 [PD-014], the Applicant has certified that this change to the Proposed Development has been notified and publicised in accordance with Regulations 7 and 8 of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (CA Regulations).

Relevant Representations in accordance with Regulation 10 of the CA Regulations were invited on the Applicant's proposed provision for the Compulsory Acquisition (CA) of additional land from 20 April to 26 May 2023. Subsequently, the Applicant submitted a Certificate of Compliance [OD-008] [OD-009] in line with Regulation 9 of the CA Regulations, which was received in Examination and accepted by the ExA on 29 May 2023.



Upon receiving the Certificates of Compliance from the Applicant, the ExA is making several Procedural Decisions to meet the CA Regulations and enable robust Examination of the changes to the Applications within the Examination.

## 2. ExA's Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

In line with Regulation 11 of the CA Regulations, the ExA has made a further assessment of principal issues and finds that the ExA's initial assessment [PD-006, Annex C] remains unchanged on account of the Applicant's change request. In that regard, the ExA does not find it necessary to hold a meeting to discuss how the proposed provision should be examined.

## 3. Changes to the Examination Timetable

As a consequence of the accepted change request and the necessary consultation arising from this, and in line with Regulation 12 of the CA Regulations, it is necessary to amend the Examination Timetable under Rule 8(3) of EPR. This letter provides the updated Examination Timetable at Annex A, which replaces the version that was included in the Rule 8 letter of 27 January 2023 [PD-009]. The changes to the Examination Timetable are necessary to ensure that the Applicant's change request can be robustly assessed within the Examination timeframe. The changes are summarised below.

- Deadlines 6 and 7 have now become Deadlines 7 and 8 with some changes to what is expected at those deadlines.
- A new Deadline has been inserted on Tuesday 20 June, which is now Deadline 6, and will allow for submissions of responses to Relevant Representations on the material change request, and receipt of Written Representations on the material change to the Proposed Development.
- The ExA may issue fourth Written Questions, if required, to be published on Thursday 29 June.

## 4. Written Representations

In line with Regulation 13 of the CA Regulations, the ExA is inviting all Interested Parties to submit written representations on the changes to the Proposed Development to amend the Application. Any additional Affected Persons and additional Interested Parties are invited to submit Written Representations on the Application as a whole. Please do not repeat any representations already made. The Written Representations are due by **Deadline 6, Tuesday 20 June 2023**. In doing so, the ExA is giving the required 21 days' notice to parties.

Any Written Representations which exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary



should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made. Representations must not include hyperlinks to documents/evidence hosted on third party websites. Please see the [Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#) for further information about Written Representations

## **5. Notification to hold Issue Specific Hearing in line with CA Regulation 14**

The ExA will hold an Issue Specific Hearing (ISH7) in line with the requirements in Regulation 14(2) of the CA Regulations. The ExA issued a notification under Rule 13 of EPR on 22 May 2023 [PD-016] and is reconfirming the notification to parties of its intention to hold ISH7 (if required) on 21 June 2023. In doing so, the ExA is giving the required 21 days' notice to any additional affected persons or interested parties of the date, time and place fixed for the further Issue Specific Hearing.

## **6. Request for Compulsory Acquisition Hearing and Open Floor Hearing in line with CA Regulations 15 and 16**

In line with Regulations 15(1)(a) and (b), and 16(1)(a) and (b) of the CA Regulations, the ExA requests that additional Affected Persons and additional Interested Parties inform us if they wish to be heard at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing and at an Open Floor Hearing. Any requests must be received by **Deadline 6, Tuesday 20 June 2023**.

In the Rule 13 notification issued on 22 May 2023 [PD-016] the ExA has provisionally set dates and times for a further Open Floor Hearing (OFH3) and a further Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH2). The ExA is reconfirming the notification to parties of its intention to hold OFH3 (if required) on 21 June 2023, and CAH2 (if required) on 22 June 2023. In doing so, the ExA is giving the required 21 days' notice in line with Regulations 15(2) and 16(2), to any additional affected persons or interested parties of the date, time and place fixed for the further Compulsory Acquisition Hearing and Open Floor Hearing.

All documentation associated with this project can be found on the [project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website \(project webpage\)](#). If you have any queries, please contact the Case Team using the details at the head of this letter.

Yours faithfully

*Menaka Sahai*

**Lead Member of the Examining Authority**

Annex A: Updated Examination Timetable



This communication does not constitute legal advice.  
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

## ANNEX A: Examination Timetable

Please note:

1. The Examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions and oral representations made at Hearings.
2. The time for submission of requested documents is 23:59 on the relevant Deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.
3. All information received will be published on [project webpage of the National Infrastructure website \(project webpage\)](#) as soon as practicable after the Deadlines for submissions.

### Hearing agendas

4. Please note that for Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings the ExA will publish a draft agenda on the [project webpage](#) on the National Infrastructure Planning website at least five working days in advance of the Hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each Hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For Open Floor Hearings agendas may not be published.

### Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

5. Where an applicant has provided a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of The Habitats Regulations 2017 and Regulation 28 of The Offshore Marine Regulations.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	<p><b>Procedural Deadline A</b></p> <p>For receipt by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Confirmation of wish to observe or speak at the Preliminary Meeting</b> including details of which agenda items to discuss</li> </ul>	<p><b>Thursday 5 January 2023</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Confirmation of wish to speak at Issue Specific Hearings 1 and 2</b>, including details of topics of discussion</li> <li>• <b>Confirmation of wish to speak at Open Floor Hearing 1</b>, including details of topics of discussion</li> <li>• <b>Confirmation of attendance at the Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) 1</b></li> <li>• <b>Proposed ASI1 itinerary from the Applicant.</b></li> <li>• <b>Any written submissions about how the application is to be examined</b></li> <li>• <b>Receipt of additional application material from the Applicant</b></li> </ul>	
2.	<b>Preliminary Meeting</b>	<b>Tuesday 17 January 2023</b> 10:00am
3.	<b>Open Floor Hearing (OFH1)</b>	<b>Tuesday 17 January 2023</b> 2:00pm
4.	<b>Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on Strategic Off-shore Matters, including Development Consent Order</b>	<b>Wednesday 18 January 2023</b> 10:00am
5.	<b>Accompanied Site Inspection 1</b>	<b>Thursday 19 January 2023</b> 08:30
6.	<b>Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on Strategic On-Shore Matters, including Development Consent Order</b>	<b>Friday 20 January 2023</b> 10.00am
7.	<p>Issue by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Examination Timetable</b></li> </ul> <p>Publication of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Examining Authority's First Written Questions (WQ1)</b></li> </ul>	<b>As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting</b>
8.	<b>Deadline 1 (D1)</b> For receipt by the Examining Authority of:	<b>Monday 20 February 2023</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Post-Hearing submissions</b> including written submissions of oral cases as requested by Examining Authority</li> <li>• <b>Responses to Relevant Representations</b></li> <li>• <b>Written Representations (WR)</b>, including summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words</li> <li>• <b>Responses to the Examining Authority’s First Written Questions (WQ1)</b></li> <li>• <b>Applicant’s Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</b></li> <li>• <b>Statements of Common Ground</b></li> <li>• <b>Applicant’s Statement of Commonality</b></li> <li>• <b>Local Impact Reports</b> from relevant Local Authorities</li> <li>• <b>Nominations for sites for Accompanied Site Inspection</b> in March</li> <li>• <b>Requests for further Open Floor Hearing</b></li> <li>• <b>Requests for Compulsory Acquisition Hearing</b></li> <li>• <b>Confirmation of wish to attend and speak at the Hearings 22-24 and 29-31 March 2023</b>, including details of topics of discussion</li> <li>• <b>Any other information requested by the Examining Authority</b> under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul> <p>Updates from the Applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Guide to the Application</b></li> <li>• <b>Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)</b></li> <li>• <b>Explanatory Memorandum</b></li> <li>• <b>Schedule of changes to dDCO</b></li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Deadline 2 (D2)</b></p> <p>For receipt by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Comments on responses to Relevant Representation</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on Written Representations</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on responses to the Examining Authority’s First Written Questions (WQ1)</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on the Local Impact Reports</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 7 March 2023</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Comments from Affected Persons on Applicant’s Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</b></li> <li>• <b>Applicant’s proposed Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI2) itinerary</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on any other information and submissions received at D1</b></li> <li>• <b>Any other information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</b></li> </ul>	
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Hearings</b></p> <p>Dates reserved for (if any are required)<sup>1</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI2)</b></li> <li>• <b>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1)</b></li> <li>• <b>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH2)</b></li> <li>• <b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH3)</b></li> <li>• <b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH4)</b></li> <li>• <b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH5)</b></li> <li>• <b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH6)</b></li> <li>• <b>Open Floor Hearing (OFH2)</b></li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 22 to Friday 24 and Wednesday 29 to Friday 31 March 2023</b>
<b>11.</b>	<p>Publication by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Second Written Questions (WQ2) (if required)</b></li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 12 April 2023</b>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 3 (D3)</b></p> <p>For receipt by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Post-hearing submissions</b>, including written summaries of oral submissions to the hearings (if held)</li> <li>• <b>Responses to the Examining Authority’s Second Written Questions (WQ2) (if WQ2 is issued)</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on any other information and submissions received at D2</b></li> <li>• <b>Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</b></li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 2 May 2023</b>

<sup>1</sup> If the ExA decides to hold these Hearings and the ASIs, the notification will be issued well in advance.



	<p>Updates from the Applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Statements of Common Ground</b></li> <li>• <b>Statement of Commonality</b></li> <li>• <b>Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)</b></li> <li>• <b>Explanatory Memorandum</b></li> <li>• <b>Schedule of Changes to dDCO</b></li> <li>• <b>Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</b></li> </ul>	
13.	<p><b>Deadline 4 (D4)</b></p> <p>For receipt by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's WQ2</b> (if WQ2 is issued)</li> <li>• <b>Comments on any other information and submissions received at D3</b></li> <li>• <b>Any further information requested by the Examining Authority</b> under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 16 May 2023</b>
14.	<p>Publication by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Third Written Questions (WQ3)</b> (if required)</li> <li>• <b>The Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order</b></li> </ul>	<b>Friday 26 May 2023</b>
15.	<p>Publication by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Revised Examination Timetable</b></li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 30 May 2023</b>
16.	<p><b>Deadline 5</b></p> <p>For receipt by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Responses to the Examining Authority's Third Written Questions (WQ3)</b> (if WQ3 is issued)</li> <li>• <b>Responses to the Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on any other information and submissions received at Deadline 4</b></li> <li>• <b>Any further information requested by the Examining Authority</b> under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul> <p>Updates from the Applicant:</p>	<b>Tuesday 13 June 2023</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Statements of Common Ground</b></li> <li>• <b>Statement of Commonality</b></li> <li>• <b>Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)</b></li> <li>• <b>Explanatory Memorandum</b></li> <li>• <b>Schedule of Changes to dDCO</b></li> <li>• <b>Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</b></li> </ul>	
17.	<p>Publication by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Report on Implications for European Sites (REIS) and any associated questions</b> (if required)</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 16 June 2023</b>
18.	<p><b>Deadline 6 (D6)</b></p> <p>For receipt by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Responses to Relevant Representations on material change request</b></li> <li>• <b>Written Representations on material change request</b>, including summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words</li> <li>• <b>Comments on responses to Examining Authority's WQ3</b> (if WQ3 is issued)</li> <li>• <b>Comments on responses to Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on any other information and submissions received at Deadline 5</b></li> <li>• <b>Requests from any additional Interested Parties and any additional Affected Persons for a further Open Floor Hearing</b></li> <li>• <b>Requests from any additional Interested Parties and any additional Affected Persons for a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing</b></li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 20 June 2023</b>
19.	<p><b>Hearings</b></p> <p>Dates reserved for (if any are required)<sup>2</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Open Floor Hearing</b></li> <li>• <b>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing</b></li> <li>• <b>Issue Specific Hearing</b></li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 June 2023</b>

<sup>2</sup> If the ExA decides to hold these Hearings and the ASIs, the notification will be issued well in advance.

20.	Publication by the Examining Authority of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fourth Written Questions (WQ4)</b> (if required)</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday 29 June 2023</b>
21.	<b>Deadline 7 (D7)</b> For receipt by the Examining Authority of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Comments on the RIES</b> (if published)</li> <li>• <b>Post-Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case as requested by Examining Authority</b> (relevant only if the Hearings are held)</li> <li>• <b>Comments on responses to Relevant Representations</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on Written Representations</b></li> <li>• <b>Responses to the Examining Authority's Fourth Written Questions (WQ4)</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on any other information and submissions received at D6</b></li> <li>• <b>Any further information requested by the Examining Authority</b> under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	<b>Monday 10 July 2023</b>
22.	<b>Deadline 8 (D8)</b> For receipt by the Examining Authority of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Comments on responses to Examining Authority's Fourth Written Questions (WQ4)</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on any other information and submissions received at D7</b></li> <li>• <b>Any further information requested by the Examining Authority</b> under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul> Final Updates from the Applicant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final Statements of Common Ground</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Statement of Commonality</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Guide to the Application</b></li> <li>• <b>Final draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in the Statutory Instrument (SI) template with the SI template validation report</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Explanatory Memorandum</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Schedule of changes to dDCO</b></li> </ul>	<b>Monday 17 July 2023</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Final Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</b></li><li>• <b>Final updated Book of Reference</b></li></ul>	
<b>23.</b>	<b>Close of Examination by the Examining Authority</b> The Examining Authority is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months.	<b>Monday 17 July 2023</b>