



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

Mike Bunton
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 2/24
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
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www.gov.uk/mca

Your Ref: EN010109
5th January 2024

Via email

Dear Department for Energy Security & Net Zero,

Re: Development Consent Order (DCO) Application for Sheringham Shoal Offshore Windfarm Extension Project (SEP) and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (DEP) (EN010109)

I refer to the letter dated 1st December 2023 from Burges Salmon with accusations of alleged critical error of fact made against The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) by Equinor, regarding our position on the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Windfarm Extension Project (SEP) and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project.

We note that this letter has been made subsequent to the Examination process closing and repeats the Applicants representations made during the Examination, without any substantively new justification. The MCA responded to these concerns in our deadline 8 submission [REP8-093] dated 17th July 2023. Due to the sizeable nature of the document submitted, close to the deadline, we additionally stated:

“ On this occasion we are unable to reply to every finer point of the Applicant’s response where we dispute specific statements due to the length of time this would take and the very short deadline. We would be happy to provide this with more time if necessary, however we would like to focus on the key issues in responding to the Examiner’s request for further information”.

The MCA was not asked for further information, however this offer remains.

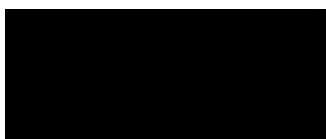
Please be aware that the MCA maintains its position on the proposed ‘no obstacle area’ and the controlling depth used by the mariner whilst passage planning and navigating the area.

Unfortunately, we were not made aware of the letter until after it was published on the National Infrastructure Planning website on 21st December 2023. We are prepared to rebut every aspect of the Burges Salmon letter, with which we disagree however, it would not be reasonable to do so

within the 3 weeks from publishing of the letter from Burgess Salmon to the expected decision date of 16th Jan 2024.

We would highlight our responses in the submission made on deadline 8 [REP8-093] dated 17th July 2023 for consideration, including the offer to respond more fully, if required and a suitable time scale is allowed. It is paramount to ensure safety is fully considered on this occasion, for which any response to be rushed due to a late submission would be detrimental

Yours faithfully,



Capt. Mike Bunton BSc MM AFNI
Head of Navigation
Maritime and Coastguard Agency