



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW
energyinfrastructureplanning@energysecurity.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/desnz

BY EMAIL ONLY to: [REDACTED]@equinor.com

Mark Jones
Equinor New Energy Limited
1 Kingdom Street
London
W2 6BD

16 July 2024

Dear Mark,

THE SHERINGHAM SHOAL AND DUDGEON EXTENSIONS OFFSHORE WIND FARM ORDER 2024 – S.I. [2024/564] (“the 2024 Order”) – Proposed Non-Material Change Application

Regulation 7(3) of the Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 - Written consent from the Secretary of State for not consulting a person or authority

1. Thank you for your letter of 26 April 2024 on behalf of Equinor New Energy Limited (“the Applicant”), which sets out proposals for changes to the 2024 Order. The letter requests the Secretary of State’s consent under regulation 7(3) of the Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 (as amended) (“the 2011 Regulations”) to a reduced list of consultees.
2. Paragraph 7 of the 26 April 2024 letter states that the changes that will comprise the Application are as follows:

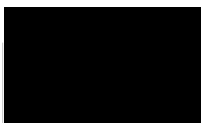
“An increase to the wind turbine rotor swept area (from 1.00 km² to up to 1.42km² for SEP and from 1.30 km² to up to 1.85 km² for DEP) and the subsequent requirement for a potential increase in the minimum air gap between the lowest point of the rotating blade of the wind turbine generator and highest astronomical tide to ensure ornithology collision risk effects are no greater than those assessed as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application;

An increase in the maximum number of interlink cables from seven to eight in the event one Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) is constructed for SEP and DEP (in the SEP wind farm site, Scenario 4 in the DCO) and from three to four in the event two OSPs are constructed (Scenarios 1(c), 1(d), 2 or 3 in the DCO) or in the case that only DEP is constructed (scenario 1(b) in the DCO); and

Increases to the maximum area and volume of external cable protection and to the maximum number of cable crossings for scenarios 1(b), 1(c), 1(d), 2, 3, and 4, associated with the increased maximum number of interlink cables.”

3. The Applicant proposes to consult 37 parties, as noted in Appendix 1 of the letter. The Secretary of State is satisfied that the consultees proposed by the Applicant for consultation should be consulted, noting the nature of the proposed changes as set out at paragraph 2 above. In respect of the Application, the Secretary of State considers that those other consultees identified in Appendix 2 of the letter, with the exception of those set out in paragraph 4 below, need not be consulted as they are either not directly affected by the proposed changes, or because their interests relate only to the onshore elements of the scheme.
4. The Secretary of State notes the reasons set out by the Applicant across both appendices, as to why the Applicant was proposing to consult, or not consult, the relevant parties. However, noting the nature of the proposed changes, the Secretary of State considers that in addition to those parties set out in Appendix 1, the Applicant should also consult the Maritime and Coastguard Agency; Civil Aviation Authority; Ministry of Defence; and NATS (En Route) PLC.
5. Accordingly, under regulation 7(3) of the Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011, the Secretary of State consents to the reduced list of consultees as specified in the paragraphs above.
6. In taking this decision, the Secretary of State notes that there will also be public consultation in line with the requirements in regulation 6 of the 2011 Regulations.
7. Finally, the Secretary of State’s written consent in this matter should not be taken as indicating approval for any aspects of the proposed changes to the 2024 Order which fall to him for consideration and determination, or whether the proposed changes will ultimately be regarded as material or not.

Yours sincerely,



John Wheadon
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
On behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero