

Secretary of State for Energy Security and
Net Zero
C/O Jake Stephens
National Infrastructure Directorate
The Planning Inspectorate
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Date: 21 June 2023

Jo Pickard

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21 June 2023

RE: Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm DCO Application
FAO: The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Dear Mr Stephens,

I am writing on behalf of Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant) in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm project (the Project). The DCO Examination of the project began on 20 September 2022 and closed on 20 March 2023. On 20 June 2023, a Recommendation was given by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

Since the close of the Examination, the Applicant wishes to bring information that has arisen since the close of the DCO Examination, to the attention of the Secretary of State (SoS). These matters are described below and may be of assistance to the SoS in the decision-making process.

This update consists of factual information which may help inform the SoS in formulating any subsequent Request for Information (RFI) and therefore provision of this update does not prejudice any Interested Parties (IPs). The update concerns:

- Transmission Assets Agreement for Lease with the Crown Estate (TCE);
- Section 135 consent for Crown land;
- Progress on the separate Marine Licence (ML) application to Natural Resources Wales (NRW); and
- The status of the Landscape Enhancement Package and Tourism Fund.

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Transmission Assets Agreement for Lease (AfL)

Both the Applicant and The Crown Estate have signed the AfL for the transmission assets, and the final agreement is expected to be completed w/c 26 June 2023. Once completed, the Applicant will provide a further update on this agreement.

Section 135 consent

Consent is required for the DCO to include compulsory acquisition powers and other provisions which affect Crown land under section 135 of the Planning Act 2008. The Crown land within the Project's Order Limits includes land interests held by The Crown Estate and the Welsh Ministers.

The Applicant has been in active discussions with both The Crown Estate and the Welsh Ministers in relation to Crown land affected by the Project. An agreed position has been reached with both The Crown Estate and the Welsh Ministers and the Applicant understands that both parties have confirmed to the SoS in writing that consent under section 135 of the Planning Act 2008 is granted for the Crown land affected by the Project.

Update on the Marine Licence Submission and Progress

The Applicant and Natural Resources Wales Marine Licensing Team (NRW-MLT) have continued to liaise with regard to timescales for, and alignment of, the DCO and Marine Licence processes. Since the last update (REP8- 018), at Deadline 8 on 15 March 2023, key events are summarised as follows:

- 21 March 2023 – As proposed in the last update, the Applicant submitted to NRW-MLT the final versions of relevant Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) alongside copies of other final Examination documents relevant to the Marine Licence process.
- 24 April 2023 – The Applicant made a further Marine Licence application to NRW-MLT for geotechnical surveys (reference RML2323). Geotechnical surveys are included in the pre-existing Marine Licence application and were assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) as such. However, due to conflicting timescales associated between obtaining consent (should the Marine Licence be granted) and contracting a survey vessel, the Applicant is now seeking to dissociate this activity in a separate Marine Licence.

The Applicant has continued to meet regularly with NRW-MLT to discuss progress on the Marine Licence to ensure this remains aligned with the DCO process as far as practicable.

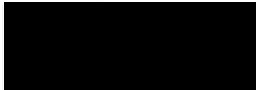
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Landscape Enhancement Package and Tourism Fund Update

The Applicant is continuing active discussions with the relevant North Wales local planning authorities and NRW on the draft section 106 agreement for the Landscape Enhancement Fund and with Conwy County Borough Council on the Tourism Fund, with a view to finalising the drafting of these agreements as soon as possible.

Should you require any further information on any of the updates above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,



Jo Pickard CEnv, MCIEEM
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