



Meeting note

Project name	Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm
File reference	EN010112
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	23 January 2020
Meeting with	Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited
Venue	Temple Quay House
Meeting objectives	Inception Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely. The Inspectorate explained that the publication of the meeting note could be delayed up to six months (if requested by an applicant for commercial reasons), or until a formal scoping request had been submitted.

Proposed Development

The proposed development location is some 12 km off the coast of Llandudno and west of the existing Gwynt y Môr (GyM) offshore windfarm and will cover a maximum area of 106 km². Although the turbine type for the Project has not yet been chosen, it is expected to have a generating capacity in excess of 500MW. Awel y Môr is expected to connect to the National Grid at Bodelwyddan, where the GyM OWF project also has a connection. The offshore and onshore cable routes, landfall location and project substation location are to be determined. It was confirmed that the Applicant has received a grid offer from National Grid. It was confirmed that the Project requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) and a Marine Licence (ML) from Natural Resources Wales. The Applicant intends to apply for both in parallel.

Proposed project timeline

- Scoping/HRA – Mid March 2020
- Consultation on transmission infrastructure siting options– Q2 2020
- S42/s47 statutory consultation – Q3/Q4 2021
- Submission of DCO application - Q2 2022
- Decision on DCO application - Q3 2023

Compulsory Acquisition and Crown Land

It was confirmed the DCO will contain compulsory acquisition powers and that the lease with the Crown Estate is expected to be agreed in Q1 2020

Scope of the Environmental Statement (ES)

The Applicant explained its intended approach to scoping and was advised to ensure that information contained in the scoping report is consistent throughout. The Inspectorate recommended to the Applicant not to include its own questions in the scoping, as this can cause confusion to consultees in what is a statutory consultation process carried out by the Inspectorate.

The Inspectorate informed the Applicant that it needed the project shapefile 10 working days before the submission of the Scoping Report.

EIA/HRA and other consents

The Applicant discussed the requirement that as the scheme is located in Wales it will need a separate ML application and how this would work in relation to the DCO application and relevant EIA and HRA assessments. The Inspectorate agreed to do what it can to co-ordinate these assessments including being clear on the timing and approach to detailed consideration. The Applicant explained it was their intent to run the DCO and ML applications in parallel and have the ML granted within a month of the DCO being granted.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate it had conducted one year of offshore survey work and that the offshore geophysical surveys would commence later in 2020.

Evidence Plan

The Applicant has issued terms of reference and a project roadmap to the statutory bodies involved in the process. The Inspectorate informed the Applicant that it would not chair Evidence Plan meetings but would attend them and work with the relevant bodies in accordance with the pre-application protocol.

Welsh Language

The Applicant confirmed that it was aware of the Welsh language legislation and the importance of the Welsh language. The Applicant intends to translate the non-technical application documents, such as the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement, following recent examples of NSIP cases in Wales. There are also several Welsh speakers in the Applicant's team.

Any Other Business

Follow ups

- The Applicant to provide the Inspectorate with the Evidence Plan's terms of reference.