Maritime and Coastguard Agency
UK Technical Services Navigation
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National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

13th November 2024

Your ref: EN010115

Interested Party reference number: 20048260

Dear Sir/Madam

Application by Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited (Ltd) for an Order Granting Development Consent for a new offshore windfarm, Five Estuaries, with up to 79 wind turbine generators, offshore substation Platforms and electricity transmission infrastructure.

Examination Timetable – Deadline 4 – The Examining Authority's (ExA's) written questions and requests for information, the ExA's Second Written Questions (ExQ2).

Thank you for inviting the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) to provide additional information to the Examining Authority. We would like to submit the following response to the second written questions (ExQ2) at Deadline 4:

> **NS.2.06: Depth of cable burial within the export cable corridor (ECC)**
> *There appears to be a consensus of opinion between all parties in this Examination that where the ECC crosses the Sunk and Trinity Deep Water Routes (DWRs) the cables would need to be installed and maintained at a depth that would allow for the DWRs to be dredged and deepened in the future to a depth of at least 22 metres below Chart Datum.*
>
> *Does any party disagree that 22 metres depth is appropriate? If yes, please explain why?*

MCA Response
As stated in our Written Representation (REP1-065) MCA welcomes the projects use of a Navigation Installation Plan (NIP) for additional management of the installation of the offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC). It is noted that the applicant has referred the specific burial depth to be informed by Cable Specification and Installation Plan (CSIP), and as such has not yet committed to a specified depth crossing the deep-water routes (see outline CSIP, APP-242).

As other stakeholders have commented, any cables including any protections such as rock armour, would need to be 22 metres below Chart Datum in order to allow future vessels with a draught of 20 metres to use the routes. Therefore, on this point, we would agree with the key stakeholders that the consensus of 22m below chart datum is appropriate.

Yours Faithfully,

Vaughan Jackson
Offshore Renewables Project Lead
UK Technical Services – Navigation