

Rampion 2 Wind Farm

Category 1: Application Form

Covering Letter

Date: August 2023
Revision A

Application Reference: 1.1
Pursuant to: APFP Regulation 5 (2) (q)
Ecodoc Reference: 004884916-01



Document revisions

Revision	Date	Status/reason for issue	Author	Checked by	Approved by
A	08/08/2023	Final for DCO Application	Eversheds	WSP	RED

Emily Davies
Case Manager
National Infrastructure Planning
Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Rampion 2 Project
Rampion Extension Development Ltd
c/o RWE Renewables
Trigonos
Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way
Swindon
SN5 6PB

9th August 2023

Dear Sirs

Planning Act 2008 – Application for a Development Consent
Order for Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm

Application Ref: EN010117

Please find enclosed an application for a Development Consent
Order (“DCO”) (“the Application”) pursuant to section 37 of the
Planning Act 2008 (“the PA 2008”) for the proposed Rampion 2
Offshore Wind Farm (“the Scheme”)

1. Subject of the Application

- 1.1 The Application is for a DCO to construct, operate (including maintenance) and decommission an Offshore Wind Farm with a generating capacity in excess of 100 megawatts (MW) together with associated electrical infrastructure, adjacent to the existing Rampion Wind Farm, located approximately 13km off the Sussex Coast. The Scheme comprises a maximum of 90 wind turbine generators and the offshore elements of the wind farm site cover an area of approximately 196km².
- 1.2 Development consent is required because the Scheme is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“NSIP”) pursuant to sections 14(1)(a) and 15(3) of the PA 2008, as an offshore generating station with a capacity exceeding 100 MW. As such, the decision whether to grant

...

development consent will be made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero ("Secretary of State"). The NSIP and associated development are formally described in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO (document reference 3.1).

2. Application fee and documentation enclosed
 - 2.1 A fee of £8,422 has been submitted by CHAPS transfer to the account of the Planning Inspectorate.
 - 2.2 The application documents will be shared with the Planning Inspectorate via WeTransfer. This was agreed with the Planning Inspectorate during a project updated meeting on 17 July 2023.
 - 2.3 A GIS shapefile showing the Order limits for the Scheme has been shared with the Planning Inspectorate via WeTransfer on 17 July 2023, along with a draft version of the Document Index on 28 July 2023.
 - 2.4 Additional documentation shared with the Planning Inspectorate via WeTransfer comprises:
 - 2.4.1 the Environmental Statement (ES) (document reference 6); and
 - 2.4.2 each of the other documents listed in the Guide to the Application (document reference 1.4).
 - 2.5 Furthermore, the Applicant has completed a section 55 checklist (document reference 1.3) which accompanies this Application, to assist with the Inspectorate's compliance check of the Application.
3. Application formalities
 - 3.1 This Application is made in the form required by section 37(3)(b) of the PA 2008 and the application documents comply with the requirements in section 37 of the PA 2008 and those set out in:
 - 3.1.1 The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations');
 - 3.1.2 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations');
 - 3.1.3 The Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG, although now called the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) 'Planning Act 2008: Nationally

significant infrastructure projects – Application form guidance’ (June 2013); and

3.1.4 The Planning Inspectorate’s ‘Advice Note Six: Preparation and submission of application documents’ (version 11).

3.2 The Applicant has also sought pre-application advice in respect of Section 51 of the PA 2008 and the application has been informed by these discussions and advice from the Inspectorate.

4. Scheme description

4.1 The Application seeks consent for the development outlined in paragraph 1.1 above and described in full in Schedule 1 to the draft DCO.

4.2 The proposed DCO will, among other things, licence and authorise:

4.2.1 an offshore generating station with an electrical export capacity in excess of 100MW comprising up to 90 wind turbine generators (WTG) and array cables, in an area approximately 196km², located approximately 13km south of the Sussex coast and to the west and south of the existing Rampion Offshore Windfarm;

4.2.2 up to three offshore substations

4.2.3 cables between the wind turbine generators (“WTG”) themselves, between the WTGs and the offshore substations, between the offshore substations themselves, and

4.2.4 associated development comprising

4.2.4.1 export cables from the offshore substations to the landfall location at Climping, West Sussex

4.2.4.2 an underground cable connection between the landfall and an onshore substation known as Oakendene, and then to the existing National Grid substation at Bolney, with an extension to and connection into that substation.

4.3 A detailed technical description of the Scheme is included within Chapter 4 of the ES (document reference 6.2.4).

5. Consent Flexibility – Rochdale Envelope

5.1 The draft DCO provides for flexibility in relation to the generating stations and their associated development. The Applicant has given careful consideration to the guidance in the National Policy Statements and the Inspectorate's Advice Note 9 "Rochdale Envelope" together with pre-application discussions with the Inspectorate. Due to ongoing advances in windfarm technologies, the inclusion of the flexibility provided for in the draft DCO is fundamental to whether or not the Order is fit for purpose so as to enable the Scheme to take full advantage of these improvements.

5.2 A number of the design aspects and features of the Scheme cannot be confirmed until the tendering process for the design and construction of the Scheme has been completed, most notably the WTGs and offshore substations. The draft DCO (document reference 3.1) sets out the design parameters within which the Scheme is proposed to be constructed and operated. The environmental impact assessment undertaken in support of the Scheme has considered and reflected the flexibility sought in the draft DCO. The maximum design parameters and principles for the onshore for the above ground infrastructure are set out in the Design and Access Statement (document reference 5.8), have been assessed in the ES and are secured by the draft DCO.

6. Deemed Marine Licences

6.1 Included within the draft DCO at Schedules 11 and 12 are deemed marine licences for the generation and transmission assets respectively, as provided for in section 149A of the 2008 Act. Where possible the Applicant has sought to take account of lessons learnt through the consent and subsequent construction of other DCO projects, including the adjacent existing Rampion Offshore Wind Farm, in the deemed marine licenses included. The Applicant expects to discuss these documents with key statutory stakeholders to refine some aspects of the detail of the DCO and deemed licences after acceptance, as has taken place with other accepted NSIP applications.

7. Habitats Regulations Assessment

7.1 The Application includes a Habitats Regulations Assessment: Report to Inform an Appropriate Assessment (document reference 5.9) ("HRA Report"), as required by Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations. The Report identifies all relevant European sites potentially affected by the Scheme and sets out the 'screening' undertaken for the purposes of the Habitats Regulations. Where likely significant effects

could not be ruled out, those effects have been further assessed by the HRA Report. The HRA Report provides sufficient information for the Secretary of State to undertake an appropriate assessment to determine whether the Scheme would have an adverse effect on the integrity of the national site network. The Applicant's appropriate assessment, set out in the HRA Report, concludes that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the national site network as a result of the Scheme.

7.2 The HRA Report has been prepared in accordance with the Planning Inspectorate's 'Advice Note 10: Habitats Regulations Assessments' and Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations. Consequently, notwithstanding the conclusions of the Applicant's assessment, the Application includes information which may be required to assess a derogation on a without prejudice basis.

8. Compulsory Acquisition

8.1 The land over which the Applicant is seeking powers of compulsory acquisition of land, rights and interests and powers of temporary possession in the draft DCO for the purposes of the Scheme is listed in the Book of Reference (document reference 4.3). The Statement of Reasons (document reference 4.1) also provides details of the powers sought and negotiations to date.

8.2 The Book of Reference (document reference 4.3) has been prepared and is submitted in compliance with Regulation 5(2)(d) of the APFP Regulations, and in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance related to procedures for compulsory acquisition of land' (September 2013). Details of the adequacy of the funding for compensation are provided in the Funding Statement (application document reference 4.2). The Statement of Reasons and Funding Statement are submitted in compliance with Regulation 5(2)(h) of the APFP Regulations.

9. Other consents

9.1 A summary of other consents and licences likely to be required in addition to those being requested as part of the draft DCO is provided in the Other Consents and Licences Report (document reference 5.4).

10. Pre-application consultation

10.1 The Applicant has had careful regard to the pre-application consultation requirements of the PA 2008, the guidance on pre-application consultation, issued by the DCLG and the

Planning Inspectorate, and its pre-application discussions held with the Planning Inspectorate, as required by section 50(3) of the PA 2008.

10.2 As required by section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008, the Application is accompanied by a Consultation Report (application document reference 5.1), which provides details of the Applicant's compliance with sections 42, 46, 47, 48 and 49 of the PA 2008, the APFP Regulations, the EIA Regulations, and the relevant guidance issued by pursuant to section 50 PA 2008.

11. Additional Documents

11.1 Under Regulation 6(1)(b) of the APFP Regulations, an applicant is required to provide

11.1.1 details of the proposed route and method of installation for any cable: this information can be found in the Grid Connection and Cable Statement (document reference 5.5).

11.1.2 a statement in respect of Safety Zones: this information can be found in the Safety Zone Statement (document reference 5.6).

11.2 The Applicant is required to submit a draft DCO in both a word version and pdf, together with a Statutory Instrument (SI) template validation report for the draft DCO at submission. The SI template validation report is attached as the final two pages of the draft DCO word version, document (document reference 3.1) in the form of an screen capture.

12. Other matters

12.1 As required under Regulation 5(3) of the APFP Regulations, all plans, drawings or sections provided under Regulation 5(2) are no larger than A0 size, are drawn to an identified scale (not smaller than 1:2500) and, in the case of plans, show the direction of north, save in respect of the offshore location and offshore works plans.

12.2 In accordance with Regulation 5(5) of the APFP Regulations, the Applicant retains all responses to the consultation carried out under Part 5 of the PA 2008, and can make them available at the request of the Secretary of State.

12.3 The following Application document contains confidential information and therefore a redacted version is also provided:

12.3.1 ES Volume 4 Appendix 22.11 Badger, Otter and Water Vole Survey Report (document reference 6.4.22.11)

12.4 The Applicant will keep all application documents under review and will endeavour to provide updates (where it considers it necessary to do so) during the examination of the Application considering questions and comments received from the Examining Authority and interested parties. When this is done, the Application Document Tracker (document reference 1.6) will be updated accordingly at every deadline. The Guide to the Application (document reference 1.4) will be updated once at the end of the examination to reflect the additions to the Application Document Tracker.

We look forward to hearing from you in relation to a formal acceptance of this Application. If we can be of any assistance, please contact:

Karen Algate – [REDACTED] [@RWE.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@RWE.com)

David Green – [REDACTED] [@WSP.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@WSP.com)

Umair Patel – [REDACTED] [@RWE.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@RWE.com)

Yours sincerely

The Rampion 2 Project Team

Enc: