

Richard Allen
 Lead Panel Member for the Examining
 Authority
 Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm Project
 National Infrastructure Planning
 Temple Quay House
 2 The Square
 Bristol
 BS1 6P

Date: 4th October 2023
Your ref: EN010117
Our ref:
Direct:
Email:

By e-mail only: Rampion2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Mr Allen,

Application by Rampion Extension Development Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm Project

I write in response to your letter dated 20th September 2023 in relation to the above application for Development Consent for the Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm Project. For ease of reference, I have responded to each issue raised in the letter in the table below.

Issue	Response
Statement of Common Ground (SoCGs)	
<p>The ExA would expect SoCGs to be signed with the following host authorities and statutory bodies, but the Applicant is requested to confirm this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Sussex County Council; • Arun District Council; • Horsham District Council; • Mid Sussex District Council; • The South Downs National Park Authority; • The Environment Agency; • Natural England; • National Highways; and • The Marine Management Organisation. 	<p>The Applicant can confirm that it intends to enter into SoCGs with the following organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Sussex County Council; • Arun District Council; • Horsham District Council; • Mid Sussex District Council; • The South Downs National Park Authority; • The Environment Agency; • Historic England; • Natural England; • National Highways; • The Marine Management Organisation; • National Grid Electricity Transmission; • Civil Aviation Authority; • Maritime & Coastguard Agency; • Marine Aggregates; • Trinity House; • Chamber of Shipping; • Brighton City Airport (commonly known as Shoreham Airport); • Sussex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority.
<p>The ExA will set out in its letter under Rule 6 of the EPR (the Rule 6 Letter) in due course the frequency it will expect to receive draft and final SoCGs, although this is likely to be one draft and one final document.</p>	<p>The Applicant will treat the SoCGs as live documents which will be updated throughout the Examination to facilitate the Examining Authorities understanding of the position between the Applicant and the counterparty. The Applicant will comply with any procedural direction given in respect of SoCGs.</p>

Issue	Response
<p>Given the extent of the proposed wind turbine generators and having regard to the responses to the Adequacy of Consultation, the ExA requires an answer as to whether the Applicant intends to enter into SoCGs with parties set out in Annex A to this letter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Sussex County Council • Eastbourne District Council • Wealdon District Council • Lewes District Council • Brighton and Hove Council • Crawley Borough Council • Adur District Council • Portsmouth City Council • Gosport Borough Council • Worthing District Council • Havant District Council • Chichester District Council • Isle of Wight Council • Mole Valley District Council • Guilford Borough Council • Surrey County Council <p>The ExA requests a response from the Applicant by Wednesday, 4 October 2023.</p>	<p>After consideration, the Applicant is satisfied that SoCG are not required with these parties. The Applicant can confirm that it is writing to each of the parties to confirm they are also satisfied with this approach, and we will update the ExA if any of these parties express a wish to enter into a SoCG.</p>
Principal Areas of Disagreement Statements (PADS)	
<p>The ExA considers that an early identification of the principal disagreeable matters, read alongside Relevant Representations (RRs), would assist in the identification of the principal issues, and provide a clear focus for the Examination and subsequent written questions to be asked.</p>	<p>It is noted by the Applicant that the PADS set out information directed to local authorities and does not require a response from the Applicant at this stage.</p>
Compulsory Acquisition (CA) Tracker	
<p>As with many NSIP projects, the ExA has made a Procedural Decision to request a CA Tracker to be submitted and updated at points to be determined during the Examination, and possibly for the Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline. However, for this scheme the ExA would like to extend the scope of the spreadsheet to include additional information on land rights which the ExA considers will be more advantageous to all parties following the state of negotiations, and to avoid unnecessary repetition when reporting on CA matters to the Secretary of State. Further details will follow in the Rule 6 letter to be sent in due course; the purpose here is to inform the Applicant of the ExA's intention in this regard.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes the requirement for the CA Tracker and the proposal to seek additional information, with detail to follow in the Rule 6 letter.</p>

Issue	Response
Matters arising from acceptance	
<p>In its response on 14 September 2023, the Applicant confirmed <i>"a set of Onshore General Scheme Outline plans will be issued...in advance of the [RR] period"</i>. At the time of writing, no such plans have been received. The ExA requests such plans are submitted as soon as possible but no later than Wednesday, 4 October 2023.</p>	<p>It is noted by the Applicant that the requirement for submission of updated land and works plans will be detailed in the Rule 6 letter.</p> <p>The provision of this plan has crossed over with the issue of this letter. The plan now been received by the Planning Inspectorate and is now published on their website.</p>
<p>The ExA welcomes the Applicant's acknowledgement to review the cut lines for both the Land Plans and Works Plans. The ExA considers both Plans must be updated as per the matters set out in the s51 letter and we have decided to make a Procedural Decision to request them by the Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline, which will be notified in the Rule 6 letter in due course.</p>	<p>This is noted and the Applicant confirms that these will be provided by the Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline.</p>
<p>To assist forthcoming Unaccompanied Site Inspections, the ExA requests that the Applicant provides five sets of hard copies of these plans in A3 format by Saturday, 4 November 2023.</p>	<p>The Applicant has ordered the print and distribution of these items.</p>
The Rule 6 Letter	
<p>As has been referred to in this letter, the next communication from the ExA is likely to be the Rule 6 letter, setting out details of the Preliminary Meeting, the draft Examination timetable and other Procedural Decisions (amongst other things) in due course following the close of the RR period on Saturday, 4 November 2023.</p>	<p>This is noted by the Applicant.</p>
<p>The ExA is mindful that the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project is similarly timed to Rampion 2. We will seek to ensure, as much as practicably possible, that the two projects avoid clashing on dates for meetings, Hearings and other written submission deadlines.</p>	<p>This is noted by the Applicant. In addition, the Applicant requests that the ExA consider avoiding clashes with dates from the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation DCO, as a number of the Rampion 2 team are already committed to be involved with this DCO application.</p>

I trust these confirmations are helpful, but please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Ries-William Lamont
Rampion 2 Consultation Compliance Manager

Rampion Extension Development Limited