

Examination Deadline for EN010117 – Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm

Comment on the Applicant's Response in REP1-018 to Action Points Arising From Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1)

EN010117-000998-Rampion Extension Development Limited

Item 2: Applicant to make a response in detail as to the level of wind resources in the Channel (Sussex Bay Inshore)

Comments submitted by Dennis Buckingham IP Reg No: 20044000

Everyone knows that the maxim “Location, location, location” is the most important factor in choosing a site for an investment. So, it was with some astonishment I read the RWE rebuttal of criticism of their choice of the West Sussex Channel coast for the siting of Rampion 2.

Their article simply reaffirms what we all know, that is their chosen site is in an area of modest wind density and that the statistics for Rampion 1 quoted only serve to confirm this.

Wind farms provide an intermittent output. When the wind doesn't blow no electricity is generated and the wind farm asset is wasted. Windfarms are best located where the wind strengths are higher and more constant. The best measure to determine the best locations for wind farms is the Wind Power Density (WPD). There are multiple sources comparing WPD around the UK, and confirming that large areas of the North Sea and off the coast of Cornwall have areas in excess of 1000W/M² whereas the channel close to the coast is around 200-300W/M². This determines the capacity factor and is shown by comparing Rampion 1 (capacity factor 39%) to for example Hornsea 2 (off the east coast) at 56%

All the time that wind farm are not producing electricity, the shortfall has mainly to be provided by gas fired power stations. Hence it is blindingly obvious that the choice for new windfarm sites must be dictated by the need to achieve maximum benefit for the investment.

In case anyone is in doubt about the mediocre WPD in the proposed siting of Rampion 2, it is worth noting the following extract from the UK government statistics site <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/irregular-migration-to->

[the-uk-year-ending-june-2023/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-june-2023](#)

“In the year ending June 2023, there was an average of 44 people per small boat. This has increased compared to the year ending June 2022, when there was an average of 32 people per small boat and as Figure 3 shows it is much higher than in 2020 (13 people per small boat), 2019 (11 people) and 2018 (7 people).

Small boats containing irregular migrants have also been arriving more frequently. In the year ending June 2023, there was at least one small boat recorded arriving on 2 out of every 5 days (an arrival on 160 of the 365 days). This was similar to the rate in the year ending June 2022 (157 of the 365 days) but higher than the rate of just over a third of days in 2020 (130 of the 366 days), and the one every 5 days in 2019 (81 of the 365 days) and less than one arrival every 10 days in 2018 (29 of the 365 days).”

Put simply, this puts into perspective the reality of the WPD scenario in the proposed location of Rampion 2 in the English Channel. If the people smugglers take advantage of the WPD statistics, surely it should mean all those involved in such an important decision of granting Rampion 2 a DCO should pay equal heed to the significance of WPD.