



National Infrastructure Planning
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The Applicants

Your Ref: DGBS-APL001

Our Ref: EN010125

Date: 24 October 2024

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) Section 89
The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) –
Rule 17**

**Application by RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Ltd and RWE
Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Ltd for an Order granting Development
Consent for the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms**

Request for further information

At the Preliminary Meeting on 22 October 2024, the Examining Authority (ExA) indicated that it would review the application documentation and consider whether it would be expedient to use the time while the Preliminary Meeting is adjourned to issue a request for further information under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Having reviewed the application documents, the ExA are issuing this request under Rule 17 for a number of documents to be updated, amended or expanded. Could the Applicants therefore please provide the following:

Proposed Development

- Confirm if the Proposed Development would include battery energy storage systems (BESS) – the Project Description [APP-071, paragraph 101] suggests that the collector platforms/ offshore converter platforms would have BESS, but this is not included in the works set out in Schedule 1 of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [APP-027]. Please amend the documentation as necessary.

Site Selection

- Table 4-21 of Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 4 [APP-067] summarises the selection of temporary construction compounds. Within the table, it does not confirm which option (07 A or 07 B) was taken forwards in final decision – please can the table be updated to confirm this information.
- Provide a map of the constraints/ criteria listed in paragraph 64 of ES Chapter 4 [APP-067] to evidence the refined search area.

Funding Statement

- The Funding Statement [APP-033, paragraph 36] states that the current cost estimate for the Projects would be approximately £7 billion. Please provide further information detailing how this figure was calculated and details of the difference in costs for each of the possible build out options eg only building one of the arrays, building the arrays sequentially or building the arrays concurrently.

Infrastructure and Other Uses

- ES Chapter 16 [APP-130, paragraph 70] confirms that a wake loss assessment and potential annual energy production loss for Dogger Bank A has been modelled - please provide a copy of this assessment.
- Please provide a copy of the recent study referenced in your response to Relevant Representations [PDA-013, Table 6.3.1, Point 8] commissioned by The Crown Estate (Fraser Nash Consultancy Ltd, 2023) on wake loss effects.
- ES Chapter 16 [APP-130] Table 16-1 confirms that vessel movements for construction combines the estimates for peaks of separate tasks, but that it would be possible that each of the packages to use their maximum quantity of vessels. On the basis that the draft DCO and supporting documents do not limit the vessel movements, and that it would be possible that a higher number of vessel movements could occur during construction, please update the ES to include an assessment of the worst-case possible scenario, ie the maximum quantity of vessels.
- ES Chapter 16 [APP-130, paragraph 37] states that the only offshore wind farm in planning is 'Dogger Bank D', however this is not shown on Figure 16-2 of [APP-131]. Furthermore, Figure 16-2 of [APP-131] shows 'Hornsea Project Four' as "in planning" which would appear to be incorrect as it is consented. Please review these documents and update and amend as necessary.

Onshore Historic Environment

- Update ES Chapter 22 [APP-172] to provide an assessment of lighting effects on heritage assets and their settings as a result of the Proposed Development during construction and operation.
- Update ES Chapter 22 [APP-172] to provide an assessment of the effects on heritage assets on an individual asset basis, rather than as grouped assets.
- Update the ES and set out whether there would be substantial, or less than substantial harm to heritage assets and their significance as a result of the Proposed Development. This should be for each heritage asset on an individual basis and should confirm whether any harm would be because of construction or operation.

- Please identify whether any hedgerows within the Order limits would be defined as *historically* important? If so, please identify them on a plan.
- ES Chapter 22 [APP-172, paragraph 7] does not confirm which matters were scoped out of the assessment under section 22.3.1. Please can the ES be updated to confirm what matters were scoped out.
- Please confirm who forms the Humber Archaeology Partnership referenced in ES Chapter 22 [APP-172].

Seascape, Landscape and Visual

- Provide a plan showing the extent of the candidate Yorkshire Wolds National Landscape in relation to the Proposed Development.
- Provide winter viewpoints with visualisations of the Proposed Development at Year 1 and Year 10 for VP1, VP2, VP3, VP4, VP6 (if not already provided) [APP-193].
- Provide baseline winter photography for VP1, VP2, VP3, VP4, VP6 (if not already provided) [APP-193].
- Provide a visualisation of the Proposed Development from Dunflat Road, Risby, Beverley.
- Provide details how have you defined important hedgerows for the purposes of the landscape and visual assessment, or signpost where in the Application this information can be found.
- Confirm which stakeholders were part of the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment expert topic group or signpost where in the Application this information can be found.

Land Use and Ground Conditions

- Provide details of the Environmental Stewardship Schemes which would be affected by the Proposed Development. This should include the Stewardship scheme type, objectives, duration and progress.
- Provide an assessment of the effect on any of the Environmental Stewardship Schemes that would be affected of the worst-case scenario during the construction phase.

Traffic and Transport

- Provide a plan showing the approved Jock's Lodge Junction improvement works on the onshore works plans [PDA-003].

Obstacle Crossing Register [APP-074]

- Identify the locations where temporary crossings may be required to facilitate haul road access where direct access is not readily available from both sides of an obstacle.

This information needs to be submitted as soon as possible, and no later than by the start of the Examination which is yet to be determined following the adjournment of the Preliminary Meeting. Should you have any queries regarding the content of the letter, please contact the case team using the details at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Jo Dowling

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

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