Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind

Other Documents

Safety Zone Statement

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Acronyms & Definitions

Abbreviations / Acronyms

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (now the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ))
DCO	Development Consent Order
DECC	Department of Energy & Climate Change, (now the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ))
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, formerly Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), which was previously Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC)
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
GT R4 Ltd	The Applicant. The special project vehicle created in partnership between Corio Generation (a wholly owned Green Investment Group portfolio company), Gulf Energy Development and TotalEnergies
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
ODOW	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, trading name of GT R4 Limited
OnSS	Onshore Substation
OREI	Offshore Renewable Energy Installations
ORCP	Offshore Reactive Compensation Platform
OSS	Offshore Substation
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

Terminology

Term	Definition
The Applicant	GT R4 Ltd. The Applicant making the application for a DCO. The Applicant is GT R4 Limited (a joint venture between Corio Generation, TotalEnergies and Gulf Energy Development (GULF)), trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind. The Project is being developed by Corio Generation (a wholly owned Green Investment Group portfolio company), TotalEnergies and GULF.
APFP Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009
Cable circuit	A number of electrical conductors necessary to transmit electricity between two points bundled as one cable or taking the form of separate cables and may include one or more auxiliary cables (normally fibre optic cables).
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Export cables	High voltage cables which transmit power from the Offshore Substations (OSS) to the Onshore Substation (OnSS) via the Offshore Reactive Compensation Platform (ORCP) if required, which may include one or more auxiliary cables (normally fibre optic cables).

Term	Definition
Inter-array cables	Cables which connect the wind turbines to each other and to the offshore substation(s) which may include one or more auxiliary cables (normally fibre optic cables).
Interlink cables	Cables which connect the Offshore Substations (OSS) to one another which may include one or more auxiliary cables (normally fibre optic cables).
Offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC)	The Offshore Export Cable Corridor (Offshore ECC) is the area within the Order Limits within which the export cables running from the array to landfall will be situated.
Offshore Reactive Compensation Platform (ORCP)	A structure attached to the seabed by means of a foundation, with one or more decks and a helicopter platform (including bird deterrents) housing electrical reactors and switchgear for the purpose of the efficient transfer of power in the course of HVAC transmission by providing reactive compensation.
Offshore substation (OSS)	A structure attached to the seabed by means of a foundation, with one or more decks and a helicopter platform (including bird deterrents), containing— (a) electrical equipment required to switch, transform, convert electricity generated at the wind turbine generators to a higher voltage and provide reactive power compensation; and (b) housing accommodation, storage, workshop auxiliary equipment, radar and facilities for operating, maintaining and controlling the substation or wind turbine generators.
Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (ODOW)	The Project.
Order Limits	The area subject to the application for development consent. The limits shown on the works plans within which the Project may be carried out.
The Project	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, an offshore wind generating station together with associated onshore and offshore infrastructure.

Reference Documentation

Document Number	Title
3.1	Draft Development Consent Order
6.1.15	Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation
6.3.15.1	Navigational Risk Assessment

1 Introduction

1. GT R4 Limited (Company Registration Number 13281221 and trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) (the Applicant) is proposing to develop Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (the Project).
2. The Project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will include both offshore and onshore infrastructure including an offshore generating station comprising up to 100 wind turbine generators located approximately 54km from the Lincolnshire coastline, offshore substations, offshore cables, onshore cables, an onshore substation, a connection to the electricity transmission network, and ancillary and associated development. The Applicant is therefore submitting an application to the Secretary of State under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Project.
3. This Safety Zone Statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 6(1)(b)(ii) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations) which requires the applicant for a DCO for the construction of an offshore generating station to provide a statement as to whether applications will be made for safety zones.
4. This Statement outlines the legislative requirements relating to applications for safety zones in respect of Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREI) under Section 95 of the Energy Act 2004, the safety zones that will be applied for, the scope of works for which the DCO is being sought and the approach that will be taken by the Applicant to an application for safety zones (the Safety Zone Application).

2 Legislative Context

5. The process for applying to the Secretary of State for a safety zone to be established around OREI is set out in Section 95 and Schedule 16 of the Energy Act 2004 (the 2004 Act). The Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Applications Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007 (the 2007 Regulations) make further provision regarding the process for applying for a safety zone and advertising such applications. Guidance[1] has also been published to assist applicants in the process of making an application for safety zones.
6. The categories of infrastructure in respect of which a safety zone application can be made are defined in section 104 of the 2004 Act and summarised in the guidance as renewable energy installations which:
   - are used (or will be used or, in the case of decommissioning, have been used) for purposes connected with the production of energy from water or winds;
   - permanently rest on, or are permanently attached to, the bed of the waters; and
   - are not connected with dry land by a permanent structure providing access at all times, for all purposes.
7. Schedule 16 of the 2004 Act and Regulation 3 of the 2007 Regulations require the following be included within a written application for safety zones in respect of an offshore wind generating station:
   - A map showing:
     i. the place where the relevant renewable energy installation is to be, or is being, constructed, extended, operated or decommissioned; and
     ii. the waters in relation to which any declaration applied for will establish a safety zone;
   - A description of the installation and its proposed or existing location and dimensions (including an explanation of how much of it is (or is expected to be) visible above the water line and how much below it), supported by drawings;
   - A description of how the installation operates (or is to operate);
   - A description of the location (or proposed location) of:
     i. any electric line used (or proposed to be used) for the conveyance of electricity to or from the installation; and
     ii. any connection to such an electric line;
   - A description of the location (or proposed location) of any offshore substation housing connection equipment;

[1] Applying for safety zones around offshore renewable energy installations; Published by Department of Energy And Climate Change (DECC), November 2011 (Revised).

- Where the zone is sought in respect of more than one relevant renewable energy installation, the proposed or existing distance between such installations;
- Details of any navigational marking that has been specified for use with an installation of the description in question by a general lighthouse authority;
- Whether the zone relates to the construction, extension, operation or decommissioning of the relevant renewable energy installation;
- Whether the applicant seeks the declaration of a standard safety zone, or if not, what dimensions are sought for the zone;
- A description of those works or operations in respect of which the zone is being applied for and their estimated date and duration;
- Whether the applicant proposes that the area of the zone will vary and any factors or determinations by reference to which the applicant proposes that such variation may take place;
- Whether the zone relates to major maintenance works in respect of a relevant renewable energy installation which has become operational;
- A statement setting out what steps, if any, the applicant proposes to take to monitor vessels and activities within the zone;
- Except where the Secretary of State has notified the applicant that it is not required, an up-to-date shipping traffic survey for the waters comprising the zone; and
- An assessment of the extent to which navigation might be possible or should be restricted, and whether restrictions would cause navigational problems, within or near waters where the relevant renewable energy installation is to be, or is being, constructed, extended, operated or decommissioned, as the case may be.

3 Safety Zone Statement

8. The Applicant's intention is to make an application for safety zones around OREI comprised within the Project in order to ensure the safety of the windfarm infrastructure, individuals working thereon, construction vessels and other vessels navigating in the area whilst works take place.
9. The Safety Zone Application will provide all of the information required by paragraph 3 of Schedule 16 to the 2004 Act and Regulation 3 of the 2007 Regulations. In accordance with Section 95 of the 2004 Act, the Safety Zone Application will be made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).
10. The Safety Zone Application will be made once the final number and precise location of the OREI, such as the wind turbine generators, offshore substations, the offshore accommodation platform and offshore reactive compensation platforms, has been determined. It is currently anticipated that the Safety Zone Application will be submitted in 2026.
11. The Safety Zone Application will be for standard safety zones of 500 metres around OREI that are under active construction. The Safety Zone Application will also request 50-metre safety zones around incomplete structures during the construction phase (for example where construction activity may be temporarily paused (such as installed monopiles without transition pieces)) or where construction works are completed but the Project has not yet been commissioned.
12. Whilst no formal application for a safety zone around cable installation works is possible under Section 95 of the 2004 Act, it is the Applicant's intention to propose a roaming 500-metre safe passing distance for mobile installation vessels, which may, in exceptional circumstances, be increased to 1,000 metres dependent on the nature of the installation works. The Applicant also intends to propose a 500-metre safe passing distance during the construction of offshore artificial nesting structures to ensure the safety of the structures, the individuals working thereon, construction vessels and other vessels navigating in the area whilst works take place.
13. During the operation and maintenance phase, the Applicant may apply for temporary 500-metre safety zones around OREI undergoing major maintenance (for example a blade replacement).
14. The Applicant will also apply for a 500-metre safety zone around OREI during the decommissioning phase of the Project, where that infrastructure is under active decommissioning works.
15. The anticipated need for safety zones at the Project site is set out in the Environmental Statement in Chapter 15 Shipping and Navigation (document reference 6.1.15) and in a detailed Navigation Risk Assessment (NRA) (document reference 6.3.15.1) accompanying the application for a DCO. The use of safety zones during construction, major maintenance activities and decommissioning forms part of embedded mitigation within these documents.
16. In summary, the Applicant anticipates that an application for safety zones would be made to DESNZ in respect of some or all of the following:
    - Construction phase:
        - 500-metre safety zones around OREI during active construction works;

- 50-metre safety zones around partially or fully completed structures prior to commissioning;

- Operational phase:
  - 500-metre safety zones around OREI undergoing major maintenance works; and
- Decommissioning:
  - 500-metre safety zones around OREI during active decommissioning works.

4 Scope of the DCO application

17. The Applicant is seeking consent for the following offshore works, as set out in Schedule 1 Part 1 of the draft DCO (document reference 3.1) and repeated in the following paragraphs:

Work No. 1—

(a) an offshore wind turbine generating station with a gross electrical output capacity of over 100 MW comprising up to 100 wind turbine generators each fixed to the seabed by either monopile, gravity base structure, pin pile jacket or suction bucket jacket foundations fitted with rotating blades and situated within the area shown on the works plans and further comprising (b) below;

(b) a network of subsea array cables between the wind turbine generators and between the wind turbine generators and the offshore transformer substations forming part of Work No. 3 including one or more cable crossings;

and associated development within the meaning of section 115(2) (development for which development consent may be granted) of the 2008 Act comprising—

Work No. 2— up to one offshore accommodation platform fixed to the seabed by either monopile, gravity base structure, pin pile jacket or suction bucket jacket foundations;

Work No. 3—

(a) up to four small offshore transformer substations each fixed to the seabed by monopile, gravity base structure, pin pile jacket or suction bucket jacket foundations; or

(b) up to two large offshore transformer substations each fixed to the seabed by monopile, gravity base structure, pin pile jacket or suction bucket jacket foundations;

Work No. 4— a network of interlink cables between the offshore transformer substations comprised within Work No. 3 and between the offshore transformer substations and the offshore accommodation platform comprised within Work No. 2, for the transmission of electricity and electronic communications, including one or more cable crossings;

Work No. 5— up to four cable circuits between Work No.3 and Work No.7, and between Work No.7 and Work No.11 or between Work No.3 and Work No.11 consisting of offshore export cables along routes within the Order limits seaward of MLWS including one or more cable crossings;

Work No. 6— up to six temporary trenchless technique exit pits;

Work No. 7— up to two offshore reactive compensation platforms fixed to the seabed by monopile, gravity base structure, pin pile jacket or suction bucket jacket foundations;

Work No. 8— a temporary work area associated with Work Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 for vessels to carry out anchoring and positioning, and for the wet storage of construction materials;

Work No. 9— offshore artificial nesting structure(s);

Work No. 10— creation and recreation of biogenic reef within the Inner Dowsing Race Bank and North Ridge Special Area of Conservation;

Between MLWS and MHWS and in the County of Lincolnshire, District of East Lindsey

Work No. 11— landfall connection works consisting of up to four underground cable circuits and up to six associated cable ducts to Work No. 12;

and in connection with such Work Nos. 1 to 11 and to the extent that they do not otherwise form part of any such work, further associated development comprising such other works as may be necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in connection with the relevant part of the authorised development and which fall within the scope of the work assessed by the environmental statement, including—

(a) scour protection around the foundations of the offshore structures;

(b) cable protection measures such as but not limited to the placement of rock, split pipe system, and/or mattresses;

(c) cable crossings;

(d) dredging;

(e) the removal of material from the seabed required for the construction of Work Nos. 1 to 11 and the disposal of inert material of natural origin and dredged material within the Order limits produced during construction drilling, seabed preparation for foundation works, cable installation preparation works (such as sandwave clearance and boulder clearance) and excavation of trenchless technique drilling pits; and

(f) removal of static fishing equipment.

5 Approach to Safety Zone Application

18. A formal safety zone application is expected to be made following award of development consent. The guidance notes that, following award of consent, a developer will normally have taken decisions on a range of important technical issues, such as foundation type and the locations of the installations which will make up an array. This provision ensures that decisions regarding safety zones, and particularly how safety zones are determined, may be taken on the basis of clear, up-to-date information.
19. The application will be made to DESNZ with notice of application served on the Navigation Safety Branch of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.
20. In respect of the Project, the Safety Zone Application will be made following completion of the relevant detailed design work, but prior to commencing construction. The earliest date the Safety Zone Application is likely to be submitted is in 2026, subject to progression of the design and procurement process.
21. As noted in Section 2 above, Schedule 16 of the 2004 Act and Regulation 3 of the 2007 Regulations sets out what should be included within a written application for safety zones in respect of an offshore wind generating station. The Safety Zone Application for the Project will contain the required information. The 2007 Regulations also require an application to be publicised by notice in a prescribed manner and copies of the notice must be sent to prescribed stakeholders.
22. It is anticipated the Safety Zone Applications will be made for standard safety zones comprising the following:
    - A 500-metre radius around individual OREI and associated foundations whilst construction work is being carried out, as indicated by the presence of construction vessels;
    - A 50-metre radius around individual infrastructure and associated foundations during the construction phase, where active construction works are not taking place (for example, around incomplete structures) or where construction is complete, but commissioning has not yet taken place;
    - A 500-metre radius around OREI undergoing major maintenance works; and
    - A 500-metre radius around OREI and associated foundations whilst active decommissioning work is being undertaken.