

Morgan Offshore_Liverpool_10 SEPT_PRELIM

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:05:10 - 00:00:37:08

Good morning everyone. Can I just check? Everyone can hear me. Thank you. Can I also confirm with the case team that the live streaming and recording of the event has commenced? Thank you. It is now 10:00, and I'd like to welcome you all to this preliminary meeting for the application made by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited, who we will refer to as the applicant for an order granting development consents for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project generation assets. And thank you for your attendance today.

00:00:38:08 - 00:01:06:13

Firstly, introductions. My name is Susan Hunt. I've been appointed by the Secretary of State for housing, Communities and Local Government as the lead member of the panel to examine this application. I'm a chartered Town planner, having been in the profession for over 25 years, and I've been both planning inspector and an examining inspector for over five years, and this is my fourth nationally significant infrastructure project. I'm now going to ask the other panel members to introduce themselves.

00:01:08:02 - 00:01:30:05

Good morning everybody. My name is Janine Leyva. Hopefully you can hear me okay. I'm a chartered town planner by profession. Uh, 20 or so years as a planner, primarily in a development management background. This is my second in CIP, having just completed Lower Thames Crossing. But like Susan, I have been involved in sips on the local authority side. Thank you.

00:01:31:29 - 00:01:51:00

Good morning. My name is Stephen Bradley. I'm a retired chartered architect and, uh, examining inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. Uh, my previous examinations have been at extension offshore Wind Warriors, offshore wind, Hornsea Four offshore wind and Immingham eastern Ro-Ro terminal. Thank you.

00:01:53:13 - 00:02:18:11

I can confirm we've all made a formal declaration of interests, and there are no known conflicts of interest in examining this application. Together, we constitute the examining authority. We will be reporting to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and net zero, with a recommendation as to whether the Development Consent Order, which is often also referred to as the DCO, should be made, and you will also hear us referred to as the Xa

00:02:20:00 - 00:02:53:09

case manager for the project is Simon Wood. He's here today and you're likely to have already come into contact with him. He's supported online by Rebecca Luxton, and you can contact a member of the case team if you have any queries about the examination process or if you need any help at today's event, or whether technology. Few housekeeping matters for those attending in person. Just make sure everyone set all their devices and phones to silent, and we're not aware of any fire alarm tests or other drills today.

00:02:53:19 - 00:03:00:27

So in the event of an alarm, it's the real thing. So exit via the staircase that we've we've just come off and congregating the car park.

00:03:02:29 - 00:03:30:06

We aim to keep the proceedings focused and efficient as possible. And to assist this we issued an x, B to our letter dated 5th of August 2024, which invited you to this meeting. And this is known as the rule six letter. It sets out an introductions preliminary meeting process, and I trust you will all have read this in advance. So it will only be providing a summary.

00:03:32:05 - 00:03:53:24

You'll find information about this application and all the submitted documents and plans on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate and National Infrastructure Project website, and you should familiarize yourself with this. We will use it to communicate with you and provide access to documents, which will be submitted at regular interview intervals throughout the examination.

00:03:55:14 - 00:04:20:03

Today's hearing is being undertaken as a blended event. Some of you are present with us today here in Aintree, and some of you are joining us virtually using Microsoft Teams. And just a reminder, if you're participating virtually and you wish to speak, please use the hands up function and there may be a delay before we see it. So please wait to be invited to speak, and only then can you switch on your camera and microphone.

00:04:22:02 - 00:04:29:01

And if you don't manage to raise a point during the agenda, there'll be an opportunity to do so under item six at the end of the meeting.

00:04:31:21 - 00:04:57:26

The meeting today is being recorded. It will be made available on the project page of the website as soon as possible. And this will include a transcript. Therefore, please remember, every time you speak, speak clearly into the microphone. State your name and who you are representing every time. This is for the benefit of both the recording and the transcript. And switch your microphone off when you're finished speaking. To avoid interference.

00:05:00:22 - 00:05:33:00

This is also set out in the Rule of Six letter, but I'd also like to reiterate that the recording will be retained by the Planning Inspectorate for five years, and it forms a public record containing your personal information. Switch to general data protection regulations apply, and a link to our privacy notice was provided in appendix B of our letter. So I'll assume everyone here today is familiar with

this document. My colleague, Miss Laver is now going to ask those of you participating in today's meeting to introduce yourselves.

00:05:35:13 - 00:06:05:01

Thank you very much. The case team has provided me with a list of people who I think want to participate today. So I'm just going to go through those now just to check that we have the people in the room that wanted to be in the room. Um, could I ask that you state who you are, who you represent, um, and how you would like to be addressed. If it isn't obvious to us that you might be Mr. or Mrs. or Doctor, for example. Um, if I could start with the applicant, please. The lead for the applicant that Mr. Monroe.

00:06:05:03 - 00:06:36:21

Yeah. That's correct. Good morning madam. Uh, Patrick Monroe, I'm a director at Burgess Salmon, who had a legal advisers to the applicant in connection with this DCU application. And I'll be representing the applicant at today's preliminary meeting. I'm joined by a few members of the applicant team today who I don't anticipate will take part, but that I'll briefly introduce, uh, to my right is Mr. Jamie Grant, who is the consent lead for the DCU application. To Mr. Grant's right is Miss Miriam Knowles, who works for Tetra Tech and is the EOC coordinator for this application.

00:06:37:06 - 00:06:44:12

And to Miss Knowles, right, is Miss Hannah Walker, also of Tetra Tech, who can assist with any documents that are required to be shared today.

00:06:46:25 - 00:06:51:21

Lovely. Thank you. So we would like to do now is.

00:06:53:19 - 00:06:58:27

go down to interested parties. Do we have somebody here from BAE systems?

00:07:01:20 - 00:07:08:20

Morning. My name is Graham Mueller of DLP planning, representing Bar Systems.

00:07:10:00 - 00:07:14:08

Thank you. Could you please say your surname again just so that we understand it.

00:07:14:10 - 00:07:14:25

Through Walla.

00:07:15:09 - 00:07:15:24

Walla.

00:07:15:27 - 00:07:16:12

Walla?

00:07:20:27 - 00:07:26:25

Is that is there anybody else with you? Mr.. Schueller is [REDACTED] was due.

00:07:28:01 - 00:07:30:27

██████████ not able to attend.

00:07:32:09 - 00:07:33:29

Not not attending virtually.

00:07:34:14 - 00:07:36:04

Uh, not virtually either. No.

00:07:36:06 - 00:07:37:03

Okay. Thank you.

00:07:41:14 - 00:07:45:02

And we should have a mr. Proctor from Stena Line.

00:07:47:09 - 00:07:50:03

Not in the room. Is Mr. Proctor on line?

00:07:50:15 - 00:07:55:28

Good morning. Mike from Stem Line, intending just to attend as an observer for the preliminary.

00:07:57:20 - 00:08:05:13

Thank you, Mr. Proctor. Um, is there any way we could get the sound from the the virtual turned up?
Thank you.

00:08:07:14 - 00:08:07:29

Um.

00:08:10:21 - 00:08:14:21

And is there anybody from Morecambe? Offshore wind?

00:08:18:21 - 00:08:28:14

No, I'm getting the nod of. No. Um, there's nobody else down on my list as a representative, but can I just check if there's anyone else in the room or virtually.

00:08:30:28 - 00:08:37:08

Okay, this might be a very swift preliminary meeting. Okay. I'll, uh, hand back to Mrs. Hunt. Thank you.

00:08:42:26 - 00:08:44:27

Sorry, Mr. Bradley. Thank you.

00:08:46:09 - 00:09:19:23

Thank you. Moving on to agenda item two, which is our examination examining authorities remarks about the process of the examination. Uh, appendix B of our rule six letter explains how the examination process will be conducted and how you can participate. For expediency, I'm assuming that everybody has read this, so I won't go through every point in detail. However, if there's anything on which you would like clarification, uh, we'll have an opportunity for you to do that shortly.

00:09:20:07 - 00:09:28:21

Um, I, I trust that, um, all those present and, uh, Mr. Proctor watching online, um.

00:09:31:02 - 00:10:03:09

Are aware that, uh, and I think this is more for the record than anything else that this examination relates only to offshore works, which are, in summary, for an array of wind turbines and cables connecting them and offshore substation platforms that all located within the Irish Sea. The connection to the grid is not included and no works on land are within the application. Um, the clearly was some misunderstanding this from representations, and I think progressively those misunderstandings are being cleared up.

00:10:05:19 - 00:10:37:03

The electricity connection from the offshore substations to the national grid will form part of a separate, uh, nationally significant infrastructure project with its own examination in due course, known as the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets Project. Uh, it will include the cable connection between the offshore substations and landfall onshore cable routes, substation and grid connection in northwest England.

00:10:37:15 - 00:10:47:04

It's expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in autumn this year for consideration by a different and entirely separate examining authority.

00:10:49:02 - 00:11:19:02

We also highlighted in our rule six letter and on page B3 of appendix B, that there are a number of other infrastructure projects in and around the RFC which are currently being considered or are proposed in the relatively near future. These include the Morecambe Offshore Wind Farm Generation Assets project and the Mona Offshore Wind Farm project, and both development consent orders will have their own separate examinations. Indeed, the Moana examination is underway.

00:11:19:24 - 00:11:54:20

The separation of the Morgan the Morgan Offshore Wind Project generation assets, which is the subject today from the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets Project, is a consequence of the Onshore Transmission Network Review and the holistic network design review carried out for the UK government by the National Grid Electricity System Operator, which aims to facilitate a collaborative approach to offshore wind projects connecting to the UK national grid.

00:11:55:27 - 00:12:39:10

A key output of the holistic network design review process was the conclusion that this Generation Assets project at Morgan, and that at Morecambe, should work collaboratively in connecting the two offshore wind projects to the National Grid electricity transmission network. We will consider

overlapping matters during our examination, including the cumulative and in combination effects with these other projects. The way that we intend to deal with the interrelationship with the other projects is set out in appendices D and G of our rule six letter, and this includes a request to the applicant for submission of an interrelationship report.

00:12:39:19 - 00:12:45:27

We will discuss shortly the content of this document and the timetable for its submission.

00:12:47:17 - 00:13:11:10

We'd like to reiterate to those present today and those listening to the recording that if any interested party has already submitted comments which relate to the Transmission Assets Project, you will need to submit a separate representation when registration of interested parties for that transmission assets project. Uh, when the examination begins, which will be publicised in due course.

00:13:13:05 - 00:13:43:19

If any interested party has submitted a representation to date which relates only to landfall and onshore works, they may wish to inform the examining authority that they do not wish to participate further in this examination of offshore works, in which case please inform the case team of this in writing and the contact details are included in the rule six letter. Before I move on to page B5 of appendix B in relation to hearings.

00:13:43:29 - 00:13:54:18

Are there any questions relating to the conduct of the examination or any other matters regarding other infrastructure projects? I see, Mr. Munroe, I think.

00:13:55:07 - 00:13:57:18

No, nothing from the applicant. Thank you, Mr. Trella.

00:14:02:00 - 00:14:24:21

I take the opportunity just to clarify the interests of BA systems in the examination. Um, that would be useful for us, please. Um, the assistance operates from two sites where there is a potential impact. One at Walney Aerodrome and one at Warton Aerodrome. Um, both uh sites

00:14:26:12 - 00:14:59:16

are related to defence activity. Um, at Walney, it's the submarine base and at Warton it's combat jet aircraft. Um, the clarification I want to make in relation to that is that there is we discussed an individual statement of common ground with the applicant in relation to Walney Aerodrome, whether a whether a particular issues to, to to resolve in relation to Warton Aerodrome.

00:14:59:24 - 00:15:15:28

There are slightly separate issues and we've agreed with the applicant that that's probably best under um addressed through a separate statement of common ground that's being progressed with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation. So it's just.

00:15:18:12 - 00:15:33:07

Making that distinction between impacts at Walney and separate impacts at Warton, which are being addressed slightly differently and through different channels, um, but through through the statement of common ground route.

00:15:35:12 - 00:15:53:21

Thank you. That's helpful. Um, so Dio will become an interested party, uh, to this examination. Can I take it that there representations will have effectively, um, been preceded by consultation with yourselves as a separate organisation?

00:15:56:04 - 00:16:00:04

I think that is the case. I could check that.

00:16:01:11 - 00:16:33:23

Thank you. Um, it will certainly be helpful if we understand whether you will be expecting to make separate representations about Warton. Uh, that, of course, will make it just a little bit. We'll have to be more alert to that. But if effectively all the, uh, the Warton, uh, issues are dealt with by Dio, including those which you wish to raise, that would be obviously very sensible. But can I leave it with you to perhaps come back to us to confirm that in due course?

00:16:33:25 - 00:16:36:13

I'll discuss that with the systems. Thank you.

00:16:39:21 - 00:16:48:21

Uh, now, any anything from, uh, participants? Virtually. Mr. Proctor, is there anything that you would like to raise at this stage?

00:16:51:09 - 00:16:54:04

Microcrystalline. No additional comments at this time. Thank you.

00:16:54:28 - 00:17:36:23

Thank you. So moving on now then, to hearings, uh, just for the again for the effectively for the recording and people watching in due course, the primary method of examining the application is in writing. But there are also provisions for hearings during the examination. And there are a number of different types of hearings, as set out in appendix B on pages B5 and B6. And I trust these are self-explanatory. The draft timetable provides opportunity for two sets of hearings following an initial issue specific hearing, which will immediately follow this preliminary meeting, as indicated in appendix F.

00:17:36:25 - 00:17:37:10

Of.

00:17:37:12 - 00:17:37:27

The rule.

00:17:37:29 - 00:17:38:14

Six.

00:17:38:16 - 00:17:55:12

Letter, with the main set of hearings currently scheduled for week commencing 25th of November and a further set in reserve in the week commencing 10th of February. That final set of hearings will only be held if the examining authority considers it necessary.

00:17:57:02 - 00:18:36:18

The ex has received written correspondence from the Marine Management Organisation, expressing concern about the timetabling of issue one this afternoon, and asking for this to be rearranged to allow all participants to fully attend. When there is a change in position or further discussion is required. We've noted the most concerns, but as we will explain at the outset of issue one, that hearing will primarily be an opportunity for the applicant to explain their application, the basis behind the provisions within their draft DCO and draft DMs, and the status of their negotiations with IPS.

00:18:37:11 - 00:18:59:20

It may be necessary, and indeed it's normal practice for the Ex-aide to hold more than one issue on the draft DCO and on some of the environmental matters that are covered in the draft ish one agenda, particularly where the Xa would benefit from having an open discussion with multiple parties on a restricted set of issues.

00:19:01:08 - 00:19:09:27

IPS can also make suggestions for topics to be discussed at an issue in their written or oral representations to this meeting.

00:19:11:23 - 00:19:42:13

If you would like to participate in a hearing, then you can register in advance. But if you simply wish to observe, you don't need to do this. You can attend in person or watch the recording either live or afterwards in your own time. Can I ask that any parties who intend to submit a request to participate actively in hearings, to read all of the information in the examination authority's rule six letter and its annexes very carefully to ensure that you understand the reasons and procedures around each.

00:19:43:14 - 00:20:12:03

To make sure that your representation is directed to the most appropriate channel. If there are multiple parties wishing to speak at a hearing and they have similar views, they are encouraged to group together and to appoint a spokesperson to make the best use of time and to avoid repetition. Anyone who speaks at a hearing should expect the examining authority to ask them questions, and also to seek the views of other parties, including giving the applicant an opportunity to respond.

00:20:14:10 - 00:20:31:14

We will discuss the examination timetable, including future hearings in item four of this morning's agenda. But we would like to emphasise at this point that as well as confirming dates in our forthcoming rule eight letter, we will consider any preferences for virtual or blended hearings.

00:20:33:01 - 00:20:52:11

However, in terms of the main set of hearings, including an open floor hearing at the end of November, it is the examining authority's proposal that central Liverpool would be preferable given

its accessibility for public transport, as well as for the ferry terminal for any attendees from the Isle of Man.

00:20:54:05 - 00:21:16:16

There would still be the opportunity for those who are unable to attend in person to participate virtually by Microsoft Teams. We understand that the applicant is looking into venues for November. Does the applicant or any IP wish to comment at this point on the format and location for future hearings? Mr. Monroe.

00:21:18:01 - 00:21:25:18

The applicant and the applicants contend with that suggestion and can confirm that it is going to investigate venues for those hearings in November.

00:21:27:03 - 00:21:29:28

Thank you. Any comments from other IP's?

00:21:32:08 - 00:21:34:28

And moving on to.

00:21:37:01 - 00:22:09:25

The final part of appendix B covers the process for site inspections, both accompanied and unaccompanied. We note the applicant's response to appendix G of our rule six letter, which is paragraph 1.6 of PD 1005, that it does not consider any site inspections, whether accompanied or unaccompanied, to be necessary. I can confirm that we have not received any other requests by interested parties by the procedural deadline.

00:22:10:10 - 00:22:39:11

Nonetheless, we're going to carry out an unaccompanied site inspection in the coming days. It will take place from public land only, as well as from the ferry to the Isle of Man from Heysham and the return ferry from Douglas to Liverpool. A selection of the viewpoints that are included in chapter ten of the environmental statement will be visited. Notes arising from this site inspection will be published on the Penn's website as soon as convenient,

00:22:41:04 - 00:23:15:21

and accompanied. Site inspection is unlikely to be necessary given the offshore location of the proposed development. However, if a later request is received by the Xa to visit any terrestrial viewpoints which are only accessible by private land and or have health and safety or security issues, there may be a need for an accompanying site inspection to be arranged by the applicant. We would expect any further inspections to be carried out during the same week as the set of hearings currently.

00:23:15:23 - 00:23:47:28

Timetable for the week commencing 25th of November. We may also carry out further unaccompanied inspections and suggestions for locations to us as Selections to us for locations to visit should have been submitted by procedural deadline. A on 27th of August, as noted in appendix G of the rule six letter. However, this does not preclude additional requests, which would be, uh, considered at our discretion.

00:23:48:27 - 00:23:56:22

So does anybody have any queries or comments in relation to site inspections? Before I go on to agenda item three.

00:23:59:12 - 00:24:01:08

No comments from the applicant.

00:24:03:01 - 00:24:07:07

No comments from by, uh, Mr. Perrotta. Any comments?

00:24:09:10 - 00:24:09:28

No comments.

00:24:10:16 - 00:24:19:09

Thank you. So let's now move on to agenda item three, the initial assessment of principal issues.

00:24:21:03 - 00:24:28:03

This topic is set out in appendix C of our rule six letter. So you may find it useful to have this in front of you.

00:24:30:03 - 00:25:06:09

Um, please note if you would like to speak on this item, we're not looking for submissions on the merits of the scheme that will form part of the detailed examination of the application, which commences after this preliminary meeting. We're only considering comments on the broad principle issues as identified at this stage. The initial assessment of principal issues and for simplicity, will be referring to it frequently by the acronym IAP or IAP is not an exhaustive list of every matter which the examination may cover.

00:25:06:12 - 00:25:12:10

Also, it does not preclude the subsequent consideration of topics or matters not mentioned.

00:25:14:01 - 00:25:27:18

Indeed, some principal issues may fall away during the course of the examination. However, it does require the examining authority to highlight the crucial matters on which it believes the examination will turn.

00:25:29:08 - 00:26:00:03

We've nothing further to add about the IRP at this stage, but does the applicant or anyone else present today wish to comment on either the broad headings or the matters listed within those headings? Uh, it's noted that the applicant is based there examining the progress tracker, which is PD 1004 on this IRP. But we point out that the tracker can, of course, contain matters which are not listed in the IRP.

00:26:00:22 - 00:26:06:28

So, um, firstly, to the applicant, any comments that you'd like to make at this stage?

00:26:07:26 - 00:26:23:15

For the applicant? Um, there's no specific comments on the list of principal issues itself. Um, on the track or the intention of the applicant is, um, that was to say, very much a framework at this stage from which the work from and the expectations that will become more detailed as examination progresses.

00:26:24:09 - 00:26:27:05

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Cruella.

00:26:29:18 - 00:26:42:11

From the East perspective, the main principal issue will be aviation and radar. Um, just a thought on that. Whether whether there are any,

00:26:44:04 - 00:26:46:29

um, early consideration of.

00:26:50:01 - 00:27:21:00

Specific hearings in relation to any of the principal issues. Um, I appreciate that not not all of the principal issues will be subject to specific hearings, but be interesting to know whether there are any thoughts about whether or not aviation and radar in particular, is likely to be subject to a an individual hearing, because there are lots of organisations that have have an interest in impacts on aviation and radar.

00:27:22:04 - 00:27:22:27

Ah ah.

00:27:26:11 - 00:28:04:19

The short answer is when we've seen any further written representations at the next deadline, I think that'll give us a better idea whether we would be considering a single issue. Um, hearing on that, uh, subject area, or whether it would be, if you like, a part of a, uh, a multiple issue ish. Um, I think that, uh, it's highly likely that we will certainly have a very long agenda item on the, uh, the subject matter within an ish, even if it's not, um, can the whole subject of that issue.

00:28:05:24 - 00:28:12:24

Thank you. Ah ah. Uh, opportunity for Mr. Proctor. Is there anything to add?

00:28:13:27 - 00:28:15:12

No additional comments. Thank you.

00:28:17:04 - 00:28:33:05

Thank you. Uh, so if further comments arise after this PM, please put them in writing to the essay by deadline one, which is on 3rd of October. Um, I'm now going to hand back to Miss Hunt for agenda item four.

00:28:35:22 - 00:28:36:07

Yay!

00:28:37:23 - 00:28:45:20

So now turning to appendix G of our rule six letter, which relates to a range of procedural decisions.

00:28:47:27 - 00:28:53:20

I starting with the first one, this is um, licensed statements of common ground.

00:28:56:25 - 00:29:31:14

So the state's already been briefly covered. But the need for these statements and and who we expect the applicants to agree with them and the topics that we expect to be covered are set out in appendix G and trust. This is self-explanatory. We won't go through them all. And, um, it's really just the headlines of the type of topics that we'd expect to see doesn't preclude other matters being included. We have received a submission at the procedural deadline from the Scottish Fishermen's Federation.

00:29:31:16 - 00:29:43:04

Um, it appears they were missed off the list. Um, with therefore asked the applicant if they could include them in the list of statements of common grounds. Do you have any comments on this, Mr. Munro?

00:29:44:12 - 00:30:15:15

For the applicant? Yes, the applicant will certainly include them in the list of statements of common ground. It's probably worth me just noting for the examining authority's benefit. The applicant has written this week to the fisheries groups to suggest there might be some benefit in grouping the statement of common ground where there's common interests, and they will explore that with the stakeholders themselves, because it may be that that isn't, um, isn't their preferred way to approach it. Um, that will be determined over the next few days and weeks. And then the statement of common ground will be submitted.

00:30:15:17 - 00:30:31:05

The reason I wanted to mention it is, um, whilst the applicant is looking at that, it may mean that submitting a draft at deadline one as a timetable envisages might be more difficult, but the applicant will certainly update the examining authority at deadline. One on body approach is going to be.

00:30:33:18 - 00:30:50:06

Okay. Understood. Yeah. Yeah I was going to come on to that. And because the rule six letter does, does suggest that some of the statements common ground with organisations similar and overlapping issues could be combined. Um, is that the only one. Would there be any others?

00:30:50:24 - 00:31:07:05

And in addition to that, the other offshore wind developers may also, um, benefit from a joint statement of common ground. Again, the applicant is exploring that with them, but doesn't have a defined position on that yet. And those are the only two groupings the applicant sees at this stage.

00:31:09:27 - 00:31:14:06

Yeah that's fine that that's what we would have expected anyway.

00:31:16:12 - 00:31:16:27

Is

00:31:18:08 - 00:31:57:02

Natural England. A bit of a different case. Um, in in the submission. The procedural deadline PD 1020. They've confirmed that instead of a statement of common grounds, they will be focusing on their, um, principal areas of disagreement, summary statement or parts and a risk in issues log. Um, so they've already made a start on this. And this has been submitted as part of their relevant representation. RR 026. And just just to note that this PA's approach will only be for Natural England and not any other, um, other participants.

00:31:57:22 - 00:32:01:14

And is the applicant consent with the approach from Natural England?

00:32:02:05 - 00:32:09:22

I don't know if they can. Yes. And that was discussed at a meeting on the 27th of August about the statement of common ground. And that approach has been agreed.

00:32:13:28 - 00:32:14:23

Okay. Thank you.

00:32:17:27 - 00:32:39:25

And we've already heard from Mr. Coelho, um, relating to the, um, separate statements of common ground for um, Walney and Walton, essentially. So I won't go back on to that. Um, but are there any other comments that anyone else wishes to make on statements of common ground?

00:32:41:13 - 00:33:17:00

And madam, um, for the applicant, there's a couple of parties who the applicant has spoken to who have advised that they don't wish to progress a statement of common ground. And there might be useful to note just for the examining authority's information. The first is the JNC, um, who've confirmed that they will be deferring to Natural England in this application and so did not intend to progress one. The second is the Wildlife Trust, and who have said that for resource reasons, they don't wish to progress a statement of common ground. The one final point I was going to make on this point was NatureScot have been included in a list of statements of common ground.

00:33:17:02 - 00:33:29:20

The applicant has reached out to NatureScot but hasn't received a response yet. So, um, it may not be that a statement of common ground is submitted at the first deadline, but it may be at a later deadline subject to engagement.

00:33:35:06 - 00:33:36:23

Okay. Thank you. That's useful.

00:33:41:10 - 00:34:13:09

So in terms of timetabling, um, the statements of common ground will come on to that under agenda item five. Procedural decisions two and three. They relate to the statement of commonality and the examination progress tracker. Um, which we've already touched upon. And and we do have an initial version of this provided by the applicant. PD 1004. And this includes the traffic lighting system as recommended.

00:34:13:12 - 00:34:20:27

And that the the. Looks like the documents will be combined. Um, does the applicant wish to add anything?

00:34:22:16 - 00:34:32:28

The attachment of the applicant? Nothing further to add at this stage, other than as explained before, it's very much intended that this is the initial framework and will be go into more detail as examination progresses.

00:34:38:13 - 00:34:43:08

And does anyone else wish to raise any comments on procedural decisions? Two and three.

00:34:50:20 - 00:35:25:22

Procedural decision four is local impact reports. And obviously with this being entirely offshore, either there are no local authorities which, um, meet the definition in the Planning Act. But we do. We did request the Isle of Man governments to submit a local impact report at deadline one, as if it were a local authority. Um, does anyone have any comments or questions about that request as they're not present today, but does the applicant wish to make any comments?

00:35:26:17 - 00:35:30:25

I don't know if they have no specific comments. I think the applicant sees that as a sensible approach.

00:35:33:27 - 00:35:40:14

Okay. Thank you. Procedural decision five relates to site inspections, which Mr. Bradley has already covered.

00:35:48:02 - 00:36:36:21

Stage of decision six comments on relevant representations. They were requested in Procedural Decision six of appendix G and um to be submitted at procedural deadline, which has now passed. That was 27th of August and the applicant has submitted their responses to to that. Thank you. That was examination library reference PD 10062 PD one zero 17 inclusive. Interested parties do still have an opportunity to provide comments on the relevant representations at deadline one on the 3rd of October, and if desired, those comments on the relevant representations can be combined with the relevant with the written representation, if that makes it easier.

00:36:37:21 - 00:36:43:29

Does anyone have any comments on this and any of the interested parties here today?

00:36:45:27 - 00:36:47:27

Mr. Coelho, do you have any comments to make?

00:36:50:07 - 00:37:09:05

No, I think I think we've already covered the main point I had in mind, which was whether or not, um, capture the interests and concerns of BA systems through the Dio, or whether it's through this is in relation to water nerdery, uh, whether it's through separate representations. But that's something we'll confirm.

00:37:11:23 - 00:37:12:25

Okay. Thank you.

00:37:16:10 - 00:37:23:18

This Mr. Procter wished to raise anything on submission of comments on relevant representations or written representations.

00:37:23:27 - 00:37:25:09

No additional comments. Thank you.

00:37:25:28 - 00:37:26:17

Thank you.

00:37:33:21 - 00:37:54:07

Okay, moving on to procedural decisions seven. That's just a request for regular updates to the application guide from the applicant at each deadline. So it's essentially a list of the most up to date versions of all documents that have been submitted to the examination. So trust this is self-explanatory.

00:37:56:15 - 00:38:27:12

Procedural decision eight that relates to the expected submission of a report on the. On the interrelationship with other infrastructure projects at Deadline one. So this explains the range of information that the examining authority would like to be included within this document. And related to that appendix D that lists the other specific projects in the region which are expected to be included, which Mr.

00:38:27:14 - 00:39:04:29

Bradley's already mentioned, like Mona and Morecambe, etc.. And we'll go further into this at the issue specific hearing this afternoon about the interrelationship with other projects. Just just procedurally, just like to make it clear that the examination authority is conscious that and numerous parties, including statutory organisations such as Natural England, will be participating in the examination of of one or more of those listed examinations, and some are more advanced stage than others, such as Mona.

00:39:05:20 - 00:39:47:17

And, um, we've drafted our timetable accordingly, um, taking into account resource constraints of those organizations. So Mona commenced in July and it is understood that Morecambe is due to commence in October or November, and the relevant representation period has passed for for that project, the Transmission Assets Project, Morgan and Morgan transmission assets, that's expected in

the autumn of this year more than in is still at pre-application stage and this will not be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate.

00:39:47:19 - 00:40:18:04

Um, being in the Isle of Man waters, it would be dealt with by the relevant Isle of Man authority. So there may be implications for the Morgan examination timetable as a result of these other projects. And if anyone's got any comments in that respect? We're coming on to that under item five of this agenda. And we have already received some comments from interested parties and the applicant relating to the timetable.

00:40:19:09 - 00:40:42:12

But is there anything anyone would like to raise regarding those other projects and the implications for the examination process? And just procedurally, we'll discuss wider issues regarding coordination with those projects, cumulative effects that will come this afternoon at the issue specific hearing, but would the applicant like to raise anything

00:40:43:28 - 00:40:44:14

they can?

00:40:44:22 - 00:40:53:17

No, nothing specific to raise at this stage. And just to confirm that on the interrelationships report that will be submitted at the deadline requested.

00:40:55:14 - 00:41:02:12

Okay. Thank you. Are there any other comments relating to them? The interrelationship report. Procedural decision eight.

00:41:03:00 - 00:41:04:01

Not at present. Thank you.

00:41:05:13 - 00:41:05:28

Okay.

00:41:07:18 - 00:41:08:03

Okay.

00:41:11:18 - 00:41:43:15

The final three procedural decisions they relate to submission of amended versions of the draft consent order, submission of closing statements, deadline six, and the acceptance of certain additional submissions that we received in the pre examination period. And they should be self-explanatory. But if you've got any comments, um, just make those comments now. Or you can highlight any timetabling issues relating to those under item five of the agenda.

00:41:43:25 - 00:41:47:00

Are there any comments on the remaining procedural decisions?

00:41:50:18 - 00:41:51:25

Oh okay. Thank you.

00:41:57:03 - 00:42:10:23

Anything else does arise. You can put your comments in writing by deadline one which is 3rd of October, so I'll now pass on to Miss Leyva for agenda item five, which is the draft examination timetable. Thank you.

00:42:13:07 - 00:43:07:12

Thank you, Miss Hunt. Um, for this item of the agenda, it will be useful to have appendix E of the rules six letter in front of you, as it would be easier than displaying it on our screens. It includes the draft dates for future hearings and deadlines for submission of written documents, as well as dates where the ex will issue documents, including our written questions. The ex has been mindful of other examinations, as my colleague mentioned, such as Mona and Morcombe. When we devise the timetable in view of our recently published examination guidance, we've also taken an open minded and proactive approach to reviewing extant practices of the pre examination and examination stages of an application, with a view to finding ways to streamline and thus shorten processes in order to improve efficiency and timeliness, and certainly to avoid unnecessary repetition and duplication of submissions.

00:43:08:10 - 00:43:39:29

I don't intend to go line by line through the examination timetable, but I'll go through some key points before inviting comments, as these may address any concerns you may have. Now the examination will commence following this preliminary meeting. The first issue specific hearing this afternoon, which opens at 2:00. As mentioned, this will comprise a high level overview of the proposed development and the draft development consent order from the applicant, and any coverage of environmental environmental matters will be limited at that hearing.

00:43:40:01 - 00:44:24:06

To headline matters that were raised in the relevant representations as soon as practicable after the hearing, we will issue our rule eight letter, which will finalize the timetable. The draft timetable sets out that we will issue our first written questions in around seven weeks time, on Tuesday, the 29th of October. Now, we're aware that the issue of our first written questions, um, is later than usual. Forensics, um, but experience and learning from other examinations is that a number of written questions will be substantially reduced and will become more focused if they are issued after the written representations and comments on those representations have been received beforehand.

00:44:26:00 - 00:45:11:19

We also note the applicants request in their comments on the timetable in PD 1005 to bring forward deadlines one and two will give the applicant an opportunity to make further submissions on this shortly, but we would like to highlight that this examination is being held under the transitional provisions as set out in the rule six um, in the Infrastructure Planning Examination Procedure Amendment Rules 2024. Now, what that means is because the application was made before the 30th of April 2024, the 21 day notice period for submission of written representations as set out in rule ten of the Infrastructure Planning Examination Procedure Rules 2010 still applies to this examination.

00:45:12:02 - 00:45:19:12

So the 21 day period after publication of the rule eight letter could not be achieved if deadline one was brought forward.

00:45:21:08 - 00:45:55:05

If required, a further set of written questions would be issued by the SEC on Thursday the 19th of December, with responses expected at deadline five, which is Thursday the 9th of January. The applicant, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and the Marine Management Organisation have expressed concerns that deadline five is shortly after the Christmas break, so may present a resourcing issue. Now we would like to highlight that a significant number of questions at this time is unlikely, but we will give some further thought to this deadline before we issue the rule eight,

00:45:56:21 - 00:46:28:08

the main set of issue specific hearings and a potential open floor hearing, if one is requested, are scheduled for the week commencing 25th of November, together with an accompanied site inspection if we consider it necessary. Now, my colleague Mr. Bradley noted earlier that interested parties can make suggestions for topics to be discussed at an issues specific hearing in their written or oral representations. Mr. Taylor, we've heard your suggestion this morning about hearing on aviation and radar.

00:46:28:10 - 00:47:01:01

Obviously we would give that some consideration. It would be helpful for the examining authority to know which interested parties intend to participate in the examination in writing only so that hearing topics, agendas and hearing time can be utilised most effectively. Now I mention this because we have had advanced notice from Natural England that it will only attend hearings by exception. And Natural Resources Wales say that it doesn't plan on attending attending any hearings. now. We want to be quite disciplined in only bringing things to hearings.

00:47:01:03 - 00:47:14:03

If it would benefit from multiple parties being in the room as opposed to just having a unilateral discussion. So if we know people want to have hearings and will attend hearings, then obviously it makes better scheduling sense.

00:47:15:24 - 00:47:46:08

Now, another important date on the appendix E timetable is Tuesday the 28th of January. This is when we will issue our schedule of changes to the Draft Development Consent order and the report on the implications for European sites, otherwise called the Reese. We note Natural England's comments made in their procedural deadline submission PD 1020 regarding the Reese and we will consider that. Now you'll see there are only six deadlines in total.

00:47:46:15 - 00:48:24:24

The examining authorities attempted to reduce the number of deadlines and submissions to allow greater time for the resolution of matters, and to reduce the number of draft documents in the an examination deadline. Six, which is Tuesday the 25th of February, is the final opportunity to wrap up any outstanding matters, and this is around two weeks prior to the six month statutory deadline of the 10th of March, when we must close the examination. Now Natural England, in their procedural

deadline submission, PD 1020 have asked for clarification on whether there's a particular rationale for the gap from the last deadline to the six month statutory deadline.

00:48:25:11 - 00:49:04:09

And we'd like to say that if we're satisfied that we have the information that we require before the 10th of March, there is a potential for early closure of the examination under section 99 of the Planning Act 2008. However, if there are pertinent matters raised at deadline six, which the examining authority considers requires a response, and that response can feasibly be provided before the 10th of March, the Ex may issue a request under rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning Examination Procedure Rules 2010, so the essay considers that the last deadline of the 25th of February still gives some flexibility to the end of the examination.

00:49:05:11 - 00:49:09:12

Now, I'll now ask for comments on the draft timetable, starting with the applicant.

00:49:09:14 - 00:49:44:04

Please know if the applicant and the applicant is grateful to the examining authority for being mindful of the other examinations of projects in the Irish Sea when setting this timetable to avoid those resource constraints, um, on the timetable itself. Also very grateful for that reminder that the transitional provisions apply here, which I can now see would of three requests that the applicant had put in for slight amendments to the timetable. The first of those to adjust deadline one and two probably can't be facilitated, so the applicant will insist on on that point any further.

00:49:44:10 - 00:50:17:05

And I think adjusting the timetable otherwise would be more likely to bring it into conflict with other examinations, in particular the Moana application that's ongoing and the hearings that were. Were fixed for that. The other two points that the applicant had on the timetable, and one was a minor comment in respect of deadline for. And the applicant had just noted that the timetable didn't currently have a deadline for parties to comment on responses to written questions, and the applicant would suggest that was incorporated. A deadline for that seemed the most appropriate place for it to be included.

00:50:18:06 - 00:50:52:00

The final comment that the applicant had on the draft timetable was in respect of deadline five, which the applicant would request, was fixed a week later, on Thursday the 16th of January. The applicant's concern there was that because the examining authority's second written questions would be published just before the holiday period, with the deadline five shortly after it, that might place some constraint on resources of both the applicant and interested parties, and it was felt that the timetable had a short gap following that that could facilitate an extra week, um, to allow responses to those written questions.

00:50:55:06 - 00:51:29:20

Thank you for those comments. Um, I think we thought when we set this that it was implicit at deadline for that. We had comments on any of the submissions received a deadline. Three. Um, but there is later in the timetable we have explicitly said responses to comments. So we will make that adjustment at deadline for in our rule eight letter to add an extra bullet about receiving comments as

you suggest. Um, in response to deadline five. Um, as I mentioned, we have had multiple parties suggest that deadline is tight following the Christmas period.

00:51:29:29 - 00:51:46:21

Um, and we will certainly be discussing that as, as an examination authority this afternoon before we set out the rule eight. There possibly is some flexibility there, but we need to obviously look at what happens behind the scenes for other elements of of pins as well. So thank you.

00:51:48:21 - 00:51:54:22

So Mr. Trella, do you have any comments on the draft timetable? Oh.

00:51:56:00 - 00:52:08:22

Only very briefly. It's I think it's useful for us that deadline one is maintained as the 3rd of October just gives a little more flexibility in preparing the statements of common ground. Thank you.

00:52:09:26 - 00:52:14:04

Thank you. Mr. Proctor. Do you have anything to say about the timetable?

00:52:15:13 - 00:52:17:20

No additional comments on the timetable. Thank you.

00:52:18:04 - 00:52:23:03

Okay, great. Thank you. Now, does the applicant want to provide any other and.

00:52:23:05 - 00:52:24:11

No further comments. Thank you.

00:52:24:13 - 00:52:57:27

Okay, great. Thank you. Um, well, I think before I hand back to miss Hunter, I just want to make one point, which is about, um, all parties ensuring information is submitted in accordance with the set deadlines. Um, and it may seem like the examination is a long way into the future. Um, but we do have a tight timescale, as every NCF always does. And there's a Christmas break in between, and we do have the ability to use discretion to accept late submissions, but this will only be done in exceptional circumstances.

00:52:58:07 - 00:53:24:25

The issue with submitting late is there's obviously it poses difficulties for other parties to make their responses, um, and could jeopardise the examination timetable. So if you do submit something late, um, there is a possibility that we don't accept it or the publication is delayed. So we just want to impress on all parties, particularly those who are not here in the room, but are probably watching this back, um, that they do try to meet the deadlines as set.

00:53:26:25 - 00:53:30:09

So I will hand over to my colleague, Mrs. Hunt. Thank you.

00:53:33:18 - 00:53:50:11

Hey, we haven't had any other matters notified to us under the agenda, so it's just whether anyone's got any other items in relation to procedural or other relevant matters that anyone wishes to raise. after what they've heard today.

00:53:50:28 - 00:53:54:10

Applicants and nothing further from the applicant. Thank you.

00:53:54:20 - 00:53:56:22

Any interested parties present today?

00:53:57:09 - 00:53:58:28

No. Thank you. No. Okay.

00:54:01:15 - 00:54:31:23

Okay. And in that case, I'll move to close the meeting. Thank you all for contributing both in person and online. We look forward to commencing the examination of this application. There will be a digital recording of the proceedings, and that will be made available as soon as possible on the project page of the National Infrastructure website. We're returning here at 2 p.m. today for issue specific hearing one, and that relates to the scope of the development and the interrelationship with other projects.

00:54:32:21 - 00:54:41:07

So the time is now. 1054 and this preliminary meeting for Morgan Offshore Wind project generation assets is now closed. Thank you.