From: <u>Edwards, Steven</u>

To: Mona Offshore Wind Project
Subject: Mona Offshore Wind Farm EN010137

**Date:** 19 June 2024 11:39:49

**Attachments:** 



Please note the following comments on the above DCO application, on which we have had to date limited engagement from the applicant, including not being consulted at the s42 stage as a statutory consultee. As a statutory consultee with interests in the area affected by the proposed development, can you please register SP Energy Networks as an Interested Party.

These comments are made by SP Energy Networks who operate and manage the electricity network up to 132kV on behalf of the licenced network operator, SP Manweb. SP Energy Networks must ensure the avoidance of any adverse impact on its assets as we all drive to maintain a network that is capable of meeting the increase in demand from an all-electric economy. The next decade will be crucial in preparing the grid for these changes and this is why we are very interested in being able to comment on the proposals which may undermine maintaining and developing a suitable future grid network. The proposed solar array development area affects SPM network as shown on the attached plan.

SP Energy Networks requires measures in the draft DCO application to protect SP Manweb network assets and ensure safe working around the affected SPM network.

At this stage, it is suggested the application plans include a plan showing this network and an assessment of the impact of the proposals on this network. There should also be a draft construction management plan which has a section on utilities and explains how impacts on the existing network is to be managed and mitigated. SP Energy Networks is seeking to obtain from the applicant detailed plans showing where the underground cabling is in relation to the existing SPM assets. The current position is that SP Energy Networks has asked the applicant to provide an overlay plan showing SPM assets and the proposed DCO limits. which seems the clearest way of showing these crossover points with a schedule explaining what the crossover is.

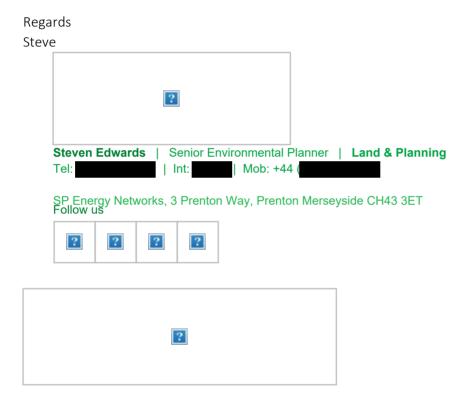
Following receipt of suitable overlay plans, SP Energy Networks can work with the applicant on protective provisions to ensure any impacts arising during construction and operations which directly affect the network or are in close proximity do not undermine the safe operation of this network. Until the protective provisions are drafted and discussed and agreed with SP Energy Networks, then objection is raised to there being no provision in the application to such measures.

The applicant's assistance with this would help progress this matter. SP Energy Networks would like to resolve matters as much as possible and would like to see clarification on the crossover points/SPM assets as soon as further details can be provided.

Mitigation proposals will also need to take account of SPM assets and the operational requirements.

There are a number of key areas to resolve in relation to SPM network, which is critical to protect as it is this network that will be relied upon to distribute the generation into local homes and businesses. Any adverse impacts on the SPM network that need to be resolved by SPM would impact on the benefits of delivering this proposed scheme. The applicant should discuss the above with SP Energy Networks as soon as possible. Given the extent of the information prepared and submitted, it is a reasonable expectation for there to be a plan produced showing the SPM asset as likely to be most affected and how, and an SPM network diversions worksheet that outlines how this network will be managed within the proposed development.

SP Energy Networks will continue to review the application and may wish to raise further matters in due course and welcomes further engagement with the applicant.



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