



Pinsent Masons

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Dear Sirs

**SP MANWEB PLC: NORTH WALES WIND FARMS CONNECTION ORDER
AMENDMENTS TO THE APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER
PINS REFERENCE EN020014**

1. On 20 March 2015 SP Manweb PLC ("SP Manweb") submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change ("Secretary of State") its application for development consent ("Application") for a 132kV Overhead Line together with required pedestrian and vehicular access, temporary construction compound, construction lay down areas, mitigation planting and other integral works ("Proposed Development"). As you are aware, we act on behalf of SP Manweb and write to provide you an update on various matters.
2. SP Manweb is aware that a decision has been made by the developer of Nant Bach wind farm, Vattenfall Wind Power Limited ("Vattenfall"), that it will no longer be undertaking the development of the wind farm. This decision has been published on the company's website. As a result, SP Manweb is expecting the connection agreement to be terminated but at the time of writing this termination has not been formally received.
3. Given Vattenfall's announcement, SP Manweb has considered the implications, if any, of the termination on the examination of the Application. It considers there are three main issues:
 - 3.1.1 The proposed Nant Bach wind farm has a capacity of 22MW. Should Vattenfall terminate its connection agreement, then SP Manweb will not be under a contractual, or statutory, obligation to connect the wind farm. Accordingly, the total generation capacity that is to be connected into the distribution network would reduce from 170MW to 148MW. Therefore, does this reduction change the conclusion reached in the Strategic Options Report (DCO Document Reference 7.3) that the Proposed Development is the optimum technical solution to deliver the connection? This has been considered by SP Manweb and it considers the technical solution remains the same. The reasons for this conclusion will be explained in an addendum



to the Strategic Options Report which will be submitted to the Examining Authority on Deadline 1.

- 3.1.2 The costs of delivering the North Wales Wind Farms Connection are to be met by the Wind Farm developers. Whether the number of contracted developers is three or four is irrelevant in terms of the principle that contracted developers fund the connection. This will also be addressed in SP Manweb's submission for Deadline 1.
- 3.1.3 Does the reduction in the number of Wind Farms have an effect on the environmental impact assessment undertaken for the Proposed Development? In short, the answer to this question is "no" as the Nant Bach wind farm remains a consented scheme and should therefore remain in the cumulative impact assessment. This will also be addressed in SP Manweb's submission for Deadline 1.

4. **AMENDMENT TO THE APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT CONSENT**

- 4.1 Pinsent Masons, on behalf of SP Manweb, contacted the Examining Authority on 24 July 2015 to explain that it was SP Manweb's intention to submit an application to amend the Application and this would include additional land for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010.
- 4.2 It was SP Manweb's intention to make this application by 28 August 2015, as explained at the preliminary meeting. However, the decision of Vattenfall has meant that SP Manweb has had to review its Application and also consider carefully whether this would have any effect on proposed application to amend the Application. This has resulted in a slight delay to the proposed application.
- 4.3 SP Manweb will not be making this application on 28 August 2015, but will submit it as soon as it is possible. We currently expect that to be the end of the second week in September 2015.

Yours faithfully

PINSENT MASONS LLP

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