Queiros J (Joao)

From: Kidd W (William)
Sent: 25 March 2015 10:30
To: MS Marine Licensing
Subject: Megan Inner Sound Tidal Energy Project Phase 1 – Reporting Protocol for the Discovery of Marine Archaeology

Please find attached Historic Scotland’s response to the above management plan.
Dear Mr Queiros

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000
Meygen Inner Sound Tidal Energy Project Phase 1 – Reporting Protocol for the Discovery of Marine Archaeology

Thank you for your email of 26 February 2015 regarding the above proposed project, and specifically the Environmental Management Plan produced to discharge conditions of section 36 consent. In our comments here we have focussed on the Reporting Protocol for the Discovery of Marine Archaeology included in this document, as this relates to our historic environment interests.

Having reviewed the information provided, we are content that the reporting protocol is suitable to discharge condition 16 of the section 36 consent for this project in terms of the requirement to produce this document. We welcome the fact that the protocol submitted is in line with the Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries: Offshore Renewables Projects published by the Crown Estate.

I hope that this letter to helpful to you. Please contact me directly on the details provided above if it raises any issues which you would like to discuss further.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Cameron
Senior Heritage Management Officer, EIA
Thank you for consulting SEPA on the above proposal. Please find our response attached.

Where applicable this email has been copied to the agent and/or applicant.

This is an auto-generated email sent on behalf of SEPA’s Planning Service. Information on our planning service along with guidance for planning authorities, developers and any other interested party is available on our website at http://www.sepa.org.uk/planning.aspx.

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Dear Mr Queiros

Discharge of planning conditions relating to Section 36 consent and Marine licence MeyGen Tidal Energy Project (Inner Sound of the Pentland Firth) Phase 1 Canisbay, Caithness

Thank you for your consultation email which SEPA received on 26 February 2015 in connection with the discharge of conditions relating to the Construction Method Statement, Waste Management Plan and Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Advice for Marine Scotland

Please note that as we did not request that a Construction Method Statement or Waste Management Plan be a requirement of permission we have not considered these documents in detail; we have only considered them in so far as they are relevant to the EMP.

We have reviewed the submitted EMP and even although it is rather generic we are satisfied that the condition can be discharged. The developer should however note the advice outlined below.

Regulatory advice for the applicant

Details of general regulatory requirements and good practice advice for the applicant can be found on our website at www.sepa.org.uk/planning.aspx.

Please note that any proposals to move special waste will require a Special Waste Consignment Note. This includes a requirement for 3 days notice to SEPA; further details are available from www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_regulation/special_waste.aspx

All waste carriers also need to be registered with SEPA. Further details on this are available from www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_regulation/waste_carriers_and_brokers.aspx

If you are unable to find the advice you need for a specific regulatory matter, please contact a member of the operations team in your local SEPA office at: Strathbeg House, Clarence Street, Thurso, KW14 7JS, Tel: 01847 894422.
Should you wish to discuss this letter please do not hesitate to contact me on 01349 860359 or planning.dingwall@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Susan Haslam
Senior Planning Officer
Planning Service

Disclaimer
This advice is given without prejudice to any decision made on elements of the proposal regulated by us, as such a decision may take into account factors not considered at the planning stage. We prefer all the technical information required for any SEPA consents to be submitted at the same time as the planning application. However, we consider it to be at the applicant's commercial risk if any significant changes required during the regulatory stage necessitate a further planning application and/or neighbour notification or advertising. We have relied on the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied to us in providing the above advice and can take no responsibility for incorrect data or interpretation, or omissions, in such information. If we have not referred to a particular issue in our response, it should not be assumed that there is no impact associated with that issue. If you did not specifically request advice on flood risk, then advice will not have been provided on this issue. Further information on our consultation arrangements generally can be found in How and when to consult SEPA, and on flood risk specifically in the SEPA-Planning Authority Protocol.
Hi Joao,

Please find below our updated comments on the post-consent plans for the HDD works for the consented Phase 1 Inner Sound tidal array by MeyGen.

1. We commend MeyGen on the production of these plans, which all link together, compliment each other and cover the key issues of concern. We note, however, that the HDD works for the first bore are due to commence on the 14 March 2015, which leaves very little time to provide comment and, importantly, to implement any changes if required. Having reviewed the plans we do not consider any changes or further work is required, but we recommend that future plan revisions are submitted no later than 3 months prior to the commencement of works as stated in the section 36 conditions.

2. In section 4.3 of the EMP, and the other relevant sections in the other plans, we advise that the ECoW should also notify the licensing authority of both the commencement date and completion date. The ECoW should also provide an update report if any unexpected delays are encountered (also worth mentioning in section 4.7.1 external communication).

3. We note that the mitigation to minimise corkscrew injuries has changed to reflect the current SNiCB advice, and that it is recognised that the works will be undertaken in a sensitive area and, therefore, steps are included to minimise any collisions or propeller injuries. We will keep MeyGen informed of any further advice in relation to corkscrew injuries.

4. We agreed with the assessment of potential impacts and proposed mitigation in the EMP and also confirm that if the work is carried out as specified in the VMP, CMS and EMP, then an EPS licence will not be required for the HDD works. This is based on the short duration and temporal spacing of the works, and the proposed mitigation.

5. Although potential disturbance to seal haulouts from the HDD marine works has been considered in the plans, there is no mention of the potential disturbance from the onshore HDD works. However, having checked the Ecological Management Plan for the onshore construction works we are content that measures are in place to mitigate any potential impacts. We advise, however, that there is greater linkage between any works covering both the onshore and offshore, such as HDDs and cable installation.

6. We note that section 6.2 Construction works in the VMP still needs completing.

7. As mentioned in our email of the 19th February 2015 we agree that Ed’s role as Environmental Consents Manager would fulfil the role of an advisory Environmental and Ecological Clerk of Works (EECoW). However, considering the novel nature of the project we advise the need still for an independent auditing role, whether this is through an ECoW or other means requires further discussion, but this role is to ensure compliance with the conditions. The scope of works for both the advisory and auditing role should be produced in order to clearly define their roles and responsibilities, and detailed in the next versions of the post-consent plans.

8. It is noted that the plans only consider the HDD marine works, and that further versions of the plans for the other construction phases (including cable installation, turbine support structure installation, and turbine installation), operation and maintenance and decommissioning will be submitted to Marine Scotland for approval 3 months prior to the commencement of each phase.
We hope these comments are useful, and are happy to provide further advice if required.

Kind regards

Chris