

Mr Steven Wilson
BOWL Senior Project Manager
SSE Renewables Limited
1 Waterloo Street
Glasgow
G2 6AY



Our Ref: 003/OW/BOWL - 8
2nd November 2015

Dear Steven,

CONSENT UNDER SECTION 36 THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 (AS AMENDED) AND A MARINE LICENCE UNDER PART 4 OF THE MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 AND MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THE BEATRICE OFFSHORE WIND FARM AND TRANSMISSION WORKS, OUTER MORAY FIRTH.

Thank you for your letter of 2nd November 2015 (Ref: L000005-PLN-142) requesting that Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (“MS-LOT”) give their written approval to the revised Piling Strategy (Revision 4, issued 02/11/2015). Acceptance of the piling strategy will satisfy the requirements of condition 12 of the Section 36 Consent and condition 3.2.2.5 of the Offshore Transmission Works (OTW) Marine Licence (licence number: 04461/14/1) and enable MS-LOT to discharge these conditions.

MS-LOT, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, have consulted with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Scottish Natural Heritage, Marine Scotland Science and Whale and Dolphin Conservation and are content with the proposed strategy and mitigation protocol. MS-LOT feel that the majority of comments raised during the consultation on Revision 1 of the document have been addressed, most importantly the addition of the ADD deployment protocol. MS-LOT are also content that the chair of the MFRAG – MM subgroup has provided a report as requested in bullet 2 below and that BOWL have in an email dated 29th October and letter dated 30th October satisfactorily addressed bullets 1, 3 and 4 below:

1. The proposed piling strategy is a significant step away from the manner in which the JNCC guidance has generally been applied, for example in a protocol that includes a full suite of MMOs and PAM, and potentially ADDs. Therefore, MS-LOT require further comfort in addition to what is currently being offered on the sole use of ADDs. MS-LOT require BOWL to monitor the effectiveness of ADDs versus the use of dedicated MMO’s, for a period or periods of time not exceeding 28 days in total. The details must be presented in a plan to MS-LOT for their approval a maximum of six months before piling operations are scheduled to start. It is essential that any plan put forward includes the implementation of the JNCC MMO protocol alongside the use of ADDs and that the outputs are reported to MSS and MS-LOT. This requirement is intended to address some of the uncertainties within the mitigation protocol where it is suggested that ADDs are more effective than using in combination MMOs and PAM’s. It also should provide evidence in support of the alternative mitigation strategy.

2. Further, the formal “agreed” documentation from the MFRAG-MM sub group that substantiates the statement made in section 10.2.4 of the piling strategy that “The principles of this protocol have been agreed with the MFRAG-MM.” should be formally submitted to MS-LOT.
3. MS-LOT also require that a construction monitoring plan in relation to different response to ADDs (refer to JNCC letter dated 9th Sept 2015) is prepared. MS-LOT suggest that this be discussed at the next MFRAG-MM subgroup meeting.
4. The detailed comments set out in the Appendix had to be addressed prior to sign off on the revised piling strategy and before we confirmed discharge of the associated conditions. The actions contained in these comments were to be captured either in a further revision of the piling strategy or in an addendum.

Finally, MS-LOT can confirm that the submitted PS fullfills the requirements of, and is sufficient to discharge condition 12 of the Section 36 Consent and condition 3.2.2.5 of the OfTW Marine Licence (licence number: 04461/14/1), subject to it being implemented.

Any updates or amendments made to this PS by the Company, must be submitted in writing by the Company to the Scottish Ministers for their written approval.

Yours sincerely,



James McKie
Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team Leader