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BY EMAIL

06 March 2017

Dear Ms Aires

**Request for Scoping Opinion
Moray Offshore Windfarm (East) Limited
Moray East Offshore Windfarm – Alternative Design Parameters**

I write to request a formal Opinion on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) required in terms of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 and the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) 2007 to support applications for a new Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence for alternative design parameters to those permitted under the consents for the Telford, Stevenson and MacColl wind farms. A scoping report has been prepared to inform consultation and accompanies this request.

Moray Offshore Windfarm (East) Limited (known as Moray East) is seeking a new consent to take advantage of recent technological improvements which will enable offshore wind generation in the Moray Firth to be undertaken more economically than with the infrastructure for which consent of 1,116 MW was previously granted on this site in 2014. Wind turbine technology has progressed rapidly since 2012 when Moray Offshore Renewables Limited (renamed 'Moray East' in 2016) applied for consent to develop offshore wind generation on the site. It has become possible to increase the efficiency of generation using larger turbines, but fewer of them. This increase in efficiency delivers the cost reduction objectives set by Government through the 2013 Energy Act.

To deliver cost reduction by using fewer, larger turbines, alternative design parameters are required to those consented in 2014 to accommodate a smaller number of larger turbines, with increased spacing between them. The scoping report examines those alternative turbine design parameters, and also includes options for suction bucket foundations. The proposed wind farm consent application will not increase the consented capacity or the size of the Moray East site.

The structure of the consents as proposed is also different than before. Previously the Moray East site was divided into three wind farms sites (Stevenson, Telford and McColl) for which separate consents and marine licences were granted. A single Section 36 consent and Marine Licence will be sought for the Moray East Site (which may be built out in a maximum of three phases) rather than three separate Section 36 Consents and Marine Licences.

The scoping report contains details of the proposed alternative design parameters along with site characterisation information currently available. It identifies potential impacts that will be studied in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and identifies those that can be scoped out and why. It proposes the studies and the surveys to inform the EIA process and outlines proposed stakeholder engagement. We will continue to build on the strong relationships we have built through earlier stakeholder engagement and we will continue to work closely with stakeholders as our proposals develop. Public consultation events will also be held in the coming months.

Following confirmation from MS-LOT that consultation will commence on 13 March in relation to this Scoping Request then Moray East will provide two hard copies and two CD copies of the Scoping Report to Marine Scotland and electronic/hard copies to consultees as appropriate. We understand that a copy of the Scoping Report will be available online on the Marine Scotland website. A copy of the Scoping report will also be available within the project website <http://morayoffshorerenewables.com/Document-Library.aspx>.

Yours sincerely


Sarah Pirie ✓
Head of Development