

28 April 2017

Marine Scotland, on behalf of
the Scottish Ministers
Marine Laboratory
PO Box 101
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Dear Sirs,

Inch Cape Wind Farm and Offshore Transmission Works Application:

Request for a Scoping Opinion under Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 and the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended)

This letter and the enclosed Scoping Report represent a request from Inch Cape Offshore Limited (ICOL) for a Scoping Opinion, in accordance with the above Regulations from the Scottish Ministers for the proposed Inch Cape Wind Farm and Offshore Transmission Works.

In accordance with Regulation 7(2) of the Electricity Works Regulations and Schedule 4(1) of the Marine Works Regulations, the following information has been provided to support this request:

- a plan sufficient to identify the site which is the subject of the proposed development/a chart, plan or map sufficient to identify the location of the regulated activity and of other activities to be carried out in the course of the project (Figure 4-1 in the Scoping Report)
- a brief description of the nature and purpose of the proposed development and of its possible effects on the environment/a brief description of the nature and purpose of the project and the regulated activity and their p [REDACTED] nment (Sections 4 and 7-9 of the Scoping Report); and
- such further information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make/such other information or representations as the applicant may wish to provide or make.

The Inch Cape Wind Farm

In 2014 ICOL gained consents for the construction and operation of the Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm and associated OfTW, situated in the Outer Firth of Tay off the east coast of Scotland. For the purposes of scoping this is referred to as the 'Original Development'. The consents are currently the subject of a Judicial Review.

In parallel with the Judicial Review, ICOL is promoting the development of an offshore wind farm and associated offshore transmission works, described in the Scoping Report as the 'Revised Development'. The Revised Development is being developed to take advantage of advancements in offshore wind technology to achieve ICOL's twin objectives of improving project economics while reducing associated environmental effects. This has resulted in a significant reduction in turbine numbers and associated infrastructure.

ICOL intends to submit an application to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to allow construction and operation of an offshore generating station (the Inch Cape Wind Farm) and Marine Licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 for the Inch Cape Wind Farm and associated Offshore Transmission Works to allow for the construction and deposition of substances and structures in the sea and on the seabed.

The Scoping Report

As the Revised Development is broadly analogous to the Original Development, in terms of location and [REDACTED], ICOL has adopted a particular approach to scoping.

The Scoping Report sets out ICOL's intention to maximise, where appropriate, the use of existing data and the conclusions of the EIA for the Original Development in the EIA for the Revised Development. ICOL is seeking agreement on the following approach, relying on the Original Development EIA to:

- Characterise the baseline environment to inform the Revised Development EIA where data is sufficient and it is appropriate to do so;
- Scope out impacts where there is clear evidence for doing so; and
- Where impacts are scoped in, to draw upon the pre-existing evidence base and previous impact assessment work where appropriate in preparing the Revised Development EIA.

This approach is intended to focus the Revised Development EIA on those potential impacts that are most likely to give rise to significant effects (or where uncertainty exists in relation to the validity of the previous assessments) and thereby avoid revisiting assessments where the conclusions reached previously in the Environmental Statement for the Original Development can be shown to be applicable to the Revised Development through the scoping process.

We trust the information contained within the Scoping Report is sufficient to enable you to consult the relevant consultees and for you to subsequently adopt a Scoping Opinion. We would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this submission, along with notification of the expiry date of the statutory period.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Copeland
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