

Ms Esther Villoria
Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited
3rd Floor, The Tun Building
4 Jackson's Entry
Holyrood Road
Edinburgh
EH8 8PJ

20 September 2017

Dear Ms Villoria

**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2017 (AS AMENDED)**

THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 (AS AMENDED)

DECISION NOTICE RELATIVE TO APPLICATION FOR MULTI-STAGE CONSENT

**FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND
DEPLOYMENT CENTRE ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATION, ABERDEEN BAY,
APPROXIMATELY 2KM EAST OF BLACKDOG, ABERDEENSHIRE WITH A MAXIMUM
GENERATION CAPACITY OF 100 MW.**

1.1 Description of the Application

1.1.1 On 26th March 2013 the Scottish Ministers, granted in favour of Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited (Company Number SC278869) having its registered office at The Tun Building, 4 Jacksons Entry, 8 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AE ("the Company") consent under section 36 ("s.36") of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) relative to the above works. Condition 24 of the said s.36 consent requires the Company to submit a Vessel Management Plan ("VMP") for approval by the Scottish Ministers prior to commencing the above works.

1.1.2 On 6th March 2017 the Company submitted to the Scottish Ministers the VMP and applied for the multi-stage consent in relation thereto in accordance with condition 24 of the said s.36 consent.

1.2 Summary of Consultation Responses

1.2.1 The Scottish Ministers consulted with the Maritime Coastguard Agency ("MCA"), the Northern Lighthouse Board ("NLB"), Scottish Natural Heritage ("SNH"), Aberdeen Harbour

Board (“AHB”), UK Chamber of Shipping (“UK CoS”) and Whale and Dolphin Conservation (“WDC”) in respect of the VMP.

1.2.2 SNH advised that reference to the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code should be included in the VMP together with detail on staff training relative thereto. In addition, SNH advised that further detail on prevention measures to avoid the introduction of invasive non-native species, especially in relation to the delivery of turbines from continental ports, should be included in the VMP. The VMP was amended by the Company to the satisfaction of SNH who confirmed the VMP contained sufficient detail regarding the management of reducing disturbance from vessels transiting to the site on marine wildlife and detail on preventative measures to reduce the chance of the probability of introducing invasive non-native species in accordance with relevant international legislation and guidelines.

1.2.3 The NLB confirmed they were content with the detail within the VMP. The NLB acknowledged that the VMP would be amended should the need for Guard/Safety Vessels arise and further confirmed they would continue regular communications with the Company to ensure mariners are well informed of the works but otherwise raised no concerns or objections to the VMP.

1.2.4 The MCA, UK CoS and WDC confirmed they had no comments on the VMP. No response was received from AHB.

1.3 Reasons and Considerations on which this decision is based

1.3.1 An amended VMP was submitted to the Scottish Ministers by the Company on 6th September 2017.

1.3.2 The Scottish Ministers have fully considered all other representations received regarding the VMP.

1.3.3 The Scottish Ministers have also considered the information detailed in the ‘Independent Evaluation of the Potential Impact of the Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm upon Salmon and Sea Trout’ by Anthony D. Hawkins together with the reviews undertaken by the Company, CH2M, Scottish Natural Heritage and Nathan Merchant of the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science relative thereto. The said information is either available on the Marine Scotland licensing page of the Scottish Government’s website or upon request to the Scottish Ministers.

1.3.4 In addition, the Scottish Ministers have considered advice provided by Marine Scotland Science that there is no new information since the said s.36 consent was granted which has led to the identification of significant effects where none were previously identified in the Environmental Statement (“ES”) and Supplementary Environmental Information Statement (“SEIS”).

1.3.5 The information contained in the VMP is within the parameters of what has already been assessed within the ES and SEIS submitted in respect of the said s.36 consent.

1.4 Reasoned Conclusion

1.4.1 As set out above the Scottish Ministers, are satisfied that they have sufficient information to enable them to reasonably conclude that the effects of the VMP have already been considered within the ES and SEIS previously assessed in respect of the said s.36 consent. No new significant effects on the environment have been identified within the VMP.

1.4.2 In taking into account the information set out above, the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that this information is relevant, appropriate and up to date.

1.5 Determination and Terms of Decision

1.5.1 The Scottish Ministers, hereby approve the VMP as submitted on 6th September 2017 and grant multi-stage consent in relation thereto.

1.5.2 In the event that the Company wishes to update or amend the VMP, the Company must submit, in writing, details of the proposed updates or amendments to the Scottish Ministers for their written approval prior to the planned implementation of the proposed updates or amendments. It is not permissible for any works associated with the proposed updates or amendments to proceed prior to the granting of such approval.

1.5.3 Unless otherwise agreed, in writing by the Scottish Ministers, the works must be constructed and operated in accordance with the VMP.

1.5.4 This Decision Notice has been published on the Marine Scotland licensing page of the Scottish Government's website:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/scoping/EOWDC>.

1.5.5 A copy of this Decision Notice has also been sent to the relevant planning authorities.

Yours sincerely


Kerry Bell
20 September 2017
Authorised by the Scottish Ministers to sign in that behalf

