

Ms Esther Villoria
Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited
The Tun Building
4 Jackson's Entry
8 Holyrood Road
Edinburgh
EH8 8AE

9th October 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 13 of the said s.36 consent, requires the Company to submit a Construction Method Statement ("CMS") for approval by the Scottish Ministers prior to commencing the above works.

1.1.2 On 20th March 2017 the Company submitted to the Scottish Ministers the CMS and applied for multi-stage consent in relation thereto in accordance with condition 13 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"), Scottish Environment Protection Agency ("SEPA"), Aberdeenshire Council ("AC") and Aberdeen City Council ("ACC") in respect of the CMS.

Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road,
Aberdeen AB11 9DB
www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine

1.2.2 SEPA initially requested further information on a number of matters relating to landfill location 2 and raised concerns regarding the potential for the CMS to contradict information required as part of the Company's planning permission. The Company amended the CMS in light of SEPA's comments including the removal of references to landfill location 2 and the associated use of HDD. SEPA confirmed they were content with the amended CMS. SNH confirmed they were content with the CMS and did not require any further detail relative to the suction bucket foundations or their installation. The NLB confirmed they were content with the information contained within the CMS and any procedures to be employed along with construction related mitigation measures to reduce the risk in the marine environment. AC queried whether the foundations for the above works would be delivered to the site using the local road network and the implications of this, however the Company confirmed that the foundations would be transported by vessel and not road. The MCA confirmed they were content with the CMS. ACC made no comments on the CMS.

1.3 Reasons and Considerations on which this decision is based

1.3.1 An amended CMS was submitted to the Scottish Ministers by the Company on 4th October 2017.

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

1.3.2 The Scottish Ministers have 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.

1.3.3 The Scottish Ministers have also 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") in relation to the CMS.

1.3.4 The information contained in the CMS 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 CMS 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 CMS.

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 CMS as submitted on 4th October 2017 and grant multi-stage consent in relation thereto.

1.5.2 In the event that the Company wishes to update or amend the CMS, 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, construction of the works must proceed in accordance with the CMS.

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.

Signed by



Kerry Bell

9th October 2017

Authorised by the Scottish Ministers to sign in that behalf

