

Ms Esther Villoria  
Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm  
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4 Jackson's Entry  
Holyrood Road  
Edinburgh  
EH8 8PJ

Our Ref: 8 018/OW/AOWFL – 9

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

Dear Ms Villoria,

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989**

*The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended)*

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010, PART 4 MARINE LICENSING**

*The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended)*

Thank you for your correspondence of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 requesting that Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team ("MS-LOT") give their written approval to Revision 8 (issued 08/03/2018) of the Cable Laying Strategy ("CLS") (including details on the use of a backhoe dredger and change in timescales) (Document Reference: ABE-ENV-DB-003\_Rev.8).

A previous version of the CLS (Revision 5, issued 09/08/2017) received multi-stage and regulatory consent from MS LOT, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, in a letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and deemed it sufficient to fully discharge condition 15 of the Section 36 consent and conditions 3.2.1.2 and 3.2.1.7 of Marine Licence 04309/16/1), subject to it being fully implemented. The use of the backhoe dredger was included in revision 5 of the CLS. Revision 6 of the CLS received approval from MS-LOT on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017. MS-LOT approved revision 7 of the CLS on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018. In the last two revision, the use of the backhoe dredger was superseded by proposing the use of a trenchformer. However, as consequence of issues arising the trenchformer now cannot be used. Similarly, timescales had to be revised and extended.

MS-LOT, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, consulted with the Maritime Coastguard Agency ("MCA"), the Northern Lighthouse Board ("NLB"), Scottish Natural Heritage ("SNH"), Scottish Environment Protection Agency ("SEPA"), the Don District Salmon Fishery Board ("Don DSFB"), the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board ("Dee DSFB"), Aberdeenshire Council ("AC") and Aberdeen City Council ("ACC") and obtained advice from Marine Scotland Science ("MSS") on the implication of using the backhoe dredger as well as the consequences of changing timescales. No objections were raised by consultees.

MS-LOT, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, having considered the responses from the aforementioned consultees and the advice provided by MSS, confirm their approval of the revised CLS (Revision 8, issued 08/03/2018). Any further updates or amendments made to the CLS by the Company, must be submitted in writing by the Company to the Scottish Ministers for their written approval prior to the planned implementation of the proposed amendments or updates.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica Drew  
Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team