

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

Our Ref: 8 018/OW/AOWFL – 9

11th May 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 7th May 2018 requesting that Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team ("MS-LOT") give their written approval to Revision 9 (issued 27/04/2018) of the Cable Laying Strategy ("CLS") (including details on the mass flow excavation installation method and change in timescales) (Document Reference: ABE-ENV-DB-0003_Rev.9).

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 21st September 2017 which 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.

Revision 6 of the CLS received approval from MS-LOT on 20th December 2017. MS-LOT approved revision 7 of the CLS on the 24th January 2018. Revision 8 was approved on the 23rd March 2018, this revision was to include the use of a backhoe dredger and to change the Works timescales. The mass flow excavation installation method was included in all the revisions, however, revision 9 provides further detail on the reasons for its use, and the area and method involved.

MS-LOT, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, obtained advice from Marine Scotland Science ("MSS"), Scottish Natural Heritage ("SNH") and other stakeholders on the implication of extending works to July and the use of the mass excavation method and no objections were raised. Some sections of the cables are exposed, therefore, to avoid electro-magnetic field issues, the preference is that the cable works are completed promptly.

Some concerns have been raised surrounding the cable works being carried out during salmon smolts period. However, MS-LOT on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, have considered the advice provided by MSS and SNH and also the current available information related to this, and can confirm approval of the revised CLS (Revision 9, issued 27/04/2018) and therefore the works can proceed. Should new research will become available on salmon migration, the Scottish Ministers will request further information to ensure no significant impact is occurring.

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