



Mr A Meredith
Berwick Bank Wind Farm Limited
Inveralmond House
200 Dunkeld Road
Perth
PH1 3AQ

10 June 2022

Dear Alex,

In response to your letter dated 4 April 2022, the background summary provided at paragraph 1 is noted and accepted. Your letter contains extensive discussion of a number of issues but this response is focused on the nature of the proposed Berwick Bank Wind Farm, including offshore transmission assets to landfall at Skateraw or Thorntonloch (the “Proposed Development”), relevant to the Scoping Opinion issued on 4 February 2022 (the “Scoping Opinion”).

The Scoping Opinion advised that the additional offshore cable was a necessary and integral part of the Proposed Development. This was based on information contained within the Scoping Report, consultation responses from NatureScot and the Scottish Fisherman’s Federation, and also a meeting between the Berwick Bank Wind Farm Limited (the “Applicant”) and Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (“MS-LOT”) on 13 January 2022 during which minutes were taken for the purposes of recording the salient points of discussion. This meeting note, provided by the Applicant, recorded that “SSE currently hold connection offers for 2.3GW connecting into Branxton pre 2030. A grid connection offer for the remaining 1.8GW was received late in 2021, connecting into Blyth in N. England. SSE are minded to accept the offer....”

In your letter dated 4 April 2022 you state at paragraph 7.3 that ‘*the Scoping Opinion is based on an incorrect understanding of the transmission infrastructure proposed as part of the Proposed Development*’. At paragraph 33 you advise that the 10 OSPs and up to 12 offshore export cables described in the Scoping Report are sufficient to transmit 4.1 GW of installed capacity. Further detail is provided at paragraphs 36 and 37 of the letter:

“There are two signed grid connection agreements with the network operator in respect of the Proposed Development, both at Branxton substation, totalling 2.3GW of capacity. A third signed grid connection agreement with the network operator allows for a further 1.85GW of capacity to be connected at Branxton South in 2036. This third connection agreement has been subject to a review process known as a Connection Infrastructure Options Note (CION) which has established that there is capacity available for an earlier connection of 1.8GW at Blyth (Northumberland).

As is customary once the CION process has been concluded, the Applicant has therefore received an offer for connection of 1.8GW at Blyth to replace and supersede the 2036 connection agreement for Branxton. This Blyth connection offer is however specifically subject to the ongoing OTNR, a process which has explicitly retained the option to connect the 1.8GW remaining capacity of the Proposed Development at Branxton, as well as other connection options still under consideration by the network operator as part of NGESO’s holistic network review.”

Relying on your representations and in particular, the clarifications on the nature and scope of the project, the Scottish Ministers understand that the additional cable is not an integral, necessary part of the Proposed Development and the application for the Proposed Development is not required to include the additional cable.

The Applicant will be required to provide a sufficient cumulative assessment of the additional cable within the EIA report for the Proposed Development.

The information in this letter in relation to the additional cable supersedes the information contained in the Scoping Opinion at paragraph 2.4.1. The practical consequence of this is that the EIA Report is required to be based on the Scoping Opinion (as per Regulation 6(3) of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, and Regulation 5(3) of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017), excluding those parts of that Scoping Opinion specifically relating to the additional cable being part of the Proposed Development.

MS-LOT will publish this letter, which should be read alongside the Scoping Opinion.

Yours sincerely

Gayle Holland
Offshore Renewables Consenting Section Head
Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team