

Rebecca Bamlett
Marine Scotland, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers,
Marine Laboratory
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Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

2021.04.07

Dear Rebecca,

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Dounreay Tri Floating Demonstration Project: Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 consent condition 2

CVR 37994006

I am writing to you on behalf of Highland Wind Limited, who on 3rd March 2021 was assigned the Section 36 consent awarded to Dounreay Tri Limited (in administration) on 16th March 2017 for the Dounreay Tri Floating Demonstration Project (with deemed planning permission and a Section 36A Declaration). Highland Wind Limited acquired a majority stake in the project in late 2020 with the intention of progressing it as a single turbine demonstrator project ahead of developing a larger floating array project.

As part of the Dounreay Tri Floating Demonstration consent a number of conditions were granted, Condition 2 in the consent notes the following:

Commencement of Development

The Commencement of the Development must be no later than five years from the date of this consent, or in substitution such other period as the Scottish Ministers may hereafter agree and confirm in writing. Written confirmation of the intended date of Commencement of Development must be provided to THC, OIC and Scottish Ministers no later than one calendar month before that date or at such as time as agreed with Scottish Ministers.

Reason: To ensure that the Commencement of the Development is undertaken within a reasonable timescale after consent is granted.

With the recent acquisition of the project, Highland Wind Limited is requesting to the Scottish Ministers an extension in time to the Commencement of the Development, which would currently expire in March 2022.

Highland Wind Limited is proposing to develop a single turbine demonstrator project, with indicative Final Investment Decision scheduled for April 2022, and commencement of construction one year later in April 2023. These dates may be subject to change due to ongoing COVID restrictions and the longer-term market impacts resulting from this.

At the same time as progressing the demonstration project Highland Wind Limited has submitted to Marine Scotland, a Scoping Report for the development of an up to 100MW floating project (Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm) located in the same area as the demonstrator. The intention is to trial the technology through the demonstrator, before installing the larger array, which once installed will be the largest floating offshore wind project in Scotland.

The demonstrator project is therefore seen by Highland Wind Limited as the gateway to the development of the larger Pentland floating array project, as well as future potential floating projects in ScotWind. Innovations and technology trialled in this demonstrator project will be key to the commercialisation of the floating technology and gaining invaluable understanding of the impacts resulting from floating wind for the development of this technology in Scotland. Our intention with progressing the demonstrator project followed by the array, is to contribute to the development of a strong local supply chain for floating wind in Scotland.

In order to allow Highland Wind Limited the time to develop the demonstration project accordingly, we are requesting an additional three years to Commence the Development, with the expiration, unless otherwise agreed, 15th March 2025. This would be aligned with our Agreement for Lease with the Crown Estate Scotland and takes into account any potential longer term delays due to COVID restrictions including the potential for ongoing impacts on consenting authorities and the market going forward.

The previous application and Environmental Statement (ES) was submitted in 2016. It is considered that the findings of this ES and the environmental data used to inform it remain valid for the purposes extending the Commencement of the Development date, whilst also taking into account the scale of the development and the potential impacts as assessed in the ES. The additional time provided by the Commencement of Development extension, in combination with the post-consent conditions would ensure that no additional environmental impacts will be encountered.

We are therefore requesting, that the Ministers exercise the discretion allowed for in Condition 2 of the consents and extend the period allowed for commencement of development for a further three years.

If you require any further information on either project, or the request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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Andrew Blyth
Floating Consents and Environment Manager