

6 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

6.1 Background

- 6.1 There are a number of directives and policies dealing with consultation procedures for large infrastructure projects such as a marine renewable energy development. MeyGen has undertaken consultation in accordance with the relevant procedures, guidance and policies. In addition, from the commencement of the Project, MeyGen has been advocates of early consultation, maintaining full and open communications with stakeholders and other interested parties.
- 6.2 Under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 an applicant is required to undertake pre-application consultation on "Major" development schemes before an application is submitted. The statutory consultation requirements are for a public meeting to be held locally, and notice of the application to be advertised and brought to the attention of local community councils. Guidance on community consultation is set out in the Scottish Government document Planning Advice Note PAN81 (Community Engagement) and PAN 2010/3 (Community Engagement).
- 6.3 The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 contains similar provisions for certain types of marine development, although these are not yet a formal legal requirement.
- 6.4 Following submission of the application, formal consultation is also undertaken on the Environmental Statement (ES) with statutory consultees and the public.
- 6.5 Further to this MeyGen recognise the importance of early consultation that continues throughout the Project in order to integrate public and stakeholder concerns and opinions into the Project decision making process. Consequently, consultation with both statutory and non-statutory stakeholders has been an integral aspect of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process since the initial days of the Project. The primary aim of the consultation process is to facilitate two way communications about the Project to all relevant stakeholders. This allows any initial environmental concerns to be identified at an early stage and to be adequately addressed during the EIA process.
- 6.6 Alongside the consultation as part of the EIA process, consultation has also been undertaken for the Navigation Risk Assessment (NRA) and the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA).
- 6.7 This section of the ES describes the overall consultation process that was undertaken for the Project. Detailed information on topic specific consultation is included in study specific sections throughout the ES.

6.2 Consultation Engagement

- 6.8 Since Atlantis Resources Corporation first visited the region in 2006, MeyGen has made numerous trips to the area and a number of meetings have taken place with both statutory and non-statutory consultees and the wider public.
- 6.9 MeyGen developed a stakeholder engagement plan early in the EIA process which set out their strategy for consultation and keeps records of all events and meetings that take place throughout the Project in a dedicated Project stakeholder database.
- 6.10 The consultation strategy for the MeyGen Tidal Energy Project includes a combination of activities to ensure that the Project team not only effectively communicate details of the Project to the stakeholders, but also, as appropriate, can incorporate stakeholders' comments and concerns into project decisions. These consultative activities have included face to face meetings with the consenting authorities and their statutory consultees, public events, development and continuous update of the MeyGen website, and specific communications and meetings with the local community council and Scottish Government policy makers. Social networking and the local, national and international media have also been used to disseminate project information.
- 6.11 All of the responses received during consultation were documented and appropriate actions identified. The consultation process identified a range of issues which were either directly associated with the Project or

were more strategic issues. Each issue raised was considered and addressed by MeyGen and, where appropriate individual responses compiled and further meetings arranged. Issues raised contributed to finalising the detailed scope of the EIA.

6.3 Scoping Overview and Consultation

6.3.1 Background

- 6.12 Under EIA Regulations, the ES should describe the likely significant effects of the proposed project on the environment. Scoping of potential issues associated with physical and operational aspects of the project provides a basis for ensuring that the assessment is appropriately limited to issues of genuine potential significance. Under EIA Regulations, the developer of a project requiring EIA may before submitting their formal application ask the regulator, to state in writing their opinion as to the information to be provided in the ES.

6.3.2 Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

- 6.13 In May 2011 MeyGen requested a formal EIA Scoping Opinion from the Scottish Ministers by submitting a EIA Scoping Report (and accompanying navigational Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA)) for the Project to Marine Scotland.
- 6.14 A formal EIA Scoping Opinion was received on the 30th September 2011. It details the views of the statutory consultees and what they deem necessary for consideration by the EIA and reported in the ES. As well as statutory consultees, the EIA Scoping Report was also distributed to a number of non-statutory bodies. Table 6.1 lists all the organisations that were sent a copy of the EIA Scoping Report. The EIA Scoping Report was also made available to the wider public via the MeyGen website.

Organisations sent a copy of the EIA Scoping Report	
Government, Regulators and Councils	
Marine Scotland	The Highland Council
Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit	Orkney Islands Council
Scottish Government Ports and Harbours	DECC (Department for Energy and Climate Change)
Scottish Government Planning	The Crown Estate
Marine Planning Partnerships	Dunnet and Canisbay Community Council
Marine Scotland Compliance	
HSE	
Health and Safety Executive	
Navigation and Transport	
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Scrabster Harbour Trust
Northern Lighthouse Board	Wick Harbour Authority
Ministry of Defence (MoD) Defence Estates	Gills Bay Harbour Trust
Chamber of Shipping	Orkney Island Council Marine Services
British Ports Association	Pentland Ferries
RNLI	John o' Groats Ferries
Royal Yachting Association (RYA)	Northlink Ferries
Marine Safety Forum	CAA (Civil Aviation Authority)
The Cruising Association	NATS (National Air Traffic Service)
Transport Scotland	
Nature Conservation and Cultural Heritage	
SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage)	Historic Scotland

Organisations sent a copy of the EIA Scoping Report	
SEPA (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency)	Rural Scotland
JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee)	The National Trust for Scotland
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Caithness Archaeology Trust
Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Castle of Mey
Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS)	The Prince's Foundation
Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society	Caithness Field Club
Marine Conservation Society	Caithness Sea Watching
Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU)	
Commercial Fisheries	
Association of Salmon Fisheries Board (ASFB)	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)	Orkney Fisheries Association
Caithness District Salmon Fishery Board	Orkney Fishermen's Society
Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers	Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland
Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency	Scottish White Fish Producers' Association
Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers	Scottish Salmon Producers Association
Scottish Creelers and Divers	Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association
Scottish Fisheries Committee	Caithness Sea Angling Association
Seafish Industry Authority	Armadale Salmon Fishing
Caithness Static Gear Fishermen's Association	Energy Hunt Ltd
Industry and Academia	
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	Dounreay Site Restoration Limited
Caithness Chamber of Commerce	Dounreay Stakeholder Group
BT (Radio Network Protection Team)	Highland and Island Enterprise
Scottish and Southern Energy	National Grid
Scottish Water	Environmental Research Institute, Thurso
United Kingdom Cable Protection Committee	Heriot Watt University ICIT, Orkney
British Marine Aggregate Producers Association	Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership
Forestry Commission	Marine5 Ltd
Joint Radio Company	
Recreation and Tourism	
Visit Scotland	Scottish Surfing Federation
Caithness Diving Club	Surfers against Sewage
Scottish Canoe Association	Scottish Coastal Forum
Scotways	Glasgow North College
Pentland Canoe Club	Glenmore Lodge

Table 6.1: EIA Scoping opinion consultees

6.3.3 Post EIA Scoping Report

6.15 Following receipt of the EIA Scoping Opinion each issue raised (of which there were over 250) was reviewed and implications to the overall Project, as well as the EIA, considered. Where appropriate, further meetings and discussions were held, generally on a topic specific basis, throughout the EIA. These were necessary in order to refine the scope of EIA studies being undertaken, based on the EIA Scoping Opinion

received and / or results of EIA studies as they became available. This on-going consultation was an important aspect in ensuring the EIA addressed all issues required in the appropriate manner.

6.4 Consultation with the Local Community

- 6.16 The Public Participation Directive (Directive 2003/35/EC) was issued to provide members of the public in European member states with the opportunity to participate in consenting and ongoing regulation of certain activities within member states. The Directive makes specific changes to the way EIA is undertaken, and the EIA Directive has been amended to incorporate these requirements.
- 6.17 Planning Advice Note PAN 81: Community Engagement - Planning with People also provides guidance to local authorities and developers when engaging communities through the planning process.
- 6.18 Under the Development Management Procedure (Scotland) Regulations 2008 there is a statutory requirement to undertake pre application consultation on "major" development. MeyGen has undertaken this consultation, which is outlined in more detail in the pre application consultation report submitted with the onshore planning application.
- 6.19 Following discussions with Marine Scotland, MeyGen has undertaken a similar process for the Marine License in accordance with the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 6.20 MeyGen has been committed to community consultation from the start of the Project. MeyGen understands the importance and relevance of the marine environment and industries to the local community and has actively strived to develop relationships with the local community.
- 6.21 The local community have been regularly updated on the progress of the Project through a variety of media. One of the best media for reaching a high proportion of the local community is the local newspapers (Caithness Courier and John o' Groats Journal). MeyGen has also ensured that their website (www.meygen.com) is kept up to date with activities relating to the Project. The website also includes details on how to become involved with the supply chain and provides a means for asking questions regarding the Project.
- 6.22 As well as local media the Project has received national coverage in newspapers, on the radio and television and on the web.
- 6.23 A series of public events have been organised during the EIA. The first public event was held to inform the public of the current project design and timescales. It was held at Caithness Horizons, Thurso on 30th June and 1st July and Mey Community Hall on 2nd of July.
- 6.24 A second public event was held on the 6th and 7th December 2011 at Mey Community Hall to inform the public of the content of the ES prior to submission of the consent applications. This was done in accordance with the statutory pre-application consultation requirements.
- 6.25 Prior to the events notices were included in the local press, local radio and posters sent round numerous organisations and individuals within the local area. The events consisted of a series of mounted boards giving background to and details of the project design (as known at the time). Members of the public were able to attend the informal drop in sessions throughout the afternoon and early evening and had the opportunity to speak to members of the MeyGen Project team and the environmental consultants. Visitors were also invited to leave comments and fill out a questionnaire.
- 6.26 The results from these events have been documented and used to inform elements of the Project design, EIA and consent applications.
- 6.27 MeyGen has also taken part in The Crown Estate Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters (PFO) community events. These have been designed to give maximum exposure of all the developers in the region to the public. An initial event to introduce the public to the Projects plans and staff was held in Thurso between 9-10th November 2010 and in Kirkwall between 12-13th November 2010. The events were attended by over 700 people.

- 6.28 A second PFOW public event was held in Thurso (28th November 2011) and Kirkwall (29th November 2011). The event included presentations and workshops to discuss key issues including environmental impacts and local supply chain.
- 6.29 The PFOW developers also began consultation with local fishermen and fisheries groups with presentations and a question and answer session held in Scrabster on 8th March 2011 and Kirkwall on 9th March 2011. In addition, MeyGen has undertaken its own consultation with local fishermen and fisheries groups, more details can be found in Section 16.
- 6.30 For the NRA consultation has been undertaken with the Marine and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and other shipping, navigation, recreational sailing and fishing interests that navigate through and within the Project area. Consultation has included a number of meetings and a Hazard Review Workshop with the MCA and other stakeholders. Through this process shipping and navigation features within the Project area and potential risks related to the Project have been identified. This information has been used to inform the risk assessment undertaken as part of the NRA.

6.5 Consultation with Government and Council

- 6.31 MeyGen has attended regular meetings with both Marine Scotland and The Highland Council in order to keep them directly informed and up to date with progress of the Project.
- 6.32 Meetings have included:
- General EIA and HRA updates;
 - Consultation on EIA and HRA methodologies;
 - Major Planning Application advice service (The Highland Council);
 - Project consenting strategy, and
 - Onshore design workshop (The Highland Council, and SNH).

6.6 Consultation beyond Application Submission

- 6.33 Consultation will continue beyond the submission of the ES. Assuming successful award of Project consent, licence condition implementation, including the development of appropriate environmental monitoring protocols, will generally require continuing engagement and consultation with the regulators and their statutory consultees. In addition, MeyGen will continue its communications with the local community and wider public to keep them informed of the Project process and key milestones.

This page is intentionally blank.