

Aberdeenshire Council

MacFarlane M (Marc)

From: stuart.murison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Sent: 18 September 2020 13:53
To: England D (Debbie)
Cc: Agnisola G (Giulia)
Subject: Aberdeenshire Council Ref No ENQ/2020/1335
Attachments: ufm2.pdf

Categories: Saved in eRDM
Objective: -1

Please find attached important correspondence from Aberdeenshire Council, Planning and Environment Service.

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Our Ref: ENQ/2020/1335
Your Ref:

Ask for: Stuart Murison
Tel: 01467 537696
Email: stuart.murison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Marine Scotland
Scottish Government
Marine Laboratory
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

18 September 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017(AS AMENDED) (“the Electricity Works EIA
Regulations”)**

**THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2017 (AS AMENDED) (“the Marine Works EIA Regulations”)**

**SCREENING OPINION ON PROPOSED VARIATION TO SECTION 36 CONSENT AND
GENERATING STATION MARINE LICENCE FOR THE MORAY WEST OFFSHORE
WIND FARM, MORAY FIRTH**

**EIA Screening Opinion for Variation to Section 36 Consent and Generating Station
Marine Licence for the Moray West Offshore Windfarm at Moray West Offshore Wind
Farm, Outer Moray Firth**

I refer to your request for a Screening opinion for the above proposal received on 11 September 2020. Having reviewed the detail of the submission, I can confirm that in terms of Aberdeenshire Council’s interests, the proposed amendments to the development are not considered to be so significant as to represent EIA Development.

The proposed amendments concern an increase in proposed wind turbine blade width from 6m up to 6.6m in one of the potential three development scenarios approved. Aberdeenshire Council’s primary interests with regard to this development relate to the Sea and Landscape Visual Impact of the scheme. In the event of this increased blade width being utilised, it is not considered that this would lead to any significantly differential impacts compared to the approved development. The 0.6m or 10% change in blade width is highly unlikely to be noticeable from any viewpoints within Aberdeenshire.

The details concerning the unlikelihood of any associated ornithology impacts as a result of this change are also noted. We would suggest that SNH and RSPB are consulted on this aspect. This is not a matter which Aberdeenshire Council would comment on.

The amendment to remove the nominal 850MW capacity and thus allow for a higher output raises no concerns from an Aberdeenshire Council perspective.

Overall therefore, while it is noted that there is a proposed change to the physical parameters of the scheme, this does not result in any significantly differential impacts to the issues of most relevance to Aberdeenshire Council. As such, the proposed amendments in themselves and with sole regard to our interests, would not constitute EIA Development.

I trust the above is of use to you.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted]

Head of Planning and Environment Service

Moray Council

England D (Debbie)

From: Neal MacPherson <Neal.MacPherson@moray.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 October 2020 15:40
To: England D (Debbie)
Cc: MS Marine Licensing; Agnisola G (Giulia); Beverly Smith
Subject: RE: ***URGENT RESPONSE REQUIRED *** Consultation - Screening Opinion Request - Moray West Offshore Wind Farm - by 02/10/20

Good afternoon and apologies again for the delay in responding. Having reviewed the screening report and considered the proposals against the screening criteria set out in the relevant electricity and marine EIA legislation we would comment as follows.

It is noted that this proposed offshore windfarm was at its closest 32km from the coastline of the Moray Council authority area, and in referring original Section 36 submissions and visualisations the difference of increasing the 6m blade width for the original EIA submissions to 6.6m wide will, in terms of visual effects, be so minimal as not to constitute EIA development in itself. There are no other implications of the blade width increase that we can foresee from our perspective that would require EIA.

The maximum generating capacity of around 850 MW from Moray Councils perspective is a matter separately addressed onshore under Moray Planning application reference 18/01046/EIA approved in Dec 2018 which dealt in principle with the National level development for the onshore transmission works by Moray Offshore Windfarm (West) Limited. The offshore implications therefore on the Section 36 consent from removing the upper limit of generating capacity would similarly have no implication for Moray Council as to warrant EIA itself. Any infrastructural or engineering changes resulting from the removal of the generating capacity limit (around 850mW) would have no EIA implications for Moray Council.

Regards,

Neal MacPherson | Principal Planning Officer | Development Management Planning

neal.macpherson@moray.gov.uk | 01343 563266/[Redacted] | [website](#) | [facebook](#) | [twitter](#) | [newsdesk](#)

Working pattern - Mon to Friday (except Thurs PM)



From: Debbie.England@gov.scot <Debbie.England@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 October 2020 14:03
To: Neal MacPherson <Neal.MacPherson@moray.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: ***URGENT RESPONSE REQUIRED *** Consultation - Screening Opinion Request - Moray West Offshore Wind Farm - by 02/10/20
Importance: High

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our records show that you have not responded to the consultation as per our email below.

In accordance with regulation 8(6) of the Electricity Works EIA Regulations and 10(6) of the Marine Works EIA Regulations as detailed below, you are required to give your views to Scottish Ministers within three weeks of the date you were consulted. As more than three weeks has now passed, I would be grateful if you could urgently provide a response or reply with a nil return.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Debbie England
Marine Renewables Casework Officer
Marine Scotland - Marine Planning & Policy

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Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB
Email: Debbie.England@gov.scot
Website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>



From: MS Marine Renewables
Sent: 11 September 2020 09:22
To: England D (Debbie) <Debbie.England@gov.scot>
Cc: Agnisola G (Giulia) <Giulia.Agnisola@gov.scot>
Subject: Consultation - Screening Opinion Request - Moray West Offshore Wind Farm - by 02/10/20

Dear Sir/Madam,

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017(AS AMENDED) (“the Electricity Works EIA Regulations”)

THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 (AS AMENDED) (“the Marine Works EIA Regulations”)

SCREENING OPINION ON PROPOSED VARIATION TO SECTION 36 CONSENT AND GENERATING STATION MARINE LICENCE FOR THE MORAY WEST OFFSHORE WIND FARM, MORAY FIRTH

Moray West Offshore Windfarm has requested the Scottish Ministers adopt a screening opinion in relation to the above proposed works under [regulation 8\(1\) of the Electricity Works EIA Regulations](#) and [regulation 10\(1\) of the Marine Works EIA Regulations](#). All information relating to the Section 36 consent and associated marine licences can be viewed at: <http://marine.gov.scot/ml/moray-west-offshore-windfarm>.

I would be grateful if you could please review the attached information and, as required the EIA Regulations, and provide your view as to whether the above proposed variation is an EIA project in terms of the Marine Works Regulations and/or an EIA development in terms of the Electricity Works Regulations.

In accordance with regulation 8(6) of the Electricity Works EIA Regulations and 10(6) of the Marine Works EIA Regulations, please ensure you provide your view no later than **2nd October 2020**.

Yours faithfully,

Debbie England
Marine Renewables Casework Officer
Marine Scotland - Marine Planning & Policy

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Website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>



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NatureScot

MacFarlane M (Marc)

From: Chris Eastham <Chris.Eastham@nature.scot>
Sent: 24 September 2020 16:54
To: MS Marine Renewables; England D (Debbie)
Cc: Agnisola G (Giulia)
Subject: RE: Consultation - Screening Opinion Request - Moray West Offshore Wind Farm - by 02/10/20

Categories: Saved in eRDM

Dear Debbie,

Thank you for the consultation regarding the screening opinion for the proposed variation to the Moray West offshore wind farm Section 36 consent. We have reviewed the screening report and consider that proposed variation is not an EIA project in terms of the Marine Works Regulations and/or an EIA development in terms of the Electricity Works Regulations.

The additional collision risk modelling carried out for the 72 turbine scenario with an increase in blade width from 6m to 6.6m shows that the predicted collisions are slightly lower than those predicted in the modelling carried out for the consented application. Therefore, we agree that the conclusions reached by Moray West and Scottish Ministers remain valid.

We also agree that the removal of the reference to Moray West having a maximum generating capacity of 850MW will not affect any of the conclusions presented by Moray West.

Kind regards

Chris

Dr Chris Eastham | Marine Sustainability Advisor

NatureScot | Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EW | [Redacted]

nature.scot | @nature_scot | *Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot <MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot>
Sent: 11 September 2020 09:22
To: Debbie.England@gov.scot
Cc: Giulia.Agnisola@gov.scot
Subject: Consultation - Screening Opinion Request - Moray West Offshore Wind Farm - by 02/10/20

Dear Sir/Madam,

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 (AS AMENDED) (“the Electricity Works EIA Regulations”)

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I would be grateful if you could please review the attached information and, as required the EIA Regulations, and provide your view as to whether the above proposed variation is an EIA project in terms of the Marine Works Regulations and/or an EIA development in terms of the Electricity Works Regulations.

In accordance with regulation 8(6) of the Electricity Works EIA Regulations and 10(6) of the Marine Works EIA Regulations, please ensure you provide your view no later than **2nd October 2020**.

Yours faithfully,

Debbie England
Marine Renewables Casework Officer
Marine Scotland - Marine Planning & Policy

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Website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>



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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho NatureScot.

The Highland Council

England D (Debbie)

From: Chris Nall <Chris.Nall@highland.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 October 2020 17:24
To: England D (Debbie); MS Marine Renewables
Subject: Consultation - Screening Opinion Request - Moray West Offshore Wind Farm 20/03655/MAR

Dear Debbie,

Highland Council Consultation – SCREENING OPINION ON PROPOSED VARIATION TO SECTION 36 CONSENT AND GENERATING STATION MARINE LICENCE FOR THE MORAY WEST OFFSHORE WIND FARM, MORAY FIRTH

Thank you for consulting the council on the above screening opinion.

I have examined submitted documents and it is my view that the proposed variation does not require an EIA in terms of the Marine Works Regulations and the Electricity Works Regulations.

I am satisfied with the information provided (including revised Collision risk modelling) and based on this information shares the conclusion of the applicant, that the increase in blade width does not affect any of the conclusions presented in the EIA or HRA with respect to predicted effects including in relation to ornithology and landscape, seascape and visual amenity.

As a side note, please accept my apologies for my late response. The deadline for response in our own internal case system was 21st October 2020 and not the 13th October 2020 deadline indicated in your email to the council on the 22nd September 2020, I shall review why this was case and attempt to prevent this happening again.

Best regards,
Chris Nall

Chris Nall
Coastal Planning Officer, The Highland Council
01463 703845 | chris.nall@highland.gov.uk
Environment & Infrastructure, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX

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