



Mr Ewan Walker  
Nearat na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Limited  
Atria One  
144 Morrison Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 8EX

20 March 2020

Dear Mr Walker

**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)  
REGULATIONS 2017 (AS AMENDED)**

**THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)  
REGULATIONS 2017 (AS AMENDED)**

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 (AS AMENDED)**

**THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 (AS AMENDED)**

**DECISION NOTICE RELATIVE TO APPLICATION FOR MULTI-STAGE REGULATORY  
APPROVAL AND CONSENT**

**CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF NEART NA GAOITHE OFFSHORE WIND FARM  
AND ASSOCIATED OFFSHORE TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE FIRTH OF  
FORTH**

**1. Description of the Application**

- 1.1 On 3 December 2018 the Scottish Ministers, granted in favour of Nearat na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Limited (Company Number SC356223), having its registered office at Atria One, 144 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EX (“the Company”) a marine licence under part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended) relative to the above offshore transmission infrastructure works. The said offshore transmission infrastructure marine licence was subsequently varied by the Scottish Ministers on 4 June 2019 and again on 5 June 2019 (“the OfTI marine licence”). Condition 3.2.2.17 of the OfTI marine licence requires the Company to submit a Development Specification and Layout Plan (“DSLPL”) for approval by the Scottish Ministers prior to commencing the above offshore transmission infrastructure works.



- 1.2 On 3 December 2018 the Scottish Ministers granted in favour of the Company, consent under section 36 (“s.36”) of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) relative to the above wind farm and offshore transmission infrastructure works. The said s.36 consent was varied by the Scottish Ministers on 4 June 2019 (“the s.36 consent”). Condition 12 of the s.36 consent requires the Company to submit a DSLP for approval by the Scottish Ministers prior to commencing the works.
- 1.3 On 21 August 2019 the Company submitted to the Scottish Ministers the DSLP for approval and applied for multi-stage regulatory approval and consent all in accordance with condition 3.2.2.17 of the OfTI marine licence and condition 12 of the s.36 consent.

## **2. Reasons and Considerations on which this decision is based**

- 2.1 Following consultation with Chamber of Shipping, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Maritime Coastguard Agency, the Ministry of Defence, the Northern Lighthouse Board, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Scottish Fishermen’s Federation, Angus Council, Dundee City Council, East Lothian Council, Fife Council and the Scottish Borders Council an amended DSLP was submitted to the Scottish Ministers by the Company on 9 March 2020.
- 2.2 The information contained in the DSLP is either within the parameters of what has already been assessed within the EIA Report and additional information submitted in respect of the OfTI marine licence and s.36 consent or does not identify any additional significant environmental effects.
- 2.3 The Company was not required to submit additional information under regulation 25 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended) or regulation 27 of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended) in relation to the application for multi-stage consent and regulatory approval.

## **3. Determination and Terms of Decision**

- 3.1 The Scottish Ministers, hereby approve the DSLP as submitted on 9 March 2020 and grant multi-stage regulatory approval and consent in relation thereto.
- 3.2 In the event that the Company wishes to update or amend the DSLP, the Company must submit, in writing, details of the proposed updates or amendments to the Scottish Ministers for their written approval prior to the planned implementation of the proposed updates or amendments. It is not permissible for any works associated with the proposed updates or amendments to proceed prior to the granting of such approval.
- 3.3 Unless otherwise agreed, in writing by the Scottish Ministers, all works must proceed in accordance with the DSLP.
- 3.4 This Decision Notice has been published on the Scottish Government’s website: <http://marine.gov.scot/ml/neart-na-gaoithe-offshore-windfarm-revised-design>

3.5 A copy of this Decision Notice has also been sent to the relevant planning authorities.

Authorised on behalf of the Scottish Ministers

By a member of staff of the Scottish Government

Marine Scotland  
Marine Planning and Policy  
Licensing Operations Team  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB  
20 March 2020