

Debbie England  
Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team  
Marine Scotland  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB

25<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Ms England

### **Moray West Offshore Wind Farm Section 36 Consent Variation – Request for Screening Opinion**

In June 2019, Scottish Ministers granted Moray Offshore Windfarm (West) Limited “Moray West” consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to construct and operate the Moray West Offshore Wind Farm and associated Offshore Transmission Infrastructure (OfTI) “the Development”.

Moray West is now seeking to vary the Section 36 Consent for the Moray West Offshore Wind Farm (and associated Marine Licence for the Offshore Generating Station) in accordance with Section 36C of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) and Part 9 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Scotland Regulations 2017.

The main requirements for the variation include:

- Requirement to increase the blade width of Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) specified in the Section 36 Consent – Annex 1 under the 72 turbine scenario (maximum tip height of 265 m and maximum rotor diameter of 230 m) from 6 m to 6.6 m; and
- Request for removal of reference to Moray West having a ‘maximum generating capacity of around 850 MW’.

As part of this variation, Moray West is submitting the accompanying Screening Report in request for a formal Screening Opinion from Scottish Ministers on whether or not the proposed variation to the Section 36 Consent outlined above comprises EIA Development.

The intention of the accompanying Screening Report is to: (i) explain the purpose of and need for the variations sought; (ii) to explain the potential impacts of these variations; (iii) to demonstrate why the proposed variations can appropriately be authorised under Section 36C of the Electricity Act 1989; and (iv) to explain why the proposed variations are not considered to constitute EIA development.

The Screening Report also includes the following information:

- Description of the Development (as defined in the Section 36 Consent – Annex 1 and Section 2.1 of the associated Offshore Generating Station Marine Licence);
- Map illustrating the location of the Development;

- Information on sensitive environmental receptors most likely to be affected by the proposed consent variation;
- An assessment of potential effects of the proposed variation on key sensitive environmental receptors; and
- An assessment of the implications of the proposed variation on the conclusion of effect significance presented in the Moray West Offshore Wind Farm consent application documents (July 2018) and subsequent documents prepared during consent determination.

I trust that the information provided in this letter and the accompanying Screening Report is sufficient to enable Scottish Ministers to provide a Screening Opinion in relation to the proposed variation to the Moray West Offshore Wind Farm Section 36 Consent. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

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