

Appendix B – Section 105 Consultee Comments

Sarah MacNab

From: KellyR <KellyR@angus.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 August 2019 09:07
To: Sarah MacNab
Cc: Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Good morning Sarah,

I refer to the recently submitted draft Decommissioning Programme which was received by this Service on 7 August 2019.

I can advise that this Service has reviewed the document and has no comments to make on it.

I trust the above is of assistance.

Kind regards,

Ruari

Ruari Kelly | Planning Officer (Development Standards) | Angus Council | Planning & Communities
| Angus House : Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar, DD8 1AN. ☎ (01307) 492125

From: Sarah MacNab [mailto:Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com]
Sent: 07 August 2019 11:04
To: KellyR
Cc: Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot
Subject: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Hello Mr Kelly,

Please find attached a copy of the draft Decommissioning Programme (DP) prepared on behalf of Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Windfarm Ltd (NnGOWL) on which we are seeking your comments by 09th September 2019.

The draft DP has been prepared in response to a Section 105(2) of the Energy Act 2004 Notice issued to NnGOWL by Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) acting on behalf of the Scottish Ministers. This notice requires that NnGOWL submit a decommissioning programme to the Scottish Ministers for approval prior to the commencement of construction and in respect of Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm.

The Section 105(2) notice issued by MS-LOT requires NnGOWL to undertake consultation on the draft DP prior to submitting a final draft to MS-LOT for approval. The notice includes a schedule setting out those organisations to be so consulted (see Section 7 of the enclosed draft DP) which includes your organisation. We are therefore seeking your views on the enclosed draft DP prior to finalising the draft for approval. It would be appreciated if your response could be copied to all contacts cc'ed to this email.

Please also find attached a cover letter containing more detail on the DP and the DP consultation exercise.

Kind regards,

Sarah



EDF Renewables, UK
NnG Offshore Wind
Atria One, Level Six,
144 Morrison Street,
Edinburgh, EH3 8EX
Skype: +44 1314603634
Mobile: + [REDACTED]

www.edf-re.uk
www.nngoffshorewind.com

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Sarah MacNab

From: Fena Boyle <FBoyle@ukchamberofshipping.com>
Sent: 09 September 2019 12:54
To: Sarah MacNab
Cc: Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Good afternoon Sarah,

The UK Chamber of Shipping thanks you for the opportunity to replying to this consultation. At this current time, the Chamber has no comments to make on the draft decommissioning programme but looks forward to continued collaboration and ensuring the safety of navigation and the interests of our members during these discussions. Should you need anything further from the Chamber please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Fena

Fena Boyle
Policy Manager

UK Chamber of Shipping
30 Park Street, London, SE1 9EQ

DD +44 (0) 20 7417 2828
M + [REDACTED]
fboyle@ukchamberofshipping.com
www.ukchamberofshipping.com

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From: Sarah MacNab <Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com>
Sent: 07 August 2019 11:06
To: Robert Merrylees <RMerrylees@ukchamberofshipping.com>
Cc: Fena Boyle <FBoyle@ukchamberofshipping.com>; Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot
Subject: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Hello Mr Merrylees,

Please find attached a copy of the draft Decommissioning Programme (DP) prepared on behalf of Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Windfarm Ltd (NnGOWL) on which we are seeking your comments by 09th September 2019.

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Please also find attached a cover letter containing more detail on the DP and the DP consultation exercise.

Kind regards,

Sarah

Sarah MacNab

Consents



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NnG Offshore Wind
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Sarah MacNab

From: andy.mulholland@dundeecity.gov.uk
Sent: 07 August 2019 14:41
To: Sarah MacNab
Cc: gary.knox@dundeecity.gov.uk
Subject: Re: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Hello Ms Sarah MacNab

Thank you for your invitation to comment on the proposed decommissioning programme for the above. Dundee Planning Authority has no comment to make on the proposed programme.

Regards
Andy

Andrew Mulholland
Planning Officer
Planning Team
City Development Department
Dundee City Council
50 North Lindsay Street
DUNDEE
DD1 1LS

Phone: 01382 433612

Email: andy.mulholland@dundeecity.gov.uk

Web Page: <http://www.dundeecity.gov.uk>

-----"Sarah MacNab" <Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com> wrote: -----

To: "andy.mulholland@dundeecity.gov.uk" <andy.mulholland@dundeecity.gov.uk>

From: "Sarah MacNab" <Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com>

Date: 07/08/2019 11:20AM

Cc: "gary.knox@dundeecity.gov.uk" <gary.knox@dundeecity.gov.uk>, "Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot" <Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot>, "Jessica.Drew@gov.scot" <Jessica.Drew@gov.scot>

Subject: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Hello Mr Mulholland,

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Please also find attached a cover letter containing more detail on the DP and the DP consultation exercise.

Kind regards,

Sarah

Sarah MacNab
Consents



EDF Renewables, UK

NnG Offshore Wind

Atria One, Level Six,

144 Morrison Street,

Edinburgh, EH3 8EX

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----- Message from postmaster@dundeecity.gov.uk on Wed, 07 Aug 2019 11:20:31 +0100 -----

To: Mr Andrew Mulholland <andy.mulholland@dundeecity.gov.uk>

Subject: We found suspicious links



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These files contain suspicious links. Please only follow them if you're sure they're safe.

Files

NNG-NNG-ECF-PLN-0016 Offsh...me_v2.0.pdf (1.3 MB) [Download](#)

Message Details

From

"Sarah MacNab" <sarah.macnab@nngoffshorewind.com>

Subject

Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Sent

Wed, 7 Aug 2019 10:19:47 +0000



[attachment "NNG-NNG-ECF-LET-0005 NnGOWL Section 105 Decommissioning Programme Cover Letter_DCC.pdf" removed by Andy Mulholland/CD/dundeecity]



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Our Ref: CONS/GOV/2019 NNG Decommissioning
Your Ref: NNG-NNG-ECF-LET-0005

Date: 09/09/2019

Monica Patterson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES)

Via email to Sarah MacNab Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com
cc. Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot

John Muir House
Haddington
East Lothian
EH41 3HA
Tel 01620 827827
Fax 01620 824295

Dear Sarah,

The Decommissioning Plan proposes:

1. Complete removal of turbines from site
2. For the turbine and offshore platform foundations, removal of the entire jacket structure; pin pile foundations to be cut at such a depth below the surface of the seabed that the remaining parts do not pose a danger for shipping or fishing vessels, even if sediments should become relocated, and cut sections removed from site
3. Inter-array cables to be cut off and left in situ buried in the seabed
4. Off-shore export cables are to be cut off and left in situ buried in the seabed
5. For cable/scour protection the decommissioning measures will be dependent on the type and quantity of cable and scour protection used. Where durable crushed rock is used it is likely that this will be left in-situ.

East Lothian Councils interest in the decommissioning of the project is in avoiding adverse impacts on East Lothian arising from the continued physical presence of any part of the project beyond its useful life, in particular:

- Impacts on the landscape and seascape of East Lothian
- Impacts on biodiversity of or enjoyed from East Lothian including birds and marine mammals
- Impacts on fishing vessels and recreational craft operating from East Lothian
- Polluting events which might affect East Lothian
- Avoiding any costs of decommissioning falling to individuals or organisations in East Lothian

The Council requests that these interests are taken into account in approving the Decommissioning Plan and any revisions of it. The Decommissioning Plan contains Core Principles at paragraph 82. These include BPEO which is the option with the most benefit or least damage to the environment as a whole at an acceptable cost. The consent application for permission included EIA, which considered assessment of decommissioning including the removal of most or all structures under the seabed, unless otherwise approved. The Council considers that removal of turbines and other structures above the seabed must be a requirement. This follows the 'polluter pays' principle and avoids passing environmental and safety costs to future generations. Applying BPEO should not over-ride this requirement.

The Core Principles should include that 'no financial or environmental costs of decommissioning will fall on individuals or organisations other than the owner and/or operator of the NNG windfarm'

The Council supports the proposed complete removal of turbines; however, to minimise the visual impact on the landscape and seascape there should be a systematic approach taken to the order in

which turbines are removed. Our recommendation would be that the internal turbines are removed first, with the peripheral turbines removed last in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction. This would mean that no new aviation lighting is required, as the existing peripheral lighting would be retained until last. This would also help it continue to read as a single windfarm gradually reducing in size.

Where there is a 'Step down' process, turbines will be removed as they become unsafe or cease to operate, which could presumably be in any order. It is possible (depending on the order in which they fail) that the resulting design of the windfarm could have detrimental effects on landscape, seascape, biodiversity and navigational safety. This may also result in changes to lighting of the scheme and if this occurs the Council would request that it be consulted over any changes in lighting of the project. We therefore would not support a 'Step down' as an option for decommissioning.

The Council accepts that at present the best approach to foundations below the level where they could present a hazard and cables is for them to be left in situ. It appears likely that this will remain the case. However, the option for all elements of the proposal including foundations, cables, reinstatement of cable routes these cables to be removed and their route reinstated should remain as an option (and so pricing for this included in any calculation of financial provision against decommissioning) as this may be the best option at the time of decommissioning.

If you would like to discuss the contents of this letter further, please contact J Squires (Monday to Thursday only) on 01620 827370, or email to jsquires@eastlothian.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

J Squires
Planner
Development
East Lothian Council
TEL: 01620 827370
Email jsquires@eastlothian.gov.uk

Sarah MacNab

From: Martin McGroarty <Martin.McGroarty@fife.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 September 2019 15:07
To: Sarah MacNab
Cc: Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; 'Jessica.Drew@gov.scot'
Subject: 19/02257/CON - Priority - Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Dear Sarah,

NNG-NNG-ECF-LET-0005 NnGOWL Section 105 Decommissioning Programme Cover Letter_FC.pdf; NNG-NNG-ECF-PLN-0016 Offshore Decommissioning

I refer to the above and to your consultation email and letter attachment of 7th August 2019.

Having consulted with colleagues on the documentation provided I can confirm that Fife Council has no comment to make on the NNG decommissioning programme.

Kind regards,
Martin

Martin McGroarty
Lead Professional (Minerals)
Development Management
Economy, Planning & Employability Services
Fife Council
Kingdom House
Kingdom Avenue
GLENROTHES
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Fife Council

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By email to:

Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com

Ms Sarah MacNab
EDF Renewables UK
NnG Offshore Wind
Atria One, Level Six
144 Morrison Street
Edinburgh
EH3 8EX

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

HMConsultations@hes.scot
Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716

Our case ID: 300020973
04 September 2019

Dear Ms MacNab

[The Electricity Works \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2000](#)
[The Marine \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#)
[Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm – Draft Decommissioning Programme](#)

Thank you for your email of 07 August 2019 requesting our comments on the above draft Decommissioning Programme for the Neart na Gaoithe offshore windfarm site. The comments in this letter relate to our statutory remit for World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments and their settings, category A listed buildings and their settings, gardens and designed landscapes appearing in the Inventory, Inventory battlefields and Historic Marine Protected Areas (Marine (Scotland) Act 2010). In this case, our advice also includes matters relating to marine archaeology outwith the scope of the terrestrial planning system.

Historic Environment Scotland's advice

We have reviewed the information submitted in the draft Decommissioning Programme. We are content to agree with the document that the decommissioning programme will be reviewed prior to decommissioning activities taking place and that changes to the baseline including historic environment interests will inform the decision as to whether a new or updated EIA is required.

We consider significant impacts for our interests unlikely as long as the mitigation measures for the project remain in place, and have no further comments to offer at this stage. We will be happy to provide further comment on decommissioning proposals closer to the date of decommissioning activities as suggested in the draft programme.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Victoria Clements and she can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8730 or by email on Victoria.Clements@hes.scot.

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland

cc. Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot
Jessica.Drew@gov.scot

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**

VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**

Sarah MacNab

From: Karen Hall <Karen.Hall@jncc.gov.uk>
Sent: 16 August 2019 13:00
To: Sarah MacNab
Cc: Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot; 'Erica Knott'
Subject: RE: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your email regarding the draft Decommissioning Programme (DP) for NnGOWL. Given that JNCC has devolved advice on renewables projects in offshore Scottish waters to SNH and that this project is entirely within inshore Scottish waters I don't think it's appropriate for JNCC to comment on the draft plan. I have discussed this with SNH further to confirm this position between both our agencies and Erica is in agreement and confirmed that SNH will be responding to you in due course.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Kind Regards,

Karen

Karen Hall

Marine Management Team Leader

BSc (Hons), MRes

JNCC, Inverdee House, Baxter Street, Torry, Aberdeen, AB11 9QA

Tel: 01224 266 550, Direct Dial: 01224 266 559, Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: karen.hall@jncc.gov.uk



jncc.gov.uk



From: Sarah MacNab <Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com>
Sent: 07 August 2019 11:32
To: Karen Hall <Karen.Hall@jncc.gov.uk>
Cc: Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot
Subject: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Dear Karen,

Please find attached a copy of the draft Decommissioning Programme (DP) prepared on behalf of Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Windfarm Ltd (NnGOWL) on which we are seeking your comments by 09th September 2019.

The draft DP has been prepared in response to a Section 105(2) of the Energy Act 2004 Notice issued to NnGOWL by Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) acting on behalf of the Scottish Ministers. This notice requires that NnGOWL submit a decommissioning programme to the Scottish Ministers for approval prior to the commencement of construction and in respect of Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm.

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Please also find attached a cover letter containing more detail on the DP and the DP consultation exercise.

Kind regards,

Sarah

Sarah MacNab
Consents



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NnG Offshore Wind
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Sarah MacNab

From: Helen Croxson <Helen.Croxson@mcga.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 September 2019 11:24
To: Sarah MacNab
Cc: Peter Lowson; Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot; Nick Salter
Subject: RE: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation
Attachments: NNG-NNG-ECF-PLN-0016 Offshore Decommissioning Programme_v2.0.pdf

Sarah,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed draft decommissioning programme for the Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Windfarm project. The MCA would like to make the follow comments:

We would expect the decommissioning to be carried out in accordance with Marine Guidance Note 543, particularly with regards to Annex 4 titled 'Safety and mitigation measures recommended for OREI during construction, operation and decommissioning'. This includes the consideration of marine navigational marking which should be discussed and agreed with the Northern Lighthouse Board. MGN 543 should be listed in your legislation and guidance section, and as far as I can see is not mentioned in the plan.

We would expect you to consider the impact of decommissioning on the safe navigation of vessels operating in the area and search and rescue capabilities, with appropriate mitigations assessed in accordance with MGN 543. The results and recommendations from the post consent monitoring arrangements should also be taken into consideration as part of this assessment.

In addition we would expect:

- 1) the Emergency Response Cooperation Plan (ERCoP) to be updated for the decommissioning works and submitted to MCA, as per rev 2 Annex 5 of MGN 543. We would expect any emergency response plans/arrangements to be updated in line with any change in methodology;
- 2) Local users to be notified of the works as per Marine Licence requirements, including HM Coastguard;
- 3) The UKHO to be notified for the update of nautical charts and publications;
- 4) Any required hydrographic survey requirements are carried out post decommissioning as per MGN 543. This is detailed under iii. Post-decommissioning of all or part of the development: Cable route(s) and the area extending to 500m from the installed generating assets area; and
- 5) All maritime safety legislation must be followed.

If you would like to discuss any of the above points please let me know.

Kind regards

Helen



Helen Croxson, Offshore Renewables Advisor

Navigation Safety Branch, Bay 2/25
Maritime & Coastguard Agency
Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road, Southampton, SO15 1EG
Tel: 0203 8172426
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: Helen.Croxson@mcga.gov.uk

Please note I currently work Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

From: Sarah MacNab <Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com>

Sent: 07 August 2019 12:28

To: Helen Croxson <Helen.Croxson@mcga.gov.uk>

Cc: Peter Lowson <Peter.Lowson@mcga.gov.uk>; Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot

Subject: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

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Kind regards,

Sarah

Sarah MacNab
Consents



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Northern Lighthouse Board

Your Ref: NnG – Draft Decom Plan – S105
Our Ref: AL/OPS/ML/O6_12_602

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Email: enquiries@nlb.org.uk



Ms Sarah MacNab
Consents
Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Windfarm Ltd
Atria One
144 Morrison Street
Edinburgh
EH3 8EX

7 August 2019

ENERGY ACT 2004, SECTION 105(2)

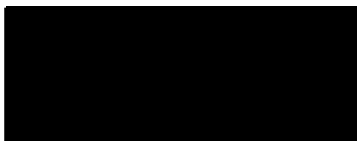
NEART NA GAOITHE OFFSHORE WINDFARM LTD - DRAFT DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

Thank you for your e-mail correspondence dated 7th August 2019 regarding the draft copy of the Decommissioning Plan submitted by Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Windfarm Ltd (NnGOWL).

Northern Lighthouse Board have no objections to the draft document, and welcome Section 5.5 of the document, which creates provision for consultation between NnGOWL, NLB and Maritime and Coastguard Agency prior to any decommissioning work being conducted, with regard to the lighting and marking of any obstruction.

If any further information is required, please contact the Navigation department at navigation@nlb.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Peter Douglas
Navigation Manager

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o: ISO 9001:2000 • The International Safety Management Code (ISM) • OHSAS 18001

Sarah MacNab

From: Pauline McGrow <Pauline.McGrow@ryascotland.org.uk>
Sent: 08 August 2019 10:30
To: Sarah MacNab
Subject: RE: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Dear Sarah,

I write to inform you that RYA Scotland has no comment that they would wish to make on this application.

Kind Regards

Pauline

Pauline McGrow
Senior Administrator
Tel: 0131 317 4611

Royal Yachting Association Scotland
T: 0131 317 7388
E: pauline.mcgrow@ryascotland.org.uk



RYA Scotland, Caledonia House, 1 Redheughs Rigg, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ
T: 0131 317 7388, Fax: 0844 556 9549

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From: Sarah MacNab [mailto:Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com]
Sent: 07 August 2019 11:38
To: Pauline McGrow <Pauline.McGrow@ryascotland.org.uk>
Cc: Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot
Subject: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Dear Ms McGrow,

Please find attached a copy of the draft Decommissioning Programme (DP) prepared on behalf of Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Windfarm Ltd (NnGOWL) on which we are seeking your comments by 09th September 2019.

The draft DP has been prepared in response to a Section 105(2) of the Energy Act 2004 Notice issued to NnGOWL by Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) acting on behalf of the Scottish Ministers. This notice requires that NnGOWL submit a decommissioning programme to the Scottish Ministers for approval prior to the commencement of construction and in respect of Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm.

The Section 105(2) notice issued by MS-LOT requires NnGOWL to undertake consultation on the draft DP prior to submitting a final draft to MS-LOT for approval. The notice includes a schedule setting out those organisations to be so consulted (see Section 7 of the enclosed draft DP) which includes your organisation. We are therefore seeking your views on the enclosed draft DP prior to finalising the draft for approval. It would be appreciated if your response could be copied to all contacts cc'ed to this email.

Please also find attached a cover letter containing more detail on the DP and the DP consultation exercise.

Kind regards,

Sarah

Sarah MacNab
Consents



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Sarah MacNab

From: Miller, Craig <CMiller@scotborders.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 August 2019 09:19
To: Sarah MacNab
Subject: RE: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Sarah

Thank you for that clarification. I can confirm that Scottish Borders Council have no comments to offer on the Draft Decommissioning Programme and I would thank you for consulting us,

Regards

Craig

Craig Miller
Principal Planning Officer
Regulatory Services
Scottish Borders Council
Tel: 01835 825029
E-mail : cmiller@scotborders.gov.uk

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How are you playing [#yourpart](#) to help us keep the Borders thriving?



From: Sarah MacNab [mailto:Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com]
Sent: 22 August 2019 15:52
To: Miller, Craig <CMiller@scotborders.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Hello Craig,

The export cabling will make landfall at Thorntonloch beach near Torness. As set out in the Decommissioning Programme (see Table 5-2 and Section 5.3.5) it is intended that all cabling will remain buried in situ (i.e. under the seabed/beach) upon decommissioning.

This Decommissioning Programme considers the decommissioning of all infrastructure below Mean High Water Springs, as required by the Project Offshore Consents. In the landfall area this only includes subsea cabling. This

Decommissioning Programme does not consider 'onshore' infrastructure above Mean High Water Springs, which includes a transition joint bay where the offshore cabling meets the onshore, underground onshore cabling and an onshore substation. The decommissioning of onshore infrastructure is controlled differently under onshore planning permission, where a 'Demolition and Restoration Scheme' must be prepared and agreed with the Planning Authority at the end-of-life of the onshore substation.

I hope this response helps a little. In summary, at landfall (up to Mean High Water Springs) cabling will remain in situ. Very happy to discuss further if helpful.

Many thanks,

Sarah

Sarah MacNab
Consents



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www.nngoffshorewind.com

From: Miller, Craig <CMiller@scotborders.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 August 2019 11:57
To: Sarah MacNab <Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com>
Subject: RE: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Sarah

I've had a look at the documents and note that the cabling makes landfall at Torness. However, I could not see any mention of what decommissioning, if any, is planned to the overhead/underground connections thereafter ?

Could anyone give me a response on this ?

Regards

Craig

Craig Miller
Principal Planning Officer
Regulatory Services
Scottish Borders Council
Tel: 01835 825029
E-mail : cmiller@scotborders.gov.uk

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From: Sarah MacNab [<mailto:Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com>]
Sent: 07 August 2019 11:38
To: Miller, Craig <CMiller@scotborders.gov.uk>
Cc: Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot
Subject: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Dear Mr Miller,

Please find attached a copy of the draft Decommissioning Programme (DP) prepared on behalf of Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Windfarm Ltd (NnGOWL) on which we are seeking your comments by 09th September 2019.

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Please also find attached a cover letter containing more detail on the DP and the DP consultation exercise.

Kind regards,

Sarah

Sarah MacNab
Consents



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Sarah MacNab

From: Milne, Alasdair <alasdair.milne@SEPA.org.uk>
Sent: 26 August 2019 14:19
To: Sarah MacNab
Subject: FW: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Sarah

Apologies, I mis-spelt your email address – trying again!

Regards
Alasdair

From: Milne, Alasdair
Sent: 26 August 2019 14:17
To: 'sarah.mcnab@nngoffshorewind.com' <sarah.mcnab@nngoffshorewind.com>
Cc: 'Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot' <Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot>; 'Jessica.Drew@gov.scot' <Jessica.Drew@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Sarah,

Further to your consultation with SEPA on the draft Decommissioning Programme for the Neart na Gaoithe offshore windfarm, I can confirm that SEPA will have no objection to this provided the devices and as much of the support infrastructure is removed and all waste materials are removed and reused, recycled or disposed of at a licensed onshore site. The seabed and/or shoreline should be restored to as near its former natural condition as possible on completion of the works.

I trust these brief comments are of assistance – please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Regards
Alasdair

Alasdair Milne
Senior Planning Officer
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Strathallan House
Castle Business Park
Stirling
FK9 4TZ

Telephone 01786 452537
Mobile [REDACTED]
www.sepa.org.uk

From: Sarah MacNab <Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com>
Sent: 07 August 2019 11:39
To: Planning South East <Planning.SE@SEPA.org.uk>
Cc: Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot
Subject: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached a copy of the draft Decommissioning Programme (DP) prepared on behalf of Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Windfarm Ltd (NnGOWL) on which we are seeking your comments by 09th September 2019.

The draft DP has been prepared in response to a Section 105(2) of the Energy Act 2004 Notice issued to NnGOWL by Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) acting on behalf of the Scottish Ministers. This notice requires that NnGOWL submit a decommissioning programme to the Scottish Ministers for approval prior to the commencement of construction and in respect of Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm.

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Please also find attached a cover letter containing more detail on the DP and the DP consultation exercise.

Kind regards,

Sarah

Sarah MacNab
Consents



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Sarah MacNab

From: Malcolm Morrison <M.Morrison@sff.co.uk>
Sent: 06 September 2019 16:48
To: Sarah MacNab
Cc: Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot; Femke De Boer
Subject: FW: Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation
Attachments: NNG-NNG-ECF-LET-0005 NnGOWL Section 105 Decommissioning Programme Cover Letter_SFF.pdf; NNG-NNG-ECF-PLN-0016 Offshore Decommissioning Programme_v2.0.pdf

Dear Sarah,

With respect to your consultation on the DP for NnG, I am pleased to enclose comments on behalf of the 400+ fishing vessels I represent, from 8 associations that comprise over 90% of the Scottish quota fleet.

Page 13 refers to the plan being to cut cables and leave the buried in situ. Given the lack of clarity on the quantity involved or the effect of eroding cables, the SFF would object to this as the complete opposite of returning the seabed to its original condition. There is insufficient science to back this as ecologically sound practice, and recent experience of cable laying operations does not convince us that burial will be as good as claimed. Paragraphs 70, 72 refer to the same view.

Para 78 on p28, raises the possibility of a total infrastructure replacement, in which case it is imperative that all old cables are removed rather than further restricting seabed access. This is backed up by the statements about Health & Safety in P82, P29 and table 5.1 on p29.

Para 88 on P30 again claims all buried will be left in situ, but the mooted advances in technology should make it easy to remove even the buried cables. Table 5.2 further refers

Table 5.3, P32 under the heading "Societal" avers that removing the turbines is sufficient to achieve "no restriction on future use of marine resources" but to leave cables behind is contrary to that and conflicts with Scotlands National Marine Plan which clearly expects sustainable fishing to continue.

At various points in the DP, notably table 5.6 on P36, economic viability is cited as a reason for leaving buried cables, which is surely erroneous, if they cant afford to clean up, as in "Polluter Pays" the project should not be allowed to proceed. The same table states "consider the rights and needs of legitimate users of the sea" which should mean restoration to allow continued use by the food producing industry of fishing. Finally the claim is made that leaving bits of buried cable is benign environmentally, without proof we would beg to differ and renew our objection! The SFF would however welcome the developer investing in a scientifically valid study to prove that leaving buried sections is not harmful.

Best regards, Malcolm

From: Sarah MacNab [<mailto:Sarah.MacNab@nngoffshorewind.com>]
Sent: 07 August 2019 11:40
To: Malcolm Morrison <M.Morrison@sff.co.uk>
Cc: Sophia.Irvine@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot
Subject: Neart na Goithe Offshore Wind Farm - Section 105 Consultation

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Kind regards,

Sarah

Sarah MacNab
Consents



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Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Limited
Atria One Level Six
144 Morrison Street
Edinburgh
EH3 8EX

Your ref: NNG-NNG-ECF-LET-0005

Our ref: CNS/REN/OSWF/NnG/Post
consent

Date: 09 September 2019

For the attention of:

By email only: Sarah McNab

sarah.macnab@nngoffshorewind.com

Dear Ms McNab,

**Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm
Consultation on the draft Decommissioning Programme
Energy Act 2004 – Section 105**

Thank you for your consultation received on the 7th August 2019 on the draft Decommissioning Programme (DP) for Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind (revised design).

We have reviewed the draft plan in tandem with the BEIS (2019) guidance, in the absence of Scottish guidance, which we understand will be issued soon for consultation.

Our advice is based on the default position outlined in relevant obligations (e.g. IMO standards and OSPAR guidance) and emphasised in the BEIS guidance (2019) that any infrastructure placed in the marine environment should be designed with full removal as the default position.

Having reviewed the Neart na Gaoithe decommissioning draft plan, we advise that further consideration should be given to several aspects, including:

- Cost alone is not sufficient reason to avoid decommissioning fully and we question what constitutes an 'acceptable' cost;
- The decommissioning of installed cables whether they are inter-array, interconnector or export will be similar to impacts during construction;
- Lessons learnt during the lifetime of the wind farm particularly during construction and O&M should be used to inform the final decommissioning strategy i.e. instances where exposure of cables occurs;
- We would encourage keeping track of and supporting advances in technology during the lifetime of the wind farm, to help facilitate ease of decommissioning. We think both the offshore wind and oil and gas industries could encourage greater collaboration and innovation to develop new techniques etc;

Scottish Natural Heritage, 1 Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RR
Tel: 0131 3162690 www.nature.scot

Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba, 1 Raon Gniomhachais Chille Mhoire, Cille Mhoire, Ceann Loch Gilb Earra-Ghàidheal PA31 8RR Fòn: 0131 3162690 www.nature.scot

- Consideration of how climate change impacts could affect decommissioning should be prevalent throughout the DP development process, particularly to assess coastal and marine resilience and restoration;
- Within the context of the climate emergency and global biodiversity loss, principals of *reduce, reuse, and recycle* or for use in energy production are now more important than ever. The use of finite resources (e.g. copper, valuable minerals etc) within component parts of windfarm infrastructure in our view adds further weight to the need to decommission as fully as possible.

Guiding principles

We are pleased to see that the draft DP has been structured to follow the model framework as set out in the recently updated BEIS (2019) guidance. We note the early nature of this iteration of the DP which is provided before the offshore wind farm has started construction. We therefore acknowledge the uncertainty around what infrastructure will be present on site that will need to be decommissioned and equally how this might be done. We recommend that clear records including with coordinates of materials deposited on the seabed etc. are provided to Marine Scotland to ensure adequate records over the lifetime of the wind farm of materials that will need to be considered for decommissioning.

We advise that in the draft plan the option to fully remove has been discounted too prematurely in favour of alternative options. In particular we refer to the proposal to leave in situ the inter-array, export and interconnector cables (paragraph 86, Table 5-2).

Foundations and substructures

Current methods for the decommissioning of pin piles are identified and will require the cutting below the seabed of these piles. We accept this is the only available option at this time, but as above consideration should be taken in future iterations of the plan of any advances in technology to remove such foundations.

Inter-array, export and interconnector cables

The proposed approach outlines that buried subsea cables will be cut, sealed and left in situ - some of the justification for which (as outlined in Table 5-6) relates to 'disruption to the seabed and benthic habitats'. Installation of cables will also cause disruption and in the absence of any species of conservation importance having colonised in the intervening time period, we do not agree that this reasoning alone should preclude cables from being removed.

Cable and Scour protection

Similarly, leaving protection around foundations or covered cables in order to preserve marine habitat on the assumption that to do so would not have a detrimental impact on the environment and conservation aims, needs to be assessed fully. This assessment needs to consider the extent of cable / scour protection used throughout the life of the windfarm, the conservation importance of the resulting benthic habitats and their species and the removal options available at the time. Determining now, at this early state, that there is a presumption that such protection (as well as all cabling) will be left, is therefore premature.

Environmental Impact Assessment

We note the consideration that a full EIA covering decommissioning is unlikely to be needed; we refer you to our early comments that if avoiding environmental harm is one of the principal drivers for leaving infrastructure in situ, we would expect this to be fully assessed and justified, whether this is in full formal EIA or not. And that, in line with the BEIS guidance (2019) we anticipate this is likely to require underwater surveys. Assessment should also take into account the need for any post-decommissioning mitigation measures (i.e. re-burial / protection) for the infrastructure that is left in situ.

We hope these comments are helpful. If further information or advice is required please contact me in the first instance: karen.taylor@nature.scot or via my direct dial on 0131 316 2693.

Yours sincerely,

KAREN TAYLOR
Marine Sustainability Adviser

CC, MSLOT Decommissioning Team