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Date: 04 April 2023

Dear Mr. Scott,

SCREENING OPINION UNDER THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

Thank you for your screening opinion request dated 21 November 2022 in regards to a temporal extension to the marine licences issued for construction, capital dredge and deposit of dredged material at Uig Harbour, Skye ("the Proposed Works"). Two marine licences were issued for Uig Ferry Terminal development in 11 June 2020 and were subsequently varied in November 2020 and January 2022 ("the Licensed Works").

The Scottish Ministers consider the Proposed Works to fall under paragraph 13 of schedule 2 of The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended) ("the 2017 MW Regulations"), on the basis that they constitute an extension of schedule 2 works already authorised and with the deposit of dredged material component of the Proposed Works being carried out in a sensitive area, as defined by the 2017 MW Regulations. Consequently, the Scottish Ministers are obliged to adopt a screening opinion as to whether the Proposed Works are an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") project under the 2017 MW Regulations.

Under regulation 10(5) of the 2017 MW Regulations, the Scottish Ministers have consulted with NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage), as to its view on whether the Proposed Works are an EIA project. Copy of the consultation response received is attached for your review (at Appendix I).

When making a determination as to whether schedule 2 works are an EIA project, the Scottish Ministers must provide their reasons in a written statement, taking into account the selection criteria set out in schedule 3 of the 2017 MW Regulations, as are relevant to the Proposed Works. This is set out below.

Characteristics of the works

The Licensed Works involve the widening of the pier approachway; widening and strengthening of the existing berthing structure; installation of new linkspan, lifting dolphins and bankseat; extension of marshalling area by land reclamation (11,000m²) and associated rock armouring; and construction of three oil separators and extension of a culvert pipe. The Licensed Works also include a capital dredge and sea deposit of 55,426 wet tonnes of material.

The Licensed Works currently have two marine licences valid until 18 July 2023. The Proposed Works are to extend the duration for an additional 12 months until 18 July 2024.

Location of the works

The deposit site for the dredged materials of the Proposed Works, Bàgh Ùige, is located within the Inner Hebrides and the Minches Special Area of Conservation ("SAC") however the pathway of impact on this site is unchanged from that which was assessed in the EIA for the Licensed Works. No impacts on Ascrib, Isay and Dunvegan SAC, located 5.5 kilometers from the Proposed Works, are anticipated beyond what was assessed in the EIA for Licensed Works. NatureScot is of the view that the temporal extension does not require an EIA.

Characteristics of the potential impact

NatureScot advised that the impacts of the Proposed Works are the same as previously identified in the original marine licence but would take place over a longer period of time. The Scottish Ministers are satisfied that the temporal extension of the marine licences are unlikely to result in any significant environmental effects over and above those originally assessed as part of the EIA report undertaken at the time of the original marine licence applications.

Conclusion

In view of the findings above, the Scottish Ministers are of the opinion that an EIA is not required to be carried out in respect of the Proposed Works under the 2017 MW Regulations.

If you increase, alter or extend the Proposed Works, you are advised to contact Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team again to confirm if the screening opinion is still valid.

A copy of the screening opinion has been forwarded to The Highland Council's planning department. The screening opinion has also been made publicly available through the Marine Scotland Information website [Uig Ferry Terminal Development, Uig, Isle of Skye | Marine Scotland Information](#).

If you require any further assistance or advice on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Inglis
Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team

Appendix I. Consultation response

RE: The Highland Council (per AECOM) - Ferry Terminal Development - Uig, Isle of Skye - Screening Consultation



[Redacted]

To: MS Marine Licensing
Cc: SOUTH_HIGHLAND

You forwarded this message on 21/03/2023 18:58.



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Tue 21/03/2023 18:48

Sorry Tom,

Too many e-mails just now. To confirm, our view is that extending the licence period would not need an EIA. The impacts are the same just spread over a longer period with bigger gaps in between.

Regards

Alex

Alex Turner | Operations Officer - Skye & Lochalsh – Central Highland

NatureScot | King's House, The Green, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9BS | t: 01463 701663 | m: [Redacted]

NatureScot | Taigh an Rìgh, An Àilean, Port Rìgh, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, IV51 9BS

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