

Ms Ellie Noble
Seagreen Wind Energy Limited
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Date: 04/12/2024

Dear Ms Noble,

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

Thank you for your screening opinion request and accompanying screening report dated 07 October 2024 in regards to the proposed variation to the section 36 consents for the Seagreen Alpha and Seagreen Bravo Offshore Windfarms (the “Seagreen Project”) held by Seagreen Alpha Wind Energy Limited. The changes proposed (“the Proposed Works”) involve extending the installation window for the 36 consented but not yet constructed wind turbine generators (“WTG”) so that construction can commence no later than 9 years 8 months from the commissioning of the first WTG.

The consented Seagreen Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) project therefore, the Scottish Ministers consider the Proposed Works to fall under paragraph 3 of schedule 2 of The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (“the 2017 EW 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 EW Regulations.

Under regulation 8(5) of the 2017 EW Regulations, the Scottish Ministers have consulted with NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (“SEPA”), Angus Council, Dundee City Council, East Lothian Council, Fife Council and Historic Environment Scotland (“HES”) as to their view on whether the Proposed Works are an EIA project. Copies of the consultation responses received are 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 EW Regulations, as are relevant to the Proposed Works. This is set out below.

Characteristics of the works

The Seagreen Project was awarded Section 36 consents and marine licences for the construction and operation of 150 WTG, associated inter array cabling and offshore transmission asset infrastructure. At this time, 114 of the 150 consented WTG have been constructed (“Phase 1”).

The Proposed Works involve extending the installation window for the 36 consented but not yet constructed WTG (“Phase 1A”). The Proposed Works do not seek to change the size and design of the project, or the total duration of the construction works for Phase 1A, only the installation schedule, so that construction of Phase 1A can commence no later than 9 years 8 months from the commissioning of the first WTG.

The Proposed Works are located in the vicinity of other offshore wind projects, namely Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm, Neart Na Gaoithe Offshore Windfarm and Berwick Bank Offshore Windfarm.

Location of the works

The Proposed Works are located in the North Sea approximately 27 kilometres off the Angus coast and lie within the vicinity of a number of protected sites, including Special Protected Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). NatureScot noted the potential increased cumulative impacts to ornithological receptors (in particular the qualifying features of the Outer Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA), marine mammals, and fish and shellfish ecology and welcomed the proposed supporting Environmental Appraisal Report. NatureScot advised on a number of points that should be addressed in the Environmental Appraisal Report, including updated vessel movements specific to Phase 1A, noise modelling for Phase 1A, and cumulative population modelling for marine mammals.

NatureScot advised that there would be no adverse effect on site integrity as a result of the Proposed Works for all of the considered sites, both alone and in combination with other developments. The full advice can be found at Appendix I.

The Scottish Ministers agree with NatureScot and are content that any impacts to the Outer Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA, marine mammals, fish and shellfish and potential cumulative impacts can be managed through the Environmental Appraisal carried out as part of the consenting process.

Characteristics of the potential impact

NatureScot concluded that the Proposed Works should be screened out of the requirement for EIA on the basis that the variation will not give rise to any likely significant adverse environmental effects in addition to those previously assessed as part of the existing consents.

HES stated that it did not identify any significant impacts on the historic environment from the Proposed Works and therefore does not consider that an EIA is required.

Dundee City Council, East Lothian Council, Angus Council and SEPA supported the view that an EIA is not required in respect of the Proposed Works. Fife Council did not provide a consultation response.

Conclusion

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



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

A copy of the screening opinion has been forwarded to Angus Council, Dundee City Council, East Lothian Council and Fife Council planning departments. The screening opinion has also been made publicly available through the [Marine Scotland Information](#) website.

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

Yours sincerely,

Anna Shenton
Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team