

**Rory Gunn**  
**Global Energy Nigg Ltd**  
**The Nigg Energy Park**  
**Nigg**  
**Ross-Shire**  
**IV19 1QU**

Date: 23 April 2026

Dear Mr Gunn,

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

Thank you for your screening opinion request dated 18 February 2026 in regards to the proposed variation of Global Energy Nigg Ltd's marine licence to allow for the extension of the marine licence area and the alteration of the temporary bund which support the construction a new quay at Eastern Inner Dock Quay, Port of Nigg ("the Proposed Works").

The Proposed Works at the Port of Nigg are to be undertaken as part of the construction of a new quayside, for which marine licence MD-00010859 was granted on 05 March 2025 ("the Licensed Works"). The Licensed Works are part of an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") project, therefore the Scottish Ministers consider the Proposed Works to fall under paragraph 14 of schedule 2 of The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 ("the 2017 MW Regulations"), on the basis that they constitute a change to schedule 1 works already authorised. Consequently, the Scottish Ministers are obliged to adopt a screening opinion as to whether the Proposed Works are, or are not, an Environmental Impact Assessment 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), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency ("SEPA"), Highland 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 MW Regulations, as are relevant to the Proposed Works. This is set out below.

### **Characteristics of the works**

The Licensed Works have a valid marine licence to permit site clearance, demolition of revetment, construction of temporary working platform and construction of quayside with vertical retaining wall. The licence is valid from 05 March 2025 to 30 June 2027.

The Proposed Works are required to allow an extension to the marine licence area and to allow the reuse of recovered rock armour at the north and south of the new quay.

The alteration of the marine licence area is necessary due the changes in design of the temporary bund which facilitates the piling of the new quay wall. The change does not alter the permanent footprint of the Licensed Works and will result in a less than 1% increase in the temporary works area from 23,284 square metres (“m<sup>2</sup>”) to 23,380 m<sup>2</sup>.

As a result of the Licensed Works, an existing rock armour side slope will be disturbed at the southern end of the new quay. The Proposed Works will reinstate this rock armour. The Proposed Works also include the formation of a rock revetment on the north return of the new quay to provide passive resistance and stability of the infill of the temporary working platform. This revetment will be constructed from a stone core and protected from wave and tidal erosion with rock armour on the outer faces. The Licensed Works allow for the removal of 30,715 tonnes of crushed rock and armour stone. Approximately 5,500 tonnes of rock armour and 17,500 tonnes of core material will be reused in the Proposed Works.

## **Location of the works**

The Proposed Works are located at the Port of Nigg in the Cromarty Firth. Whilst they are not located in any protected or designated sites, connectivity was identified between the Licensed Works and the Cromarty Firth Special Protection Area (“SPA”), Dornoch Firth and Morrich More Special Area of Conservation (“SAC”), Moray Firth SAC and Moray Firth SPA. However, it was concluded that the Licensed Works would not result in adverse effect on site integrity for any site.

NatureScot advised that it does not consider the Proposed Works to be an EIA project and that the proposed change to the Licensed Works does not alter the advice it provided on 04 October 2024 during the licensing process.

## **Characteristics of the potential impact**

SEPA advised that it does not consider the Proposed Works to be an EIA project.

Highland Council advised that it considers that the proposal would not be likely to give rise to any new or materially different significant environmental effects beyond those already assessed and that it does not consider the Proposed Works to be an EIA project.

HES advised that the Proposed Works will not impact any assets within their remit.

## **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 MW Regulations and, therefore, an EIA is not required to be carried out in respect of the Proposed Works.

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 Highland Council planning department. 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,

Peter Sparrow  
Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team

