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Dear Gavin,

**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2017**

**THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2017**

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

**DECISION NOTICE RELATIVE TO APPLICATION FOR MULTI-STAGE REGULATORY
APPROVAL AND CONSENT**

**CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE INCH CAPE OFFSHORE WINDFARM AND
TRANSMISSION WORKS, FIRTH OF FORTH**

1. Description of the Application

- 1.1 On 17 June 2019 (varied on 14 June 2023), the Scottish Ministers, granted in favour of Inch Cape Offshore Limited (“ICOL”) (Company Number SC373173), having its registered office at 5th Floor, 40 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2BY (“the Company”) a Generating Station (“GS”) marine licence under part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 relative to the above works (“the GS marine licence”). Condition 3.2.2.12 of the GS marine licence requires the Company to submit a Vessel Management Plan (“VMP”) for approval by the Scottish Ministers prior to commencing the above works. Condition 3.2.2.14 of the GS marine licence requires the Company to submit a Navigational Safety Plan (“NSP”) for approval by the Scottish Ministers prior to commencing the above works.
- 1.2 On 17 June 2019 (varied on 22 August 2023 and 9 November 2023), the Scottish Ministers, granted in favour of the Company an Offshore Transmission Infrastructure (“OFTI”) marine licence under part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 relative to the above works (“the OFTI marine licence”). Condition 3.2.2.11 of the OFTI marine licence requires the Company to submit a VMP for approval by Scottish Ministers prior to commencing the above works. Condition 3.2.2.13 of the OFTI marine licence requires the Company to submit an NSP for approval by Scottish Ministers prior to commencing the above works.
- 1.3 On 17 June 2019 (varied 16 July 2020, 22 July 2021 and 14 June 2023), the Scottish Ministers, granted in favour of the Company consent under section 36

("s.36") of the Electricity Act 1989 relative to the above works ("the s.36 consent"). Condition 15 of the s.36 consent requires the Company to submit a VMP for approval by the Scottish Ministers prior to commencing the above works. Condition 17 of the s.36 consent requires the Company to submit an NSP for approval by the Scottish Ministers prior to commencing the above works.

- 1.4 On 20 August 2024 the Company submitted to the Scottish Ministers a combined VMP/NSP for approval and applied for multi-stage regulatory approval and consent in accordance with conditions 3.2.2.12 and 3.2.2.14 of the GS marine licence, conditions 3.2.2.11 and 3.2.2.13 of the OFTI marine licence and conditions 15 and 17 of the s.36 consent.

2. Reasons and Considerations on which this decision is based

- 2.1 Following consultation with NatureScot, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Forth Ports, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Northern Lighthouse Board and Scottish Fishermen's Federation, an amended VMP/NSP was submitted to the Scottish Ministers by the Company on 20 November 2024.
- 2.2 The information contained with the VMP/NSP is within the parameters of what has already been assessed within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report ("EIA Report") submitted in respect of the marine licences and s.36 consent.
- 2.3 The Company was not required to submit additional information under regulation 25 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 or regulation 27 of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 in relation to the application for multi-stage consent and regulatory approval.

3. Determination and Terms of Decision

- 3.1 The Scottish Ministers, hereby approve the VMP/NSP as submitted on 20 November 2024 and grant multi-stage regulatory approval and consent in relation thereto.
- 3.2 In the event that the Company wishes to update or amend VMP/NSP, the company must submit, in writing, details of the proposed updates or amendments to the Scottish Ministers for their written approval prior to the planned implementation of the proposed updates or amendments. It is not permissible for any works associated with the proposed updates or amendments to proceed prior to the granting of such approval. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Scottish Ministers, all works must proceed in accordance with the VMP/NSP.
- 3.3 This decision notice will be published on the Scottish Government's website: <https://marine.gov.scot/ml/inch-cape-offshore-windfarm-revised-design>.
- 3.4 A copy of this decision notice will also be sent to the relevant planning authorities.

Authorised on behalf of the Scottish Ministers

By a member of staff of the Scottish Government

Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
Scottish Government
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7 January 2025