

Sent via email & post where contact details held

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13 May 2020

Sofia Offshore Wind Farm – Non-material change application to the Dogger Bank Teesside A and B Offshore Wind Farm Order 2015 (as amended)

Dear Consultee

Sofia Offshore Wind Farm is a consented offshore wind farm in the Dogger Bank area of the North Sea with an electricity generating capacity of up to 1.4 gigawatts (GW). It is one of the two projects previously known together as Dogger Bank Teesside and was developed by Forewind, a consortium comprising four leading energy companies. The Sofia project was formally known as Dogger Bank Teesside B.

The Project company, Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Limited (“SOWFL”), is wholly owned by Innogy Renewables UK Limited. Innogy (formally RWE), was one of the original members of the Forewind consortium. A DCO was granted for two individual wind farms (Teesside A and Teesside B) in August 2015. The Dogger Bank Teesside A and B Development Consent Order 2015 (“the DCO”) awarded consent for all elements of the two wind farms (onshore and offshore).

For information, SSE and Equinor now own 50% each of Dogger Bank Teesside A (“Teesside A”) under a new consortium, Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm Project 3 Projco Limited (“Project 3 Projco”). Project 3 Projco and SOWFL will collaborate as necessary to ensure that any obligations and requirements under the DCO are met, for example in relation to the shared works consented by the DCO.

SOWFL has been reviewing the parameters of the consented Sofia (Teesside B) offshore wind farm in relation to up to date and projected wind turbine and construction technology. As a result, some amendments are required to the DCO which would allow for the use of the most up to date technology and also to provide clarification for the interpretation of the consent. In order to secure the necessary changes SOWFL has submitted a non-material change application (“NMC Application”) to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“BEIS”) and a parallel application to amend the relevant Deemed Marine Licences (dMLs) to the Marine Management Organisation.

The changes in the Applications include increasing the maximum hammer energy used for monopole installation for the Wind Turbine Generators and the Offshore Converter Platform from 3,000kJ to 4,000kJ;

consent to lay cables between the Wind Turbine Generators and the Offshore Converter Platform; increasing the number of fibre optic cables within the High Voltage Direct Current export cables to two; and corrections to ensure consistency in cross-referencing with the previously varied deemed marine licences.

SOWFL considers that these amendments will comprise “non-material amendments” as defined in the Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

Please find enclosed formal notice of SOWFL’s NMC Application, which provides details about how and when to view the application documents, how to make a representation and the deadline for doing so.

You are being formally consulted by SOWFL on the DCO changes as you are an individual or organisation that was previously consulted about the original DCO application and you may have an interest in the marine environment where the wind farm array will be located.

The NMC Application documents are available for inspection on the National Infrastructure Planning Portal (Dogger Bank Teesside A and B Offshore Wind Farm page) here: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/dogger-bank-teesside-a-sofia-offshore-wind-farm-for-merly-dogger-bank-teesside-b-project-previously-known-as-dogger-bank-teesside-ab/>. Click on the Documents tab and then click on Decided in the documents navigation area. They are also available on the Sofia project website at www.sofiawindfarm.com.

A free digital or paper copy of the application documents can also be obtained from the Applicant using the following contact details:

Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Limited, Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, England, SN5 6PB or at comms_sofia@innogy.com or on +44 (0)330 122 9670

I hope that the information contained within this letter is useful. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Kim Gauld-Clark
Senior Consent Manager
Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Limited
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