

Sent via email

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Sofia reference: 003597631-01
Teesside A reference: AU-PM763-001-00004
Sofia Contact: Kim Gauld-Clark
Teesside A Contact: Jonathan Wilson

Wednesday, 13 May 2020

Dear James,

The Dogger Bank Teesside A and B Offshore Wind Farm Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/1592) (the DCO) as amended by The Dogger Bank Teesside A and B Offshore Wind Farm (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/699) (the Amendment Order)

The Dogger Bank Teesside A Offshore Wind Farm (Teesside A) and Doggerbank Offshore Wind Farm Project 3 Projco Limited (Projco 3)

The Sofia Offshore Wind Farm (Sofia) and Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Limited (SOWFL)

Please find enclosed an application (**the NMC Application**) for a non-material change to the DCO. The NMC Application is submitted in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 (as amended) (**the Regulations**).

The DCO, Teesside A, Sofia and the Project Companies

The DCO granted development consent for two offshore wind farms comprising up to 200 wind turbine generators (Teesside A and the Dogger Bank Teesside B Offshore Wind Farm (**Teesside B**)). The benefit of development consent for Teesside A was granted to Doggerbank Project 2 Bizco Limited (**Bizco 2**) and Bizco 2 has subsequently been renamed as Projco 3. The benefit of development consent for Teesside B was granted to Doggerbank Project 3 Bizco Limited (**Bizco 3**) and

Bizco 3 has subsequently been renamed as SOWFL. The DCO was made on 4 August 2015 and came into force on 26 August 2015, and the Amendment Order was made on 25 March 2019 and came into force on 26 March 2019.

Teesside B is now known as Sofia. In relation to Sofia, the DCO was subsequently amended by the Amendment Order in March 2019. The Amendment Order did not make any amendments to Teesside A: it only made amendments to Sofia.

SSE and Equinor were two of four companies comprising the original Forewind Limited consortium that applied for, and was granted, the DCO. As you will be aware, since the DCO was granted the consortium has split: SSE and Equinor now own 50% each of Teesside A through Projco 3 and have the benefit of the DCO in respect of Teesside A; and SOWFL now owns 100% of Sofia and has the benefit of the DCO in respect of Sofia. Projco 3 is a Joint Venture between SSE and Equinor, which has been set up to take forward the development of Teesside A.

Projco 3 and Sofia (together, the **Project Companies**) are applying for non-material changes to the DCO as amended in relation to Teesside A and Sofia to enable each of Sofia and Teesside A to proceed independently now that the two projects are no longer being delivered by a single consortium. It is, however, acknowledged that a complete separation of Teesside A and Sofia is not practicable, particularly given their geographical proximity.

Regulation 4 of the Regulations

The Project Companies are the applicant for the purposes of the NMC Application. The Project Companies' addresses are as follows:

- Projco 3 - No.1 Forbury Place 43 Forbury Road, Reading, United Kingdom, RG1 3JH.
- SOWFL – Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 6BP

Projco 3 has the benefit of development consent under the DCO in respect of Teesside A. SOWFL has the benefit of development consent under the DCO in respect of Sofia. Projco 3 and SOWFL have the

benefit of development consent under the DCO in respect of the shared works. Both Projco 3 and SOWFL are undertakers for the purposes of the DCO.

Each of Projco 3 and SOWFL has the benefit of an agreement for lease with The Crown Estate in respect of the offshore elements of Teesside A and Sofia.

The details of the proposed changes sought pursuant to the NMC Application and the supporting documentation submitted alongside the NMC Application are set out below.

The NMC Application

The proposed amendments in the NMC Application are to enable:

1. certain works to be carried out on a project specific basis by the relevant undertaker;
2. certain works to be carried out for both projects on a shared basis by one undertaker on behalf of the other;
3. certain works to either be carried out on a project specific basis by the relevant undertaker or for both projects on a shared basis by one undertaker on behalf of another;
4. the sharing of project cable corridors at certain identified sections of the onshore cable route where engineering work carried out since the grant of the DCO indicates that construction efficiency gains can be realised in such areas
5. a single cable chamber for both projects to be used at the rail crossing at Green Land and Redcar Road; and
6. HVAC cables to be laid in a trefoil formation to constitute a single cable for DCO purposes.

The proposed changes are principally administrative and functional in effect and do not result in new, or materially different, likely significant effects for either project compared to the outcomes of the environmental assessments from the time the DCO was made. They are required to reflect the change in the structure of the ownership of the relevant undertakers since the grant of the DCO. The NMC Application also seeks to make some straightforward amendments to errors in the DCO. Further details about the proposed amendments can be found in the Explanatory Memorandum submitted with the NMC Application.

Materiality

The environmental report and technical appendices which accompany this NMC Application demonstrate that it is appropriate for this amendment to be consented as a non-material change to the DCO. In summary, and using the criteria in the DCLG's guidance (Planning Act 2008: Guidance on Changes to Development Consent Orders), the NMC Application should be treated as non-material and consented as a non-material change because the changes pursuant to it:

1. do not require an updated environmental statement (from that at the time the DCO was made). This is because the NMC Application does not give rise to new, or materially different, likely significant effects on the environment;
2. do not invoke a need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) or a new or additional licence in respect of European Protected Species;
3. do not authorise the compulsory acquisition of any land, or an interest in or rights over land that was not authorised through the DCO; and
4. will have no effect on the local population.

In relation to the environmental statement, the environmental report and technical appendices demonstrate that the proposed changes to staging, corridor sharing and trefoil cabling do not affect the assessments presented in the environmental statement while the proposed change at the rail crossing at Green Land and Redcar Road does not give rise to new or materially different likely significant effects on the environment to those described in the environmental statement.

Please find enclosed in support of this NMC Application:

1. an Environmental Report, together with Appendices
2. a draft Amendment Order, containing the changes to the DCO that the Project Companies are seeking;
3. an Explanatory Memorandum explaining the proposed amendments to the DCO contained in the Amendment Order;
4. a tracked change version of the DCO, showing the effect of the Amendment Order on the DCO;

The Consultation and Publicity Statement which is required to be submitted in support of the NMC Application will be submitted once the Project Companies have complied with the consultation and publicity requirements of the Regulations.

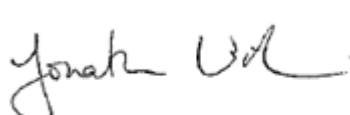
The application fee of £6,891 has been paid.

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

Yours sincerely,



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



Jonathan Wilson
Lead Consents Manager
Teesside A