



## Meeting Note

<b>File reference</b>	<b>EN010015 – Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Ewa Sherman</b>

<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>RWE NPower Renewables (RWE)</b>
<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012</b>
<b>Attendees (Planning Inspectorate)</b>	<b>Robert Upton (Senior Examining Inspector) Owain George (Case Leader) Tim Hallam (National Infrastructure Legal Manager) David Price (EIA and Land Rights Manager) Gail Boyle (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Ewa Sherman (Case Officer)</b>
<b>Attendees (RWE NPower Renewables)</b>	<b>Robert Thornhill (Development Manager) Gill Moore (Offshore Consents Manager) Paul Carter (Offshore Developer) Kim Daye (Stakeholder Liaison Officer) Natasha Bacon (Onshore Infrastructure Manager) John Houghton (Bond Pearce)</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Temple Quay House, Bristol</b>

<b>Meeting purpose</b>	<b>Project Update Meeting</b>
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<b>Summary of key points discussed and advice given</b>	<p><b>Update on the changes from IPC to NID</b></p> <p>Planning Inspectorate (PINS) provided an overview of the transfer of function for dealing with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) to the National Infrastructure Directorate of PINS, following the abolition of the former Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) on 1 April 2012. PINS also provided an overview of the key amendments to the Planning Act 2008. PINS confirmed that the policy of openness for National Infrastructure remained.</p> <p><b>Project update and programme</b></p> <p>RWE provided an overview of the current status of the project including amendments made following public consultation. It was advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was published in June 2011,</li><li>• s.47 consultation has been carried out between 10<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011,</li><li>• The boundary for the offshore element of the proposed development had been changed following the s.47 consultation,</li></ul>
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- Draft Environmental Statement to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in Q3 2012,
- s.42 consultation is planned for the period between July and end of August 2012,
- RWE were also proposing to carry out a further round of 'informal' public consultation during July 2012,
- Application for Development Consent Order (DCO) to be submitted to PINS in Q4 2012,
- First electricity generation of the Atlantic Array Wind Farm is expected in Q4 2016 and full generation capacity in Q4 2019.

The following specific matters were discussed:

### **Offshore project components and changes**

RWE provided an update on public consultation, following 13 public events in England and Wales (seven of which were held in Wales) attended by more than 1900 people, and after receiving over 700 feedback forms/emails/letters. Main issues identified included visual impact, impact on birds and marine mammals.

RWE advised that it is currently in discussions with port operators regarding the choice of harbour facilities to serve the offshore construction element of the scheme, however a final decision will likely be made post consent. RWE noted that a detailed assessment of harbour facilities will not be provided in the Environmental Statement, but that the 'worst case' impacts regarding navigation would be assessed in the EIA.

RWE advised that it is consulting with the Welsh Government with regard to the Marine Licence required for part of the development falling within the Welsh zone of UK Territorial Waters. It also confirmed that a further deemed Marine Management Organisation Marine Licence will be included within the DCO. RWE said it was intended that the provisions of the two Marine Licences would 'mirror' each other where possible.

### **Onshore project components and changes**

RWE said that consent for National Grid substation will no longer be included in the DCO application. National Grid's proposed works to the substation will be dealt with by way of permitted development or under an extent planning permission.

RWE provided an overview of the onshore cable corridor and discussed the possibility of narrower construction corridors (reduced to 54m in width from 60m) and using 8 cables instead of 10. Onshore connection to be wholly underground.

With regards the onshore substation for the project, RWE said that the built footprint for this was now proposed to be 9.5ha rather than the previous 13.5ha. This reflected the proposed use of predominantly gas insulated technology, which also resulted in the possibility of more buildings being proposed (with a maximum

	<p>height of 14m) if a phased approach was taken to building the scheme.</p> <p>s.106 agreements with the local authorities are being considered in relation to the transport aspects of the project, and RWE had discussed this with Devon County Council.</p> <p>RWE advised it is unlikely that any s.53 (rights of entry) authorisation will be required and confirmed that negotiations with relevant landowners are progressing.</p> <p><b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> RWE advised that work on the Draft DCO is progressing in consultation with North Devon District Council, Torridge District Council and Devon County Council. The local authorities are seeking to work on a joint local impact report.</p> <p>RWE advised that a Draft DCO will be submitted to PINS for consideration in late September 2012. This draft would incorporate any comments received back from the relevant local authorities and other consultees, such as MMO, in response to the s.42 consultation.</p> <p>PINS advised that Planning Performance Agreements (PPA) are a possible matter for developers and local authorities to consider. RWE said that they had given consideration to this and there had been some discussions with Torridge Council, although if a PPA was to be entered into this would most likely be with all three relevant local authorities. PINS advised that discussions of the draft DCO with the relevant local authorities should also include consideration as to which authority(s) would be responsible for discharging any requirements included in the DCO.</p> <p>RWE said that it was likely that compulsory acquisition provisions would be included in the draft DCO.</p> <p><b>Appropriate Assessment</b> RWE updated on their approach to Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and the need for Appropriate Assessment (AA). RWE confirmed that 'informal' consultation has been carried out with Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales. Both of the organisations were recently asked to comment on the methodology of RWE's approach to HRA, RWE provided a month for responses.</p> <p>PINS advised that it would be possible for it to review and comment on the HRA information/report in advance of the application.</p> <p><b>Transboundary matrix</b> RWE have considered the potential for Transboundary Impacts and have contacted Belgian fishing authorities (identified by</p>
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	<p>North Devon Fishermen's Association); National Parks and Wildlife Service and Development Applications Unit, Ireland. RWE said that although they had not yet completed the ES, and it was not yet clear what all the impacts would be, they are not anticipating that there will be any likely significant transboundary effects, based on EIA outcomes to date. PINS advised on the approach taken within Advice Note 12 regarding transboundary consultation and the organisations that are identified. PINS said that it would be helpful to receive a copy of any transboundary impact report at the earliest opportunity and ideally prior to the application being submitted.</p> <p><b>Consultation Report</b>  RWE outlined its proposal for the structure of the Consultation Report, which is intended to be organised by subject matter. PINS advised that the Report should be clear and concise, whilst the relationship with different stages of consultation should be easily identifiable. PINS also recommended that the relationship between formal and informal consultation should be made clear.</p> <p>RWE noted the intention for an informal public consultation phase in July 2012 to take account of details of the alterations to the proposed application. RWE said that this would be undertaken at the same time as they carried out their s.48 publicity, but that they were not intending to publish a further SoCC. PINS recommended that if further consultation was to be informal then RWE should consider carefully how this should be advertised and how the applicant could ensure that all parties are notified of the availability of relevant documentation and the avenues for providing feedback. The Consultation Report would need to explain clearly how this informal consultation had been linked to the formal public consultation and what weight could be placed on it.</p>
<b>Specific decisions/ follow up required?</b>	<p>PINS requested to be informed of meetings with the local authorities with the view to attend / assist with the process, and of the proposed timetable for submission of draft documents.</p> <p>Next project update meeting to be scheduled for September 2012 following submission of Draft DCO to PINS</p>
<b>Circulation List</b>	All Attendees