

## Meeting Note

<b>File reference</b>	EN010015 - Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm
<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Author</b>	Mike Harris

<b>Meeting with</b>	Officers and Elected members of Torridge District Council (TDC) and North Devon Council (NDC) and RWE npower Renewables
<b>Meeting date</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2011
<b>Attendees (IPC)</b>	Mike Harris (Case Lead) Richard Price (Assistant Case Officer) Jack Wride (Assistant Case Officer) Robert Upton (Pre-application Commissioner)
<b>Attendees (non IPC)</b>	Philip Pennington (TDC) A Dart (TDC) David Lausen (TDC) John Himan (TDC) Barry Parsons (TDC) Vanessa Saunders (TDC) Ricky McCormack (TDC) Michael Lowe (TDC) Jenni Pine (TDC) Brian Redwood (TDC) Ellen Vernon (NDC) Rodney Cann (NDC) Mike Edmunds (NDC) B H Edwards (TDC and NDC)  Robert Thornhill (RWE) Kim Daye (RWE) Gill Moore (RWE) Natasha Bacon (RWE)
<b>Location</b>	Torridge District Council offices, Bideford

<b>Meeting purpose</b>	To introduce elected members and Council officers to the IPC and the process of the Planning Act 2008 and for RWE npower renewables to provide a project update.
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<b>Summary of key points discussed and advice given</b>	<p>Robert Upton introduced the IPC project team and outlined the IPCs policy of openness.</p> <p>A presentation was delivered which outlined the role of the IPC and the process to be followed for handling applications for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. This can be viewed via the following link - <a href="#">link to slides</a></p> <p>Following the presentation the following questions were raised:</p>
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Q. A query was raised as to the weight given to a Local Impact Report (LIR) and its content in relation to possible negative local impacts.

A. It was confirmed that the content of an LIR is at the discretion of the authority preparing it. It provides an opportunity to highlight specific points which it is considered will result in local impacts. Reference was made to sections 104 and 105 of the Planning Act 2008, specifically that the LIR must be given regard in any decision made on a proposal, so that failure to have regard might be grounds for legal challenge.

Q. Concern was expressed that the Environmental Impact Assessment does not consider agricultural matters but only the environment in a broad sense.

A. It was noted that if locally agricultural impacts are a specific issue of concern then that could be a topic to be researched and covered in the LIR.

Natasha Bacon, Onshore Infrastructure Manager for Atlantic Array, noted that potential impacts on agriculture would be assessed as part of the environmental impact assessment process as well as being discussed with the potential affected landowners.

Q. The relationship between a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) and the Local Impact Report was raised, specifically as it was understood that a PPA is typically used to ensure an application is handled to specific standards.

A. It was highlighted that the IPC does not play any role in PPA agreements, but reference was made to an existing agreement between EDF and local authorities in relation to the proposed Hinkley C project. The IPC confirmed that the general view is that PPAs can help to ensure all parties are as well informed about the proposed project and its impacts as possible.

Robert Thornhill (RWE) delivered a project update which was followed by questions from members and officers. This covered the following areas:

- Ports, including Operation and Maintenance facilities;
- Consultation events, including discussion of off and onshore elements of the proposed works (including photomontages);
- Clarification of cable corridor works (including confirmation that cables will be undergrounded);
- Community benefits.

	<p>During this discussion the IPC gave the following advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In respect of a query relating to how impacts are assessed if the number of turbines is not known at the point in time an application is made, it was advised that the Rochdale Envelope principle should be followed, namely that the maximum 'worst case' scenario should be assessed;</li> <li>• The promoter must be clear on advertising the start and end dates of the consultation period in order to ensure that communities have a full understanding of the opportunities to engage and the promoter is able to meet their statutory duties.</li> </ul>
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<b>Circulation List</b>	As per attendee list (TDC and NDDC officers to circulate to their respective members)
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