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Rt. Hon. David Lidlington MP
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010015

By e mail

Date: 21 September 2012

Dear Mr. Lidlington,

ATLANTIC ARRAY PROPOSED OFF SHORE WIND FARM APPLICATION

Thank you for forwarding the letter sent to you by your constituent, Mr Peter Bradley, regarding the proposed Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm to be sited off the North coast of Devon. I can provide you with the following response, a copy of which I have forwarded to him directly.

The Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm project has not yet been submitted to The Planning Inspectorate as an application. In other words, RWE npower renewables' proposals for this project are currently at the pre-application stage of the process established by the Planning Act 2008. This stage requires the developer to undertake formal consultation with various parties which include statutory parties (such as nature conservation bodies and local authorities), landowners and members of the public. This consultation, along with other work including environmental surveys, must be carried out prior to an application for development consent being made. There are legally established requirements concerning this work which the developer must comply with.

To ensure the Planning Inspectorate's impartiality and fairness to all parties, it can not involve itself in on-going discussions about the merits of proposals. I suggest that you direct your constituent to provide his comments directly to the developer, in order for them to be responded to and used to shape the development for which consent is applied for.

Once an application is submitted and if it is formally accepted for examination (a stage taking up to 28 days, delegated to The Planning Inspectorate by the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government) the applicant will advertise this in local and national newspapers. In doing so they must also indicate when and how people can register with The Planning Inspectorate to become formally involved in the examination; this is known as registering to be an Interested Party and doing this ensures an individual's right to be involved in, and informed of, matters relating to the examination of the proposals.

Following this stage an Examining Authority (made up of an Inspector or Panel of Inspectors), appointed by The Planning Inspectorate will examine the proposals; this stage must be completed within 6 months. The final two stages are a 3 month period for the appointed Examining Inspector(s) to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State

who then will have 3 months to make a decision as to whether consent is granted.

Further advice on the process can be viewed in our Advice Notes, specifically Advice Note 8¹.

For information on when the project is likely to be submitted and, once received, its progress through the examination process, I refer you and your constituent to the Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm project page on the National Infrastructure Portal:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/south-west/atlantic-array-wind-farm/>

This page will be updated throughout the application process and your constituent will be able to see all advice given in relation to this project. If a project is accepted for examination the project page will also display all application documents as well as all representations received in relation to the project.

I trust that this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you require further advice.

Yours Sincerely



Simone Wilding
Principal Case Leader

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our [Information Charter](#) which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

¹ Advice Notes available here - <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>