



The Planning Inspectorate

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To All Interested Parties and Statutory
Parties invited to the Preliminary
Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010077 & EN010078

Date: 1 April 2021

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 98 and The Infrastructure
Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8(3)**

**Application by East Anglia ONE North Limited for an Order Granting
Development Consent for the East Anglia ONE North Offshore Wind Farm**

**Application by East Anglia TWO Limited for an Order Granting Development
Consent for the East Anglia TWO Offshore Wind Farm**

**Notification of a new deadline for completion of Examinations and variation
to the Examination Timetables**

On 9 February 2021, the Planning Inspectorate formally requested the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to extend the Examination periods for the East Anglia ONE North (EA1N) and East Anglia TWO (EA2) Offshore Wind Farms. The main reasons were:

- The impact of the Covid-19 restrictions and two national lockdowns on the ability of Interested Parties, Local Authorities and Statutory Bodies to engage effectively in the Examinations;
- The impact of the Covid-19 restrictions and two national lockdowns on the ability of the Panels and Case Teams to examine the applications fully and produce robust recommendation reports that would enable the SoS to reach decisions within the statutory timescales; and
- The range, scale and pace of the two simultaneous Examinations during this unprecedented time, leading to a strain on delivery by participants.



The Planning Inspectorate proposed that an extension of no longer than four months to the Examination periods should be granted, if the SoS was so minded.

Taking these reasons into account, and after careful consideration, on 30 March 2021 the Secretary of State agreed to an extension of three months¹. The Examinations have now been extended and will close on or before **Tuesday 6 July 2021**.

In view of this, the Examining Authorities (ExAs) have adapted their approach to the remainder of the Examinations. The Examination Timetable for both applications has been amended at items 48 to 57 and is appended to this letter at **Annex A. Deadline 9** has now changed and all submissions must now be received by **Thursday 15 April 2021. Deadline 9** now also includes any request to add supplementary information to documents submitted at Deadlines 5, 6 and 7.

The amended Examination Timetable, amongst new written deadlines, provides for:

- Publication of Further Written Questions (ExQ3) and a deadline for responses;
- Publication of the ExA's commentary on and/or schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Orders and a deadline for comments (if required);
- Publication of amendments to the previously issued Reports on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) and a deadline for comments (if required); and
- Further Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (if required).

In delivering these procedures, the ExAs will ensure that there is no need for settled evidence and completed investigations to be re-stated or re-visited unless there are underlying changes in circumstances. There are also some matters for which the relevant parties have been clear that there is no reasonable prospect of agreement being reached, and for which the ExAs consider that we have the evidence that we require to make findings and recommendations.

This next phase in the Examinations will focus on those remaining matters, issues and questions in respect of which it is important that additional information is provided to enable sound findings and recommendations to be made. We will seek to ensure that either agreements are reached on these points, or that positions of difference are clearly stated in a concluded manner. The matters of primary focus will be as follows:

- Biodiversity and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA);
- Consideration of alternatives and cumulative impact onshore;
- Flood risk and drainage; and
- Issues around the proposed substations site at Friston, including, but not limited to, considerations of landscape, design, historic environment, visual impacts, and proposed mitigations.

We are aware that the Preliminary Meeting for the Sizewell C Project has recently opened and is due to resume on Wednesday 14 April 2021, and that many parties

¹ Letter from the Secretary of State granting a three months extension for [EA1N](#) and [EA2](#)



involved in the EA1N and EA2 Examinations will also be participating in that Examination. With this in mind, we have sought to ensure that the amended timetable in the Annex avoids likely events and busy periods in the draft timetable for that examination as far as is possible.

We would like to thank you all for your contributions throughout the Examinations, especially bearing in mind the ongoing Covid pandemic. We look forward to your continued engagement for the remainder of the Examinations.

Yours faithfully

Rynd Smith

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Annexes

A Amended Examination Timetable



Amended Examination Timetable

The ExAs is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the date set by the Secretary of State under section 98(4) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).

48	<p>Deadline 9</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any requests to add supplementary information to documents submitted at Deadlines 5, 6 and 7 • Comments on the Applicant's updated draft DCO (dDCO) submitted at Deadline 8 (D8) • Comments on Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and Statement of Commonality received by D8 • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D8 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExAs for this deadline 	<p>Thursday 15 April 2021</p>
49	<p>Deadline 10</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any supplementary information received by D9 • Comments on any additional information/submissions received at D9 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExAs for this deadline 	<p>Thursday 6 May 2021</p>
50	<p>Publication by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ExA's commentary on and/or schedule of changes to the dDCO (if required) • ExA's Further Written Questions (ExQ3) 	<p>Thursday 20 May 2021</p>
51	<p>Time reserved for any Issue Specific Hearings and/or Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (if required)</p>	<p>Tuesday 25 – Thursday 27 May 2021</p>
52	<p>Issue Specific Hearing on the dDCO (if required)</p>	<p>Friday 28 May 2021</p>



<p>53</p>	<p>Deadline 11</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case • Comments on ExA's commentary on and/or schedule of changes to the dDCO (if required) • Responses to ExAs Further Written Questions (ExQ3) • Comments on any additional information/submissions received at D10 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExAs for this deadline 	<p>Monday 7 June 2021</p>
<p>54</p>	<p>Publication by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to the previously issued Reports on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required) 	<p>Wednesday 16 June 2021</p>
<p>55</p>	<p>Deadline 12</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to ExQ3 • Comments on the amendments to the previously issued RIES (if required) • Applicant's Final Tracking Lists prepared under Procedural Decisions 12, 13, and 14 (Rule 8 (3) dated 08.12.2021 - Annex B) • Applicants Final preferred dDCO to be submitted in the SI template with the SI template validation report (under Procedural Decision 19 (Rule 8 (3) dated 08.12.2021 - Annex B) - including track change version • Applicants Final updated version of the Book of Reference (under Procedural Decision 19 (Rule 8 (3) dated 08.12.2021 - Annex B) - including track change version 	<p>Monday 28 June 2021</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants Final Compulsory Acquisition schedule (identifying any unresolved objections) • Applicants Final Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and Commonality requested by the ExA under Procedural Decision 15 (Rule 8 (3)) dated 08.12.2021 - Annex B) also listing matters not agreed (in circumstances where a SoCG could not be finalised). • Comments on any additional information/submissions received at D11 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExAs for this deadline 	
56	<p>Deadline 13</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on Applicant's Final preferred dDCO • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D12 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExAs for this deadline 	Monday 5 July 2021
57	The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the date set by the Secretary of State under section 98(4) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).	Tuesday 6 July 2021

Submission times for deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any Deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the relevant Deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after the Deadline for submissions. An Examination Library for [EA1N](#) and [EA2](#) will be kept up to date throughout the Examinations and can be accessed via the 'Documents' tab on the project pages. Each document will be given a unique reference. These references will be used by the ExAs during the Examinations.