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██████████  
Development Manager for Vanguard West, East & Boreas  
RWE Renewables UK

14 April 2025

Dear ██████████,

**THE NORFOLK VANGUARD OFFSHORE WIND FARM ORDER 2022 (as amended)– S.I. 2022 NO. 138 (“the 2022 Order”)**

**PROPOSED NON-MATERIAL CHANGE APPLICATION (“the Application”)**

**REQUEST FOR CONSENT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PARTIES THAT NEED TO BE CONSULTED ON A NON-MATERIAL CHANGE APPLICATION**

1. Thank you for your letter of 31 March 2025 on behalf of Norfolk Vanguard West Limited and Norfolk Vanguard East Limited (“the Applicant”) which sets out proposals for a non-material change to the 2022 Order. The letter requests the Secretary of State’s consent to a limited consultation exercise under regulation 7(3) of the Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 (as amended) (“the 2011 Regulations”).
2. The letter states that the changes that will comprise the Application are as follows:  
*The Application would align the wording of Schedule 17 of the Order with the provisions already approved by the Secretary of State in the Benthic Implementation and Monitoring Plan (“BIMP”) which allow a payment to be made into the Marine Recovery Fund (“MRF”) if required as an adaptive management measure. The Application would remove the current provision in the Order requiring that the specified area of marine debris clearance must be completed before cable installation works may commence, because this would otherwise be inconsistent with payment under the MRF and the provisions of the approved BIMP.*
3. The Applicant proposes to consult 13 parties. The Secretary of State is satisfied that the consultees proposed by the Applicant are appropriate, noting the reasons given in Schedule 1: Table of Consultees and the nature of the proposed changes. The Secretary of State has considered the request and is satisfied that it is not necessary to consult other bodies identified by the Applicant in Schedule 1: Table of Consultees on the basis that the proposed non-



material changes will not alter any of the impacts described in the Environmental Statement and Habitats Regulations Assessment or result in changes to deemed marine licenses.

4. However, the Secretary of State considers that in addition to the consultees identified, the Applicant should further consult the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ("DEFRA"). The Secretary of State considers that DEFRA should be consulted in regard to any explicit reference to the Marine Recovery Fund, noting the guidance document "Strategic compensation measures for offshore wind activities: Marine Recovery Fund interim guidance" which lays out that applicants wishing to rely on Marine Protected Area designations and/or extensions as compensation for benthic impacts should work closely with DEFRA to determine whether this would provide appropriate compensation measures.
5. Accordingly, under regulation 7(3) of the 2011 Regulations, the Secretary of State consents to the reduced list of consultees as specified in this letter.
6. In taking this decision, the Secretary of State notes that there will also be public consultation in line with the requirements in regulation 6 of the 2011 Regulations and that the Application will be publicised in line with the requirements in regulation 20 of the 2011 Regulations.
7. The Secretary of State's written consent in this matter should not be taken as indicating approval for any aspects of the proposed changes to the 2022 Order which fall to him for consideration and determination, or whether the proposed changes will ultimately be regarded as material or not.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Secretary of State.

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning