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Town and Country Planning

Vattenfall Wind Power Limited

PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED)

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT (EIA) REGULATIONS 2017

NOTIFICATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT DEVELOPMENT LIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN ANOTHER EEA STATE

PROPOSED THANET EXTENSION OFFSHORE WIND FARM (THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT) BY VATTENFALL WIND POWER LIMITED (THE APPLICANT)

Vattenfall Wind Power Limited has formally notified the Secretary of State, of its intention to submit an Environmental Statement.

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (2017 Regulations) came into force in England and Wales on 16 May 2017. Regulation 37 of the 2017 Regulations provides transitional arrangements for the continued applicability of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) 2009 Regulations (as amended) (2009 Regulations). The transitional provisions apply to any application for an order granting development consent or subsequent consent where an Applicant has requested the Secretary of State or the relevant authority to adopt a Scoping Opinion (as defined in the 2009 Regulations) before the commencement of the 2017 Regulations in respect of the development to which the application relates.

On 4 January 2017, the Applicant requested the Secretary of State to adopt a Scoping Opinion in respect of the Proposed Development. Since the Applicant's request for a Scoping Opinion was made before the 16 May 2017, the 2009 Regulations continue to apply. Subsequent references to 'the EIA Regulations' in this document are therefore made in relation to the 2009 Regulations unless otherwise stated.

The Proposed Development would be located approximately 8km from the Isle of Thanet off the Kent coast at its closest point. The Proposed Development comprises an offshore generating station (wind farm) of up to 34 turbines with a generating capacity of up to 340MW. In addition to the turbines, the wind farm would also include inter-array subsea cables between the turbines (approx. 80km of cabling); high voltage alternating current (HVAC) subsea export cables to the shore (66kV or 132kV/220kV) (approx. 20-25km cable length) with fibre optic cabling for system control and data acquisition (SCADA); an offshore substation platform (if required, depending on export cable option); mattresses or other protective substrate associated with cable crossings (if required); and scour protection around foundations and export cables (if required). Electricity will be exported from the wind farm via export cables to the Kent Coast and approximately 2km inland to a new substation near the site of the former Richborough Power Station. The Applicant currently proposes two onshore cable route options, one from Pegwell Bay and the other from Sandwich Bay.

Information about the Proposed Development and about its likely significant effects is available in the scoping report and the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion, which is available electronically on the Planning Inspectorate's website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/thanet-extension-offshore-wind-farm/>

and in hard copy at the following location:

The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN

Based on the current information provided by the Applicant to the Secretary of State, and applying a precautionary approach, the Secretary of State is of the view that the Proposed Development is likely to have significant effects on the environment of the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany and Denmark. In accordance with Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations, the Secretary of State has provided information to the above mentioned EEA States about the Proposed Development and its likely significant effects, and these States have been asked to indicate by 30 August 2017 whether or not they wish to participate in the procedure for examining and determining the application under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008).

The Proposed Development is currently at the pre-application stage of the process. The applicant has not yet submitted an application to the Secretary of State. If the application is accepted for examination, the application will be examined in public and, subject to the provisions of the PA2008, the examination must be completed within a period of six months. Further information about how to participate in the examination procedure under the PA2008 and the way in which the Secretary of State will notify and consult EEA States in accordance with Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations is available on the Planning Inspectorate's website: www.planningportal.gov.uk/infrastructure.

Following examination of the application and having taken the environmental information into consideration, the decision maker may refuse or grant development consent. If development consent is granted, this may be subject to requirements which, if necessary, will secure measures to avoid, reduce or offset the major adverse effects of the Proposed Development.

Date: 17 July 2017

Signed by the Planning Inspectorate for and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

