Meeting note

Project name Hornsea
File reference EN010098
Status Final

Author The Planning Inspectorate

Date 17 December 2018

Meeting with The Planning Inspectorate

Ørsted Hornsea Project Four Limited

Venue Wallace, Temple Quay House, Bristol (teleconference)

Meeting Project update meeting

objectives

Circulation All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

General project update

Further to the Applicant's Scoping Report the Scoping Opinion adopted by the Secretary of State has been published on the National Infrastructure Planning website project page on 23 November 2018. Additionally, the Evidence Steering Group meeting has been held the previous week at which various aspects of the Scoping Opinion have been discussed, such as marine mammals, noise modelling, and continuous engagement between parties has been confirmed. However, radar remains as one issue of which further discussion is required with the relevant parties. The note of that meeting will be published. Further to the Applicant's query regarding no response from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council during the Scoping consultation period, the Inspectorate advised that due to the lack of the correct contact for the Local Authority, the Council will be providing a late response to the consultation, which will be forwarded to the Applicant and made available online.

The Applicant provided a general project update and confirmed that it is working towards completing the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), based on the Scoping Opinion, expected to be issued in Q2 of 2019, and will confirm the PEIR date with stakeholders in early 2019. The Applicant is currently refining the onshore landfall search area and the proposed onshore substation search area, with feedback from the Local Information Events strongly indicating a preference with members of the public to be as close as possible to the existing Creyke Beck, and the offshore export cable route. The Applicant is considering the local information feedback to define the landfall zone, as for example the members of the public suggest sharing it with the Dogger Bank zone. The onshore cable corridor is aiming to avoid, as far as possible, construction traffic having to pass through villages of Foston on the Wolds and Leconfield.

The Planning Inspectorate

The Applicant advised that it has received about forty proposed commitments from various parties, and categorised them into three groups: agreed, amendments to the existing commitments (between scoping and PEIR) and new commitments (See Hornsea Four Consultation Summary Report) documenting all issues. The intention is to link all those in the Commitment Register to the Documents where they shall be secured (e.g. the DCO, dML and CoCP). The Inspectorate stated that the Commitment Register is a useful document which might potentially assist the examination by highlighting issues that are yet to be agreed by parties.

Consultation

The Applicant advised on the progress of work ahead of the statutory s42 and s47 consultation. The preparatory work included sending letters to the identified landowners who might be affected by the proposed compulsory acquisition, and the possible access to some land for conducting surveys. The Applicant stated that it has been engaging with the main stakeholders and has a good working relationship with East Riding of Yorkshire Council to ensure that consenting risk is minimised. However, Hornsea Four are struggling to get engagement with some Statutory Parties via the Evidence Plan process and other forums. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to continue discussions and be clear regarding the key issues that need particularly focussing on, as this may assist in getting statutory parties to engage effectively in the pre-application process at a time of conflicting resource committments.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required

The Applicant and the Inspectorate agreed to arrange the next meeting/ telecon in January 2019.