



Dogger Bank South Case Team
Planning Inspectorate
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(Email only)

MMO Reference: DCO/2022/00007
Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010125
Identification Number: 20050160

25 April 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Act 2008, RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Ltd and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Ltd Proposed Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms Order

Deadline 4 Summary

On 10 July 2024, the Marine Management Organisation (the MMO) received notice under section 56 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA 2008) that the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) had accepted an application made by RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Ltd and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Ltd (the Applicant) for determination of a development consent order for the construction, maintenance and operation of the proposed Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms (the DCO Application) (MMO ref: DCO/2022/00007; PINS ref: EN010125).

The DCO Application seeks authorisation for the construction, operation and maintenance of Dogger Bank South (DBS) Offshore Wind Farm (OWF), comprising of up to 100 wind turbine generators in DBS East and up to 100 wind turbine generators in DBS West together with associated onshore and offshore infrastructure and all associated development (the Project).

The DCO Application includes a draft development consent order (the DCO) and an Environmental Statement (the ES). The draft DCO includes, Marine Licence 1 (Schedule 10), Marine Licence 2 (Schedule 11), Marine Licence 3 (Schedule 12), Marine Licence 4 (Schedule 13) and Marine Licence 5 (Schedule 14) which are draft Deemed Consent (DML) under Part 4 (Marine Licensing) of Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA 2009).

This document comprises of a summary of the MMO's Deadline 4 response.

This written representation is submitted without prejudice to any future representation the MMO may make about the DCO Application throughout the examination process. This representation is also submitted without prejudice to any decision the MMO may make on any associated application for consent, permission, approval or any other type of authorisation submitted to the MMO either for the works in the marine area or for any other authorisation relevant to the proposed development.



Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

Marine Licencing Case Officer

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1. Comments on REP3-005 Applicant's Draft DCO (Revision 6) (Tracked) and REP3-028 The Applicant's Responses to Deadline 2 Documents (Revision 1)

1.1 DCO and DML Major Comments

1.1.1 The MMO submitted comments at Deadline 3 regarding to the DCO and DML and will wait on the Applicant's review of these before adding any more comments. The MMO will provide comments in Deadline 5

1.2 Navigation

1.2.1 The MMO provided the agreed wording for Condition 11:

Colouring of structures

11 (1) Except as otherwise required by Trinity House the undertaker must colour all structures forming part of the authorised scheme yellow (colour code RAL 1023) from at least HAT to a height directed by Trinity House or must colour the structure as directed by Trinity House in writing from time to time.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (1) above, unless the MMO otherwise directs in writing, the undertaker must paint the remainder of the structures submarine grey (colour code RAL 7035).

1.3 Updates and amendments to Schedules 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

1.3.1 The MMO welcomes the Applicant's updates and changes to the definitions, interpretation and conditions.

1.4 Updates to the Draft DCO

1.4.1 The MMO notes the Applicant's comments and will review these alongside the Deadline 4 response and provide comments in Deadline 5.

1.5 Benthic

1.5.1 The MMO welcomes the Applicant's commitment to undertaking pre-construction surveys to better our understanding of the benthic assemblage within the array area.

1.6 Physical Processes

1.6.1 In regard to the 30-year operational lifespan on coastal processes. The Applicant concludes the changes will not be significant and therefore there would be no cumulative impacts on sediment transport due to the direction of movement moving away from other offshore wind farms on Dogger Bank.

1.6.2 The MMO agrees with the overall conclusion that the changes will not be significant in the short term but requests the above discussion to be included in the cumulative impacts assessment to acknowledge the possible changes to coastal processes.

1.7 Fisheries

1.7.1 The Applicant responded to the below Applicants query via email on 04 April 2025:

"The Applicant's would like the MMO to clarify whether the >600 larvae per metre squared (m²) category consists of anything other than high abundance that would warrant a change to the figure's legend, and if so, what the updated categories should be; bearing in mind the intention of the display of IHLS abundance data in this report as an indicator of spawning activity".

- 1.7.2 This included a request for further information to be required including reference to Rampion 2 maps.
- 1.7.3 The MMO and our scientific advisors have suggested a meeting to discuss this further and currently arranging this with the Applicant. Any documents or updates that will be discussed should be provided at least two weeks prior to the meeting to ensure the information can be reviewed prior to the meeting.

2. Comments on Applicant's amended application Documents submitted at Deadline 2.

2.1 REP2-036 - Disposal Site Characterisation Report (Revision 2) (Tracked)

2.1.1 The MMO notes that the Draft DCO (Revision 6) states the following maximum volumes for each disposal ground:

- Disposal Ground 1 (DBS East): 4,533,587 m³
- Disposal Ground 2 (DBS West): 3,940,125 m³
- Disposal Ground 3 (Export Cable): 55,315,523.13 m³

2.1.2 It is not clear why this volume is different to that specified within Table 7-4 of the updated Disposal Characterisation Report. Please can this be clarified.

2.1.3 The MMO notes that the Applicant acknowledges there is no agreed Action Level (AL) 2 for total hydrocarbon content (THC) and confirmed that references to an AL2 for THC have been removed in the updated Disposal Site Characterisation Report. However, this does not appear to have been amended and should be in future revisions of the report.

2.1.4 Once the information on maximum figures is provided the MMO will work on designating the disposal sites for the references to be included within the DMLs Part 1, Paragraph 2(a) and Part 2 Condition 13 (5).

2.2 REP2-044 - In Principle Monitoring Plan (Revision 2) (Tracked)

2.2.1 The MMO welcomes the 6-month updates and defers to Natural England in relation to the impact to MCZ.

2.3 REP2-052 - Outline Scour Protection Plan (Revision 3) (Tracked)

2.3.1 The MMO welcomes the Applicant's commitment to consider the risk associated with placing plastics in the marine environment.

3. Summary of questions asked during the Offshore Environmental Issues Specific Hearing (ISH) 5

3.1 ISH5 – Offshore Coastal Processes, Marine Ecology and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

3.1.1 The MMO has reviewed the following documents and recordings and has answered the questions posed by the ExA below:

- EV10-002 – Action Points from Issue Specific Hearing 5 (ISH5) Held on 10 April 2025
- EV10-004 - Transcript of ISH5 – Part 1 – 10 April 2025

- EV10-006 - Transcript of ISH5 – Part 2 – 10 April 2025
- EV10-008 - Transcript of ISH5 – Part 3 – 10 April 2025
- EV10-009 – Recording of ISH5 – Part 4 – 10 April 2025
- EV10-010 - Transcript of ISH5 – Part 14– 10 April 2025

3.2 Action Point 23

3.2.1 The MMO will wait for the Applicant's response in Deadline 4 before commenting in full at Deadline 5.

3.3 Action Point 26

3.3.1 The MMO and our scientific advisors Cefas are content to discuss to agree the inclusion of piling restrictions similar to those within the Rampion 2 Schedule 11.

3.4 Action Point 45

3.4.1 The MMO will wait for the Applicant's response in Deadline 4 before commenting in full at Deadline 5.

3.5 Action Point 47

3.5.1 The MMO welcomes the updates to the Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan (MMMP) and the Southern North Sea (SNS) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Integrity Plan (SIP) in relation to the Defra Noise Policy paper.

3.5.2 The MMO would like to highlight that Defra is intending on publishing further information and clarification in relation to the policy based on feedback from industry representatives and can share this with the Applicant and Examination Authority (ExA) once this has been published.

3.5.3 The MMO provided further information in relation to the policy papers and the use of noise abatement or reduction mitigation systems including a potential DML condition.

3.5.4 The MMO also provided detail on the satisfactory alternative test that needs to be undertaken as part of the Wildlife licence application

3.6 Action Point 48

3.6.1 The MMO would like to highlight that Defra is intending on publishing further information and clarification in relation to the policy based on feedback from industry representatives and can share this with the Applicant and Examination Authority (ExA) once this has been published.

3.6.2 As within Section 3.5 above given the technical advances in relation to NAS and NMS, the first instance means the Applicant has to show there is no satisfactory alternative to cause an impact. The MMO believes that to reduce the noise that NAS/NMS will be required for all projects causing an impact going forward and that it is only the specific type of mitigation that should be discussed post consent.

3.7 Action Point 49

3.7.1 The MMO is content that the UXO clearance will be a separate Marine Licence.

3.8 Action Point 50

3.8.1 The MMO provided detail within the Deadline 3 - Additional Submission (AS-169) and will await the Applicant's response in Deadline 4.

3.9 Action Point 53

3.9.1 The MMO will keep a watching brief of NE's response.

4. MMO comments on Written Representations

4.1 Documents reviewed

4.1.1 The MMO reviewed and provided comments on the following documents:

- REP3-042 Environment Agency Response to Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1)
- REP3-043 Historic England Response to Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1)
- REP3-044 Maritime and Coastguard Agency Response to Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1) and requests for further information
- REP3-051 Natural England Appendix B3 - Natural England's comments and updated advice on Marine Physical Environment EN010125 – Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms Examination Library Document Index
- REP3-052 Natural England Appendix C3 - Natural England's comments and updated advice on Benthic and Intertidal Ecology
- REP3-053 Natural England Appendix E3 - Natural England's comments and advice on Fish and Shellfish
- REP3-054 Natural England Appendix F3 - Natural England's comments and advice on Marine Mammals
- REP3-055 Natural England Appendix H3 - Natural England's comments and advice on Offshore Ornithology Compensation
- REP3-056 Natural England Appendix J - Natural England's comments on the In-Principle Monitoring Plan [APP-247] and [REP2-044]
- REP3-057 Natural England Appendix K - Natural England's Response to The Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1) and Rule 17 Request dated 3 March 2025 [PD-016]
- REP3-058 Natural England Appendix L - Natural England's comments and updated advice on Change Request 1
- REP3-069 The Wildlife Trust Response to Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1)