

A joint venture project
being developed by

RWE

the latest from
the newsroom

March 2023



Fferm Wynt Alltraeth

AWEL Y MÔR

Offshore Wind Farm

www.awelymor.cymru

welcome

March 2023 Edition



Welcome to a landmark edition of the Awel y Môr newsletter.

The close of the examination into our application for development consent is a major milestone, with the project team now eagerly awaiting a decision from the UK Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

In this edition you'll find information on how the examination has progressed and the next steps in the process. There's also news on a visit to the new £12.2m engineering site being developed by Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, which may host future apprentice turbine technicians.

With a generating capacity equivalent to powering more than 500,000 homes, Awel y Môr represents a key element of the UK Government's energy security strategy, which is targeting the deployment of enough offshore wind to power every residence across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland by 2030.

If you have any questions for the project team, at any time, please feel free to contact us using the details found in this newsletter.



Awel y Môr team at Drum near Llanfairfechan

Examination closes for Awel y Môr

Proposals for Wales' biggest investment in renewable energy this decade have reached a major milestone with the conclusion of the examination of its application for a Development Consent Order.

Awel y Môr Offshore wind farm, the development of which is being led by Wales' largest renewable energy generator RWE, is planned for construction off the coast of north Wales.

The UK Planning Inspectorate will now prepare its recommendation report, with the process requiring a decision from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero within a six-month timeframe.

If constructed, the wind farm will consist of a maximum of 50 turbines up to 332m high to the tip of the rotor, and be capable of generating power equivalent to the consumption of half a million homes.

The examination covered a huge range of topics, from visual impact through to construction, impact on fisheries, onshore infrastructure and more.

Hundreds of documents were submitted as part of the process, with the team spending 25 hours in hearings over the course of the last six months.

Tamsyn Rowe, project lead, said: "After putting such effort into the examination, reaching this point in development is a real achievement for the team.

"We will now await the decision on the development consent order from the UK Secretary of State.

"As a project of such significant scale, Awel y Môr has the potential to make a major contribution to Welsh Government's target of generating renewable electricity equivalent to 70 per cent of Wales' consumption by 2030.

"Awel y Môr also has the potential to provide a real economic boost to the region, both during its construction but also in operation, as shown by previous wind farms, which already support hundreds of jobs."



Tamsyn Rowe, project lead

What happens next?

The UK Planning Inspectorate has three months to draft a recommendation report, which is then submitted to the UK Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

The Secretary of State then has a further three months to make a decision on the Development Consent Order (DCO), with any delay requiring a statement in the House of Commons.

Running parallel to the DCO process, Natural Resources Wales has also been considering our application for a marine licence. This process has no statutory timeline, but it is hoped a decision will be made soon after the DCO.

If the DCO and marine licence applications are both successful, the next milestone on the way to construction will be to prepare for a Contract for Difference auction.

What is a CfD?

The Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme is the government's main mechanism for supporting low-carbon electricity generation.

CfDs give direct protection from volatile wholesale prices to developers, and protect consumers from paying increased support costs when electricity prices are high.

Assigned via a sealed-bid auction, developers are paid a flat (indexed) rate for the electricity they produce over a 15-year period.



Supply chain event

As part of a new initiative aimed at improved supplier engagement, Awel y Môr is set to hold its first supplier engagement day in April.

This will give the region's businesses a chance to meet members of the project team, in pursuit of supporting the construction and operation of Awel y Môr.

The team will also be launching new web pages and a supplier engagement platform which will enable businesses to register their interest and capabilities ahead of the procurement process, as well as learn from other businesses who have worked on RWE-led projects in the past.

Keep an eye on the Awel y Môr website for the latest info.



Planning Inspectorate: DCO Application Process

c.2 years

Pre-application:

Look out for information in local media and in public places near the location of the proposed project, such as your library. The developer will be developing their proposals and will consult widely.

28 days

Acceptance:

The inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has 28 days to decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination including whether the developer's consultation has been adequate.

c.4 months

Pre-examination:

You can now register as an interested party; you will be kept informed of progress and opportunities to put your case. Inspectors will hold a Preliminary Meeting and set the timetable for examination.

6 months

Examination:

You can send in your comments in writing. You can request to speak at a public hearing. The inspectorate has six months to carry out the examination.

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6 months

Decision:

A recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State will be issued by the inspectorate within three months. The Secretary of State then has a further three months to issue a decision on the proposal.

6 weeks

Post decision:

There is opportunity for legal challenge.



RWE visits new Engineering centre

Members of RWE's team recently visited the new £12.2m Engineering centre being built in Rhyl for Grŵp Llandrillo Menai alongside Senedd Member Carolyn Thomas.

The new, three-floor facility will be packed with more than £2m worth of the latest highly specialised training equipment, as well as a new 'Institute for Renewable Energy Technology', in partnership with RWE.

Carolyn Thomas, Member of the Senedd for North Wales, said: "It was fantastic to visit Coleg Llandrillo in Rhyl to see the fantastic new engineering centre of excellence under construction.

"I was particularly pleased to hear about the partnership with RWE regarding developing skills at the college to maintain the wind turbines here in North Wales."

Dafydd Roberts, who attended on behalf of RWE, said: "It was a privilege to be able to accompany Carolyn Thomas MS in visiting this new facility, which is of vital importance for RWE as we seek to meet the needs of the drive to net zero with a highly-skilled workforce.

"This will include training all of our apprentice turbine technicians for the UK in partnership with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai here in Rhyl, to the highest possible standards.

"As well as existing sites like Gwynt y Môr, Clocaenog and others across the UK, this may include potential new sites, such as Awel y Môr and future developments in floating wind in the Celtic Sea."

