

Marine Licensing Team
Natural Resources Wales
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Your reference:
Our reference:
Date: 30 May 2022

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Date: 30 May 2022

Dear Sirs,

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009: Part 4 – Marine Licensing

Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited

Marine Licence for the proposed Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm

Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant) encloses an application to Natural Resources Wales Marine Licence Team (NRW MLT) for Marine Licences under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009 (the ML Application).

1 SUBJECT OF THE APPLICATION

- 1.1 The Marine Licence (ML) Application is required to construct and operate the proposed Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (the Project) located off the coast of North Wales. The Project comprises up to 50 wind turbine generators and associated infrastructure. The offshore aspects of the Project will be located within Welsh inshore waters.
- 1.2 The Project is a proposed sister project to the operational Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm. At its closest point, the Project's array area will be located approximately 10.5km off the North Wales coast at Llandudno and will include an offshore export cable corridor of approximately 21km in length.

2 OTHER CONSENTS

- 2.1 In addition to the ML Application, a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Secretary of State is required as the Project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project as defined by the Planning Act 2008. An application for a DCO was submitted on 20 April 2022 and accepted by the Planning Inspectorate on 18 May 2022 (the DCO Application).
- 2.2 As the offshore part of the Project is located in the Welsh inshore region, it will not be possible for the DCO to include a deemed Marine Licence within the DCO. A separate

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application to NRW MLT for a Marine Licence is therefore required for certain offshore activities.

- 2.3 As well as the DCO and Marine Licence, the other consents and licences required to authorise the Project are listed in the Other Consents and Licences document submitted with the ML Application (doc ref 5.4).

3 APPLICATION FORMALITIES

- 3.1 The ML Application will be administered by NRW MLT on behalf of the Welsh Ministers as Licensing Authority. As set out in section 67(1)(a) of the MCAA 2009, NRW MLT may require an application for a Marine Licence to be made in a prescribed form. The ML Application is made using the appropriate Marine Licence application form which has been prescribed by NRW MLT.
- 3.2 NRW MLT has confirmed that separate Marine Licences for the Project's generation and transmission assets can be applied for and that these licences can cover the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the development. A third Marine Licence is also sought to facilitate a proposed electrical connection to the existing Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm.
- 3.3 The Project is a development which requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be undertaken. An EIA has been undertaken as part of the DCO Application and is also submitted for the ML Application. NRW MLT confirmed by letter dated 6 October 2020 that it was deferring its EIA decision to the Secretary of State under Regulation 10(1)(b) of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007.

4 DOCUMENTATION ENCLOSED AND APPLICATION FEE

- 4.1 We have transferred the following documents to NRW MLT:
- (a) The completed and signed application form;
 - (b) The relevant chapters and annexes of the Environmental Statement (ES) submitted with the DCO Application; and
 - (c) Each of the other documents listed as being required for the ML Application in the Guide to the Application document.
- 4.2 The Applicant is sending the documents electronically which will include redactions and confidential documents. The confidential documents will be marked as 'confidential' in the Guide to the Application.

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5 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

- 5.1 The ML Application relates to the offshore aspects of the development outlined in paragraph 1.1 above and described in full in the Offshore Project Description chapter of the ES (doc ref 6.2.1).
- 5.2 The Marine Licence and associated DCO will, among other things, authorise:
- (a) The construction and operation of up to 50 offshore wind turbine generators and their foundations;
 - (b) The construction of up to two offshore substation platforms and their foundations;
 - (c) The construction of one meteorological mast and its foundation;
 - (d) The construction of a network of subsea electrical cables connecting the wind turbine generators;
 - (e) Inter-link cables connecting the Project to the Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind farm;
 - (f) The installation of up to two subsea export cable circuits to transmit the electricity generated by the wind turbine generators to shore. The Project's offshore export cable corridor extends south-eastwards from the array area to the proposed landfall east of Rhyl; and
 - (g) The construction of up to two transition joint bays at landfall connecting the offshore cables to the onshore cables.

6 HABITATS REGULATIONS

- 6.1 The ML Application documents include a Report to Inform an Appropriate Assessment (doc ref 5.2) which identifies all relevant European sites and provides sufficient information for the competent authority to determine whether the Project is likely to have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site.
- 6.2 It concludes that the Project, together with mitigation and monitoring as proposed, is not expected to have an adverse effect on the integrity of any site. The Report to Inform an Appropriate Assessment has been discussed in detail with NRW as part of the Evidence Plan process for the DCO Application.

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We look forward to hearing from you in relation to this application. If we can be of any assistance in that regard, please do not hesitate to contact Alex Herbert (Offshore Consents Manager) on alex.herbert@rwe.com or 07384 807 478.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Legerton

Director

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