

9 UNDERWATER NOISE & VIBRATION

9.1 INTRODUCTION

Measurement of underwater noise has been undertaken by Subacoustech Ltd, the contractor carrying out the current COWRIE study on subsea noise and vibration. Baseline and during construction work has been undertaken on the North Hoyle Offshore Wind Farm and is reported in the previous Annual FEPA report. Post-construction monitoring is ongoing.

The conditions of the Food and Environmental Protection Act (FEPA) 1985: Part II, licence 31579/02/0 (as amended) to NWP Offshore Ltd. for the proposed North Hoyle Offshore Wind Farm specifies:

“Detailed post construction data must be collected on the frequencies and magnitudes of underwater noise produced by the North Hoyle offshore wind farm.”

NWP Offshore Ltd appointed Subacoustech Ltd to write a detailed specification for a post construction monitoring programme which has been submitted to the Licensing Authority for approval. Further discussion with the Crown Estates indicates that the results of the COWRIE study may be used to discharge this monitoring condition.

No further survey findings on operational noise levels has been published since the submission of the construction stage FEPA report and therefore the data, and any potential environmental impacts, cannot be presented at this time.