

RWE Npower Renewables Ltd

Statement of Community Consultation published in accordance with Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008

Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm

Introduction

RWE npower renewables is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the proposed Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm. This statement explains how we will consult with the local community including residents, businesses, organisations and users of the wind farm area.

In 2003, RWE npower renewables put forward a successful bid to The Crown Estate and were awarded the development rights to progress an offshore wind farm of up to 1,200 megawatts at Triton Knoll. The site is approximately 33 kilometres (km) (20.5 miles) off the coast of Lincolnshire, 46km (28.5 miles) off the coast of north Norfolk and 48km (29.8 miles) off the nearest point on the East Riding of Yorkshire coast.

A SoCC was previously published for the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm in July 2010, which included the offshore wind farm and the electrical connection to the proposed national electricity grid connection point. This set out how we intended to consult on both the offshore wind farm and the electrical system (comprising an onshore substation and both onshore and offshore electricity cables).

In December 2010, RWE were notified by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc that they were undertaking a review of options for the onshore connection point to the electricity network which will require significant further time for investigation and analysis. Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm will therefore be progressed as two separate packages:

- 1) The wind farm site itself and all elements within its boundary; and
- 2) The electrical system (both offshore and onshore).

This statement relates only to the offshore wind farm application (item 1 above) and supersedes the previous SoCC which addressed both the offshore wind farm and its associated development (items 1 and 2 above).

The wind farm application, covered by this SoCC, is likely to include:

- Up to 333 offshore wind turbines depending on the individual generating potential of each turbine, the largest turbine type being up to around 220 metres (722 feet) tall, measured from Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT) to the tip of the highest point of the turbine blade;
- up to five offshore monitoring masts to collect information such as wind speeds and wind direction with a height of up to around 200m (657 feet) LAT;
- up to eight offshore electricity substations, and cables buried in the sea bed to link the wind turbines to the offshore substations.

The methods we will use to consult

The consultation will consist of:

Public exhibitions - exhibitions will be held so local people can find out more about the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm proposal. RWE npower renewables staff will be at the exhibitions to answer questions that people may have. We will seek suitable venues for the exhibitions close to:

- Skegness and Mablethorpe for East Lindsey
- Grimsby, for the North East Lincolnshire coastline
- Easington area, for the East Riding of Yorkshire (Holderness) coast north of the Humber
- Wells-next-the-Sea, for the north Norfolk coastline

The locations listed above have been chosen because they are areas where the offshore wind turbines may be visible from the land.

Information about the exhibitions will be sent by post to:

- users of the sea who have an interest in the areas affected by the project (for example commercial fishermen, shipping and yachtsmen) that we have identified;
- parish councils and district councils and a range of community outlets to inform the wider community;
- a list of groups and organisations relevant to the proposed wind farm which have been discussed with the relevant local authorities.

Newsletters - we will issue newsletters at key stages of the project which will include information about the project, details of the public exhibitions, and contact details for RWE npower renewables. Newsletters will be issued by post to organisations and individuals identified as community stakeholders and others engaged in the consultation process. Newsletters will also be placed in key public outlets to reach the wider community.

Engagement with elected representatives and parishes - we will keep regionally and locally elected politicians informed of our proposals. We will also offer copies of documents to parish clerks so they can decide on the best locations to provide information to their community and inform them about events.

Liaison with marine users - we will continue consulting with users of the sea through meetings, newsletters and direct contact with individuals and organisations about the wind farm project.

Details about the consultation will also be made available on the Triton Knoll webpages and through press releases issued to the local media. Comment forms will be available at the exhibitions for people to give feedback.

Potential effects of Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm

We will provide information about the potential effects of Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm through the consultation we are carrying out. Below is a list of likely potential effects we anticipate:

- temporary, local disturbance and redistribution of parts of the sea bed during construction of the wind farm
- the need to occasionally or permanently exclude movement of some users of the sea from the area around the wind turbines
- some people being able to see the wind farm construction work and similar impacts when the wind farm is taken down at the end of its life
- possible effects on marine plants and animals and their habitats
- people being able to see the offshore wind farm out at sea, although it will be located a long way from shore
- local low frequency electro-magnetic fields along subsea cable routes between the turbines and offshore substations
- low levels of operational noise near to the offshore substations and the wind turbines
- extra sea traffic which will be required during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning
- a positive contribution to reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emissions in the UK
- a positive contribution to a secure energy supply for the UK
- a positive contribution to local, UK and the wider economy through the employment of people to work on the wind farm.

We intend to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and submit an Environmental Statement (ES). Our Preliminary Environmental Information will be made public and will be available for people to see at local libraries and at the public exhibitions.

Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) consenting process

We will submit an application to build and operate the offshore wind farm to the IPC, under the Planning Act 2008. The IPC will examine our application and decide or recommend whether it should be approved. The IPC will consider the draft National Policy Statements (NPSs) for energy which set out the need for new energy infrastructure and the issues to be considered when determining our application. The draft Energy NPSs have been subject to a second round of consultation which ended on 24th January 2011 and are currently being finalised by Government. If the project is approved it will be granted a Development Consent Order.

We are required to consult with local communities before we submit our offshore wind farm application to the IPC. We are also required to produce a Consultation Report detailing how we have complied with the consultation requirements of the Planning Act. This document will be one of the factors taken into account by the IPC. It is important that you let us know if you have any comments or information about any part of Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm during our consultation process.

Other possible or expected IPC consultations

In future, the Triton Knoll electrical system (which does not form part of this application) may qualify in whole or in part as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and may therefore be submitted to the IPC or its successor. It may also be the subject of applications to the relevant local planning authority and the Marine Management Organisation.

During the consultation period for Triton Knoll, there will likely be a number of other projects which will be actively consulting local communities. At the time of publication, the following NSIPs in the vicinity of Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm are in the pre-application stages, as registered on the IPC website:

- Forewind – Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm
- SMart Wind Ltd – Hornsea Offshore Wind Farm
- Scottish Power – East Anglia Offshore Windfarm
- Able UK Ltd – Able Marine Energy Park
- Highways Authority – A160 Highway Improvements – Immingham
- National Grid – King's Lynn B Connection Project
- Palm Paper Ltd – Palm Paper 3 CCGT Power Station King's Lynn

How to get in touch with us or obtain more detailed information

The comments and information we receive during the consultation will be carefully considered. We will show how we have considered the comments and information received in a Consultation Report which will be submitted with our application to the IPC. Therefore any comments received by RWE npower renewables may be made public and be submitted to the IPC.

Comments and information which we receive during the consultation need to reach us within 42 days of the start of the consultation period to guarantee that they will be considered. We will do our best to consider responses received outside this period wherever possible.

A more detailed document, explaining how our consultation strategy was developed, is available on our website or by contacting us.

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A large print version is available, please visit www.npower-renewables.com/tritonknoll or write to

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