

Marine Licensing Team
Natural Resources Wales
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Your reference:
Our reference:
Date: 25 November 2022

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Date: 25 November 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

Following the Marine Licence (ML) application for the Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm being validated ("duly made") on 20 June 2022 (the ML Application), Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant) has since held further discussions with Natural Resources Wales Marine Licensing Team (NRW MLT). Subsequently, NRW MLT issued a request for further information from the Applicant, which is the subject of detailed submissions made on this date. In addition, the Applicant encloses a supplementary Application to NRW MLT for a further Marine Licence under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009 (the ML 4 Application), for works associated with cable crossing of a tidal section of the River Clwyd.

1 SUBJECT OF THE APPLICATION

- 1.1 The ML is required for the construction and operation of the proposed Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (the Project) located off the coast of North Wales. The subject of this ML 4 Application is installation by trenchless techniques and operation of onshore export cables (together with associated ducting) beneath a tidal section of the River Clwyd.
- 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 10.5 km off the North Wales coast at Llandudno and will include an offshore export cable corridor of approximately 21 km in length, and an onshore export cable corridor from landfall at Rhyl to the National Grid connection at Bodelwyddan which must cross a tidal section of the River Clwyd.

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2 OTHER CONSENTS

- 2.1 As you are aware, 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 for consideration by the Planning Inspectorate on 18 May 2022 (the DCO Application).

3 APPLICATION FORMALITIES

- 3.1 The ML 4 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 4 Application is made using the appropriate Marine Licence application form which has been prescribed by NRW MLT.
- 3.2 Following review of NRW's Relevant Representation on the DCO Application, it came to the Applicant's attention that a fourth ML would be required for the crossing of a tidal section of the River Clwyd, which is the subject of this ML 4 Application. NRW MLT has confirmed that the installation and deposit of cables and ducts under the tidal riverbed would be considered a licensable activity and requested further information be provided. This information includes a description of the activity, any specific mitigation for the activity, and a map showing the boundary of the proposed works seaward of mean high water springs (MHWS) (Document ML-1.36 of the Applicant's Marine Licence Submission 1) with an accompanying set of co-ordinates (Document ML-1.35 of the Applicant's Marine Licence Submission 1).
- 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 was 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

- 4.1 We have transferred the following documents to NRW MLT:
- (a) The completed and signed ML 4 application form (Document ML-1.13 of the Applicant's Marine Licence Submission 1);
 - (b) The relevant additional chapters and annexes of the Environmental Statement (ES) submitted with the DCO Application that relate to works that are the subject of the ML 4 Application (Documents ML-1.37 - ML-1.42 of the Applicant's Marine Licence Submission 1); and
 - (c) Each of the other documents listed as being required for the ML 4 in the revised 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 revised Guide to the Application.

5 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

- 5.1 This ML 4 Application is supplementary to the ML Application and relates to the River Clwyd crossing outlined in Section 1 above and described in full in the Onshore Project Description chapter of the ES (document reference 6.3.1).
- 5.2 This ML and associated DCO will (among other things) authorise: the installation of onshore export cables via trenchless techniques, as well as associated ducting, within the onshore export cable corridor that passes beneath a tidal section of the River Clwyd in Denbighshire.

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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