



Marine Licensing Variation Decision

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)

Applicant: Awel y Môr Offshore Windfarm Ltd

Variation application reference no: RML2323v1

**Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Geotechnical
Survey**

22 February 2024

Application Number: RML2323v1

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OUR DECISION

Based on all the information available, and having regard to all relevant considerations NRW has decided to grant the variation to the Existing Marine Licence (see Annex 1) sought by the Variation Application.

This decision document:

- explains how the Variation Application has been determined,
- provides a record of the decision-making process; and
- sets out the reasons for any conditions imposed in connection with any marine licence granted pursuant to the Variation Application.

1 APPLICATION DETAILS

1.1 The Variation Application

Applicant name and address	The Applicant is the organisation set out below: Company: Awel y Môr Offshore Windfarm Ltd Company number: 02550622 Address: Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 6PB
Variation Application reference number	RML2323v1
Existing Marine Licence reference number	RML2323
Date Variation Application was duly made	26 January 2024
Description of variation	Extend the marine licence expiry date from 31 May 2024 to 31 December 2024.
Proposal[s] covered by the Variation Application	Offshore geotechnical investigation to characterise the site area for the proposed Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm. (the Project) .
Licensable marine activities	Removal Activities: - Up to 68 boreholes to a depth of 80m - 98 Cone Penetration Tests - Up to 30 vibro-cores to a depth of 6m (the Proposed Activities)
Marine Plan area	Welsh inshore region and Welsh offshore region
Variation Application documents:	RML2323v1 – Application Form - 18 January 2024

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2 VARIATION APPLICATION PROCEDURE

2.1 The Variation Application

The Variation Application was accepted by Natural Resources Wales (**NRW**) considered duly made on 26 January 2024. This means we considered it was in the correct form and contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination, but not that it necessarily contained all the information we needed to complete that determination, and the documents considered may therefore include documents provided after the Variation Application was first made.

2.2 Documents considered

In reaching its decision, NRW has considered the documents listed in section 1 of this decision document along with such other information provided by the Applicant or received during any consultation, that NRW considered relevant.

2.3 Commercial Confidentiality

The Applicant made no claim that any information forming part of the Variation Application was subject to commercial confidentiality and we have not received any information in relation to the Variation Application that appears to be commercially confidential.

2.4 Publicity and advertising

The application sought to extend the licence end date to allow additional time for the licenced activity to take place. The licenced activities remain the same as within the existing consent therefore no notice was given to Local Authorities and no Public Notice was advertised for this Marine Licence variation.

2.5 Environmental impact Assessment

Council Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment aims to protect the environment and the quality of life by ensuring that projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects by virtue of their nature, size or location are subject to an environmental impact assessment (EIA) before permission is granted.

The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 ("the Regulations") transpose the EIA Directive in Wales and England for marine licence applications.

Having considered the Variation Application NRW has determined that it does not constitute a development requiring EIA under the Regulations.

3 CONSULTATION

3.1 Consultees

As there were no changes to the licensable activities no additional impacts are expected above that which were considered during the determination of RML2323, NRW did not consider it appropriate to reconsult on this occasion.


4 Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on all the information available, NRW's decision is to grant the variation to the Existing Marine Licence sought by the Variation Application. **RML2323v1** is a routine change to extend the expiry date of the licence by 7 months from 31 May 2024 to 31 December 2024. No changes to the licensable activities are proposed and no additional impacts are expected above that which were considered during the determination of RML2323 and as such we refer to section 4 of the decision document for **RML2323** regarding the relevant legal framework and how each of the legal requirements have been considered. The decision document can be found here [Public register - Customer Portal \(naturalresources.wales\)](https://publicregister.naturalresources.wales) by searching for **RML2323**.

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NRW has determined that a Marine Licence for the Proposed Activities should be granted.

AUTHORISATION

Report by: Peter Morrison Position: Lead Specialist Officer (Marine Licensing)	Date: 20 February 2024	Signed: Peter Morrison
Authorised by: Emmer Litt Position: Marine Licensing Team Leader	Date: 22 February 2024	Signed: 

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ANNEX 1 – Variation to the Marine Licence

The licence end date has been changed in Section 1.3 of the Marine Licence from 31 May 2024 in **RML2323** to 31 December 2024 in **RML2323v1**.