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Our Ref: 03\_EIA Scoping\02\_Final\NRW

E-mail: [SimpsonN@rpsgroup.com](mailto:SimpsonN@rpsgroup.com)

Your Ref:

Direct Dial: 01463 746500  
Date: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Ms Zoe McMellin  
Permit Receipt Centre  
Natural Resources Wales  
29 Newport Road,  
Cambria House,  
Cardiff  
CF24 OTP

Dear Zoe,

On Behalf of Marine Energy Wales (MEW)  
**Request for Scoping Opinion Under Regulation 13 of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended), and under the Marine Works (EIA) Regulations, 2017 regarding the proposed Marine Energy Test Area (META) Project.**

Further to pre-application discussions, and regarding the above, please accept this letter as request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 13 of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

A scoping opinion has also been requested from:

- Milford Haven Port Authority (MHPA); and
- The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) (under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017).

A Scoping Opinion has also been requested under Regulation 14 of the Town and Country Planning (EIA) (Wales) Regulations 2017 from:

- Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC); and
- Pembrokeshire National Park Planning Authority (PCNPA).

Accordingly, a Scoping Report (reference: EOR0730\_META EIA Scoping Report\_Rev03) is attached setting out the following information required under Regulation 13(2) of the Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 (as amended):

- A chart, plan or map sufficient to identify the location of the regulated activity and of other activities to be carried out in the course of the project;
- A description of the nature and purpose of the project including its location and technical capacity;



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- An assessment of their likely significant effects on the environment; and
- Other information regarding the proposed development and its environmental effects.

The Scoping Report includes all onshore and marine components of the proposed development.

Through pre-application discussions it has been considered that Phase 2 of the proposed development falls within Schedule 2 of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended, 2017). Schedule 3 Paragraph (2)(1) of the regulations lists potentially environmentally sensitive geographical areas likely to be affected by development that should be considered ‘in particular’ when considering the need for EIA. Having regard to these, the proposed development (Phase 2) may have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors including its size, nature and location. Consequently, a Screening Opinion has not been sought for Phase 2 of the META Project. Instead it has been decided to proceed to Scoping the Environmental Statement (‘ES’) that will accompany the Marine Licence, Marine Works Licence, Section 36 licence application, and Town and County Planning Applications, which we intend to make to the appropriate authorities.

We would appreciate if you would consider the following queries in your Scoping Opinion:

- Does the Scoping Report identify the likely significant effects (as defined by the EIA Regulations, 2017) of the proposed META Project (Phase 2)?; and
- Do you agree that Phase 1 of the META project is unlikely to have a likely significant effect on the receiving environment and therefore can be scoped out of the need for EIA?

We may also seek advice from NRW technical specialists on certain topics.

Could you please advise on the timescale for NRW-MLT to adopt a Scoping Opinion regarding the proposed development and for a copy of this to be returned to me? Could you also please advise on the timescale for assignment of a case officer?

Should you have any queries or need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,

Yours faithfully,

Nicola Simpson