

Web Version

DONG Energy Hornsea  
Project Three (UK) Ltd  
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London  
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www.dongenergy.com  
Company no. 08584210

27 July 2017

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm**

**Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 11 of Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009**

You have been identified as a consultee for the purposes of section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 and/or Regulation 11 of Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009. The statutory consultation commences on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and closes on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017**. Please see below for more information on how to view and comment on our proposed application.

We are writing to consult with you on a proposed offshore wind farm, Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as Hornsea Three) that DONG Energy Hornsea Project Three (UK) Ltd (hereafter referred to as DONG Energy) is proposing to develop. Hornsea Three is located in the southern North Sea and has a generating capacity of up to 2.4 gigawatts.

The offshore wind turbines will be located in the eastern portion of the former Hornsea Round 3 Zone (referred to as the "array area"), which has a total area of 696 km<sup>2</sup> and is located approximately 121 km northeast of the Norfolk coast and 160 km east of the Yorkshire coast.

The electricity generated from Hornsea Three will be transmitted via subsea electricity cables. The Hornsea Three offshore cable corridor extends from the Norfolk coast, offshore in a north-easterly direction to the western and southern boundary of the array area (See Phase 2 Statutory Consultation Plan).

From the Norfolk coast, underground onshore cables will connect the offshore wind farm to an onshore high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station or a high voltage alternating current (HVAC) substation, which in turn, will connect to the existing Norwich Main National Grid substation, located to the south of Norwich. The mode of transmission will be either HVDC, HVAC or a combination of the two. Depending on the mode of transmission, a HVAC booster station may be required (onshore and/or offshore). The onshore cable corridor search area currently comprises a 200metre wide corridor within which a refined onshore cable corridor (80metre wide) will be located.

## THE DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER APPLICATION

As the proposed generating capacity of Hornsea Three exceeds 100 megawatts (MW) it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project as defined by Section 15(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the Act), for which DONG Energy must apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO). If the DCO application is accepted, the Planning Inspectorate will then process and examine the application and then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The final decision on the DCO application will be made by the Secretary of State.

The DCO application will contain full details of Hornsea Three and will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement prepared under Section 37(3) of the Act and in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the Regulations).

The proposed DCO will include powers for DONG Energy to construct, operate, maintain and decommission Hornsea Three, including Deemed Marine Licence(s). The proposed DCO will also seek the compulsory acquisition of land and rights over land, including the power to take temporary possession of land to construct and maintain Hornsea Three.

In accordance with Regulation 11 of the Regulations and section 48 of the Act, DONG Energy must publicise the proposed application. A notice publicising the proposed application is enclosed with this letter.

Hornsea Three is currently in the pre-application phase, with a DCO application expected to be submitted in Quarter 2 of 2018. Under the Act, DONG Energy is required to carry out consultation on the proposed DCO application before submission and will have regard to the responses received in the final design of Hornsea Three, and in the assessment and mitigation of its environmental impacts. A Consultation Report explaining how DONG Energy has had regard to responses will be submitted as part of the DCO application.

This consultation includes:

- Consultation with prescribed bodies, host and neighbouring authorities and any persons with an interest in land affected by Hornsea Three (under Section 42);
- Consultation with the local community in the vicinity of Hornsea Three (under Section 47); and
- General public consultation on Hornsea Three (under Section 48).

DONG Energy has prepared a Preliminary Environment Information Report (PEIR) (which is a draft version of the Environmental Statement). The PEIR sets out the preliminary findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken to date and forms the basis of this statutory consultation. A non-technical summary of the PEIR has also been prepared. The purpose of the PEIR is to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of Hornsea Three and to help inform consultation responses.

Consultees are invited to consider the proposed application for Hornsea Three and the information provided in the PEIR and DONG Energy is keen to receive your comments on Hornsea Three and the PEIR.

It should be noted that the EIA is an on-going process and the project design for Hornsea Three continues to evolve. For example, the enclosed Phase 2 Statutory Consultation Plan includes a number of recently identified options for the onshore cable corridor, compounds and access routes that are currently being assessed by DONG Energy. Although the assessment of these options is not included in the PEIR, DONG Energy welcomes your comments on these options.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of Hornsea Three, including the PEIR (with a non-technical summary) for Hornsea Three, can be accessed free of charge during Phase 2 Consultation from 27 July 2017 until 20 September 2017. Details of the venues, including opening times are provided in the Notice enclosed with this letter.

The consultation documents will also be available at public exhibitions in September, details for which are provided in the Notice enclosed with this letter.

Further information regarding Hornsea Three can be found on the Hornsea Three website: [www.dongenergy.co.uk/hornseaproject3](http://www.dongenergy.co.uk/hornseaproject3)

### **RESPONDING TO THIS CONSULTATION**

DONG Energy welcomes your comments on Hornsea Three and the PEIR. Any responses to, or other representations in respect of, Hornsea Three and/or the PEIR should be sent to DONG Energy:

- By email to: [HornseaProjectThree@dongenergy.co.uk](mailto:HornseaProjectThree@dongenergy.co.uk) or;
- By post to:  
Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm  
DONG Energy, 5 Howick Place, London SW1P 1WG

DONG Energy requests that any response or representation in respect of the proposed DCO must be;

- received by DONG Energy no later than **20<sup>th</sup> September 2017** to be considered;
- be made in writing (email/letter);
- state the grounds of the response or representation;
- indicate who is making the response or representation; and
- provide an address to which any correspondence relating to the response or representation may be sent.

Please note that responses and other representations will be recorded in the Consultation Report and may be made public.

Guidance on the pre-application process and the Act can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/>

### **NEXT STEPS**

As mentioned above, consultation under section 42 of the Act and Regulation 11 of the Regulations is a formal part of the pre-application process for a DCO. DONG Energy will have regard to comments received during the consultation period and a Consultation Report explaining how DONG Energy has had regard to responses will be submitted as part of the DCO application.

If you have any questions regarding the process or content of this consultation, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

DONG Energy

Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm

Freephone: 0800 0288 466

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