

Mr. Francis Van Den Noortgaete
Flemish Government
Environment Nature and Energy Department Environment
Nature and Energy Policy Division
EIA/SEA Unit
Koning Albert II-laan 20 bus 8
B-1000 BRUSSELS

17 January 2012

Our ref: 120117_EN010003_1043612

Dear Sirs,

**DEVELOPMENT WITH LIKELY SIGNIFICANT TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS -
REGULATION 24 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACTS ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2009 ('the EIA Regulations')
GALLOPER OFFSHORE WIND FARM ('the proposed development')
GALLOPER WIND FARM LIMITED ('the developer')**

The Infrastructure Planning Commission ('the IPC') is a non-departmental UK government body. The IPC is required, under Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations, to notify another EEA State(s) and provide specified information about a development proposal where the proposed development requires an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and the IPC is of the view that it is likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State. Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations transposes Article 7 of EU Directive 85/337/EC as amended (the EU Directive) into UK Law.

The IPC has accepted for examination, an application by the developer for an order granting development consent to construct an offshore wind farm and related offshore and onshore infrastructure. A summary description of the proposed development is set out below.

Based on the current information provided by the developer to the IPC, and applying a precautionary approach, the IPC is of the view that the proposed development is likely to have significant effects on the environment in your State. Therefore, the IPC is writing to you with information about the proposed development and to ask if you wish to participate in the procedure for examining and determining the application under the Planning Act 2008 and the EIA Regulations. The IPC is also writing in the same terms to the following EEA States: Sweden, Denmark, France and the Netherlands.

Description of the proposed development

In summary, the offshore element of the proposed development comprises up to 140 wind turbine generators with a maximum capacity of 504MW, and other proposed offshore infrastructure, encompassing an area of 183km² within three possible areas. The wind turbine generators offshore array and other proposed offshore infrastructure is located to the east of the UK approximately 27km, at its closest point, from the Suffolk coast. Export cables would be brought to shore at Sizewell, and a proposed onshore substation to connect to the national grid network would be constructed approximately 1km inland from the Suffolk coast, close to the substation serving the already consented Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm.

Further information about the proposed development

Information about the proposed development and about its likely significant effects is available in the application documents on the IPC's website:

<http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/projects/eastern/galloper-offshore-wind-farm/documentation/?ipcdocsec=app>.

To assist you in understanding the environmental information it is recommended that you view the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement on the IPC's website:

http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010003/2.%20Post-Submission/Application%20Documents/Environmental%20Statement/5_1_ES_Non-Technical_Summary.pdf.

Information about the application procedure under the Planning Act 2008 and EIA Regulations and the nature of the decision

Examination of the application in public will commence in approximately 3 months and, subject to the provisions of the Planning Act 2008, must be completed within a period of 6 months. Further information about how to participate in the application procedure and the way in which the IPC will notify and consult EEA States in accordance with Regulation 24 is also available on the IPC's website.

Following examination of the application and having taken the environmental information into consideration, the decision maker may refuse development consent or grant development consent. If development consent is granted, this may be subject to requirements which, if necessary, will secure measures to avoid, reduce or remedy the likely adverse effects of the proposed development.

Next steps

If your State indicates that it wishes to participate in the application procedure, the IPC will consult you about the likely significant effects on your State and the measures envisaged to avoid, reduce or remedy such effects. The IPC will agree with you a reasonable period of time for the consultation and will ensure that you have an opportunity before development consent is granted to forward the opinions of your public and of the relevant authorities your State has designated under Article 6(1) of the EU Directive.

We would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter. Please indicate by no later than **5pm on 2 March 2012** whether you wish to participate in the application procedure. Your reply to the IPC should be sent electronically to:

ipcscopingopinion@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk.

If no response is received by the IPC by **5pm on 2 March 2012**, then the IPC will assume that your State does not wish to participate.

If you have any queries regarding any of the above, please contact Hannah Pratt via the above email address.

Yours faithfully,



Hannah Pratt
EIA and Land Rights Adviser on behalf of the IPC

CC:

- Ministère de la Santé publique et de l'Environnement, Cité Administrative de l'Etat, Quartier Vésale, étage 2/3, B - 1010 Brussels
- Ministry of Wallonia, DGRNE - Environment Administration PROMIBRA II, Av. Prince de Liège 15, B-5100 Jambes (Namur)
- Mrs. Olivia RODRIGUEZ, Ministry of Brussels, BIM - Environment Administration, Gulledelle 100, B-1200 BRUSSELS

The IPC gives advice about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). The IPC takes care to ensure that the advice we provide is accurate. This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should note that IPC lawyers are not covered by the compulsory professional indemnity insurance scheme. You should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

We are required by law to publish on our website a record of the advice we provide and to record on our website the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. We will however protect the privacy of any other personal information which you choose to share with us and we will not hold the information any longer than is necessary.

You should note that we have a Policy Commitment to Openness and Transparency and you should not provide us with confidential or commercial information which you do not wish to be put in the public domain.