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**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2017 AND THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017**

SEAGREEN PROJECT SECTION 36C VARIATION APPLICATION

With this letter and attached Seagreen S36C Application Environmental Appraisal Report, Seagreen Wind Energy Limited (SWEL) are writing to make a formal application to vary the existing Seagreen Alpha and Bravo section 36 consents under section 36C of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended). SWEL also requests the associated marine licences are varied at the same time by the Scottish Ministers under section 72 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and section 30 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

The proposed amendments included in the variation are:

- Increased size of 36 of the consented wind turbine generators (WTGs); and
- Increased weight of seabed steel deposits associated with the offshore substation platforms (OSPs).

SWEL is principally proposing to vary the existing consents to allow for changes to parameters of the consented but not constructed 36 wind turbine generators associated with the Seagreen Project. Varied parameters include an increase in rotor diameter, blade chord width, maximum and minimum tip height and hub height. No changes to piling parameters are included in the proposed variation. SWEL are also proposing to vary the existing consents to allow for an increase in steel seabed deposits. For the purposes of this document, these proposed parameter changes are referred to as 'the Variation'.

Background

As part of the Variation request SWEL issued a Section 36C Application Screening Report on 17 January 2022 to request a formal Screening Opinion from Scottish Ministers as to whether or not the Variation to the Section 36 Consent outlined above comprised an EIA development. The Screening report presented a detailed assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the Variation compared to the project design envelope previously assessed and originally consented in 2014. Based on the technical assessments provided in the Screening Report, SWEL concluded that the Variation will not give rise to any likely significant adverse environmental effects, alone or in combination with other projects, compared to the consented Seagreen Project and that as such, the Variation application does not require an EIA under the Electricity Works EIA Regulations or the Marine Works EIA Regulations and that the Variation should be screened out of the requirement for EIA.

A Screening Opinion under the Electricity Works EIA Regulations and Marine Works EIA Regulations was made by Scottish Ministers on 13th April 2022. This concluded that the Variation to the Seagreen Alpha and Bravo Section 36 Consent, and OTA Marine Licence does not comprise an EIA development under the Electricity Works EIA Regulations or the Marine Works EIA Regulations and therefore an EIA is not required to be carried out in respect of the Variation.

Although the proposed consent variation does not comprise EIA development, SWEL has produced the accompanying Seagreen Section 36C Application Environmental Appraisal Report (LF-000009-CST-OF-LIC-REP-0011) to support the application to vary the Section 36 Consent (and associated Marine Licences). This report describes the Seagreen project as consented, including a map of the proposed development location, details the proposed changes to the Section 36 Consent and provides a rationale for the proposed changes. The report also presents relevant environmental information to support the variation application based on information provided in the Seagreen Section 36C Application Screening Report and any additional information required in response to the screening process.

In accordance with Regulation 3 of The Electricity Generating Stations (Application for Variation of Consent) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, the Section 36C Application Environmental Appraisal Report also includes a draft of the variations that Seagreen is proposing should be made to the Section 36 Consent (Section 36C Application Environmental Appraisal Report: Appendix B).

I would be grateful if you can review the contents of this letter and accompanying report and revert in due course to confirm acceptance of the application.

Yours sincerely,

Ellie Noble
Lead Offshore Consents Manager

For and on behalf of
Seagreen Wind Energy Limited