

DUDGEON OFFSHORE WIND FARM

ONSHORE CABLE ROUTE PLANNING PERMISSION RECEIVED

Dudgeon Offshore Wind Limited (DOW), a subsidiary of Warwick Energy Limited, has received the planning permissions needed to construct and operate the onshore cables for the proposed Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm (Dudgeon) project.

The permission received today from the Planning Inspectorate covers the northern 28km section of the buried cable system needed to allow the electricity generated offshore to enter the electricity transmission network. Planning permission for the southern section of this cable route was received from Breckland Council in October 2010.

This new planning permission covers the section that runs through North Norfolk District Councils' area. Despite a planning officer recommendation to approve the application the NNDC planning committee voted to refuse the proposal in January 2012 over concerns regarding landscape and agricultural impacts. A planning inquiry was held in May 2012 following an appeal by DOW.

In his report dated today the Inspector saw no reason to disagree with expert opinion that the proposals, with suitable planning conditions, would not cause any significant long term harm.

The exact location of the Dudgeon onshore substation is still to be decided, following a decision in 2011 to refuse the planning application for a site south of Little Dunham, Norfolk which was subsequently quashed by the High Court in April 2012. The decision regarding the Little Dunham substation is now being reconsidered by the Secretaries of State for Energy and Climate Change and for Communities and Local Government.

As part of its contingency planning for the project DOW is also preparing to apply for an alternative substation site between Necton and Little Fransham due to the continued uncertainty over the Little Dunham application.

Mark Petterson, Project Director, said: 'We are pleased these necessary cable consents have been granted and reflect our commitment to work closely with local communities and their representatives. In a time of national austerity, projects like Dudgeon are of absolute importance for creating jobs and delivering economic growth.'

The Dudgeon site, where the wind turbines will be installed, is located 32km offshore from Cromer. Power generation might commence by late 2015 if the remaining project consents are received shortly and suitable construction funding is identified.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1.1. The Dudgeon project would produce enough electricity on average to supply up to 400,000 homes with green electricity, approximately the same number of households that exist in the county of Norfolk.

2. The Dudgeon project will generate up to 560MW and involve private sector investment of up to £1.5bn; save up to 40 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions over its expected 50 year life; and provide more than 0.5% of the UK's annual electricity needs. The project will create hundreds of jobs during the three year construction phase and up to 100 full time jobs thereafter.

3. The consent applications for the offshore elements of the Dudgeon project were lodged with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in June 2009 and are still being considered.

4. It is expected that electricity generation from offshore wind farms, such as this one at Dudgeon, will make a significant contribution towards the UK's target of producing at least 20% of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2020.

5. Warwick Energy's wind farm project at Dudgeon is one of 15 such projects that were awarded licenses by the Crown Estate in late 2003 as a national second Round of offshore wind projects.

6. Warwick Energy Limited is a leading UK developer of a range of energy projects and has previously been responsible for the development of the 90MW Barrow offshore wind farm (completed 2006) and the 300MW Thanet offshore wind farm (completed 2010).

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