

## **DUDGEON OFFSHORE WIND FARM**

### **PLANNING PERMISSION FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE SUBSTATION SITE REQUESTED**

Dudgeon Offshore Wind Limited (DOW), a subsidiary of Warwick Energy Limited, has today applied for planning permission to construct and operate an onshore substation, and associated cable route spur, needed to allow the electricity generated from the proposed Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm (Dudgeon) project to enter the national electricity transmission system. The application is accompanied by a full Environmental Statement, which draws on the results of the environmental surveys and studies that DOW has commissioned and concludes that the development will not have a significant impact on the local environment.

The proposed 'Necton' substation location is next to the existing overhead line network just south of the A47(T) between the villages of Necton and Little Fransham in the Breckland district of Norfolk. Two public exhibitions were held at the Necton Community Centre in April 2012 to explain the proposals, and a further exhibition is being scheduled in August 2012 during the formal consultation process.

A planning application for a substation site south of Little Dunham was previously made in December 2009. This application was originally refused in October 2010 by Breckland Council on landscape grounds but, after a series of appeals, the decision on this site now rests with central Government and the timetable and outcome for this decision remains uncertain.

Concerns regarding the impact that the delay in achieving a consented onshore electrical connection might have on the overall project led DOW to initiate contingency plans late last year. This in turn has led to these proposals for an alternative substation site at Necton, approximately 2km from the original site, and an associated cable route spur that would join the rest of the cable route that is already permitted. The application process for the Necton site will now run in parallel to the consideration of the Little Dunham site.

The full onshore cable route runs for approximately 46km in a south westerly direction from the landfall at Weybourne Hope on the north Norfolk coast to the area around Little Dunham and Necton in the Breckland district of Norfolk.

Following the recent decision in North Norfolk district, DOW now has planning permission for the entire onshore cable route, with the exception of the short cable route spur to the Necton site, which forms part of this new application.

The Dudgeon site, where the offshore wind turbines will be deployed, is located 32km offshore from Cromer. Consent for the offshore elements of the project is expected soon. It is hoped that, subject to all consents being granted and the availability of construction finance, the wind farm may commence operation in 2015. The project could generate up to 560MW and make a significant contribution towards the UK's renewable energy targets.

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The project would include up to 168 wind turbines producing 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. The total extent of the wind farm site is 35km<sup>2</sup>.
2. The full Dudgeon project is expected to cost up to £1.5bn; save up to 40 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions over its expected 50 year life; and could provide more than 0.5% of the UK's annual electricity needs. The project could create many temporary jobs during the construction phase and up to 100 full time jobs thereafter.
3. Copies of the Environmental Statement (ES) for this application will be made available for viewing by members of the public at District and County Council offices. Copies will be sent to each Parish Council affected and additional copies of the full ES on CD may be obtained from the Company's Registered Office for a charge of £30. Copies of the full ES and the Non Technical Summary will be available shortly at the project consultation website ([www.dudgeonoffshorewindfarmconsultation.co.uk](http://www.dudgeonoffshorewindfarmconsultation.co.uk)). Copies of the Non Technical Summary will also be available, free of charge, when requested from the Company's Registered Office or can be downloaded from the Warwick Energy website at [www.warwickenergy.com](http://www.warwickenergy.com).
4. The onshore cable route for the project through Breckland and North Norfolk districts received planning permission in October 2010 and June 2012 respectively.
5. 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 20% of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2020.
6. Warwick Energy's wind farm project at Dudgeon is one of 15 such projects that were awarded licenses by the Crown Estate as a national second Round of offshore wind projects.
7. Warwick Energy Limited is a UK developer of a range of energy projects and has previously been responsible for the development of the 90MW Barrow offshore wind farm (in operation since 2006) and the 300MW Thanet offshore wind farm (currently under construction).

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