

**PRESS RELEASE:** 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012



## **DUDGEON OFFSHORE WIND FARM**

### **SUBSTATION PLANNING PERMISSION RECEIVED**

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND ANNOUNCED**

Dudgeon Offshore Wind Limited (DOW), a subsidiary of Warwick Energy Limited, has today received planning permission from Breckland Council to build and operate an onshore substation near Necton, Norfolk, together with an associated buried cable route spur. The substation is needed to connect the Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm (Dudgeon) project to the national electrical transmission system that already runs through the area.

All other elements of the project have already been approved and the decision today, which follows the planning officer's recommendation, now allows the Dudgeon project team to plan the construction phase with confidence.

The Dudgeon site, where the wind turbines will be installed, is located 32km offshore from Cromer. Approximately 100 turbines will be located there, depending on the model of turbine chosen, generating up to 560MW.

Following the outcome today DOW is pleased to announce that it intends to set up a Community Support Fund (CSF) to help selected good causes in communities around the cable route, substation and elsewhere in Norfolk. This initiative is in line with similar ones set up for some other offshore wind projects. The CSF will receive £100,000 per year once the Dudgeon project becomes operational; exact details will be published at a later date. The project could be generating power for up to 50 years.

The support to be provided by the CSF will be in addition to any funds the area may receive from the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) set up by H.M. Treasury in July 2011. The CCF will allow access to half of the rental income from the marine activities of The Crown Estate, such as offshore wind farms. The CCF for England has started allocating over £18m of funds each year and this funding will be boosted by up to £1.5m each year when Dudgeon starts generating power later this decade.

Mark Petterson, Project Director, said: 'Now that all elements of the project have been consented it is the appropriate time for us to announce that the Dudgeon project will be providing substantial direct and indirect benefits to local communities for decades to come.'

NOTES TO EDITORS:

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 awarded in July 2012.
4. The planning permissions for the main buried onshore cable sections within Breckland district and North Norfolk district were granted 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 at least 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 in late 2003 as a national second Round of offshore wind projects.
7. 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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