Our Ref: OXF2216B

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Date: 30 March 2015

Planning Services
South Holland District Council
Priory Road
Spalding
Lincolnshire
PE11 2XE

Dear Sirs,

Re: Variation of condition Nos. 3, 8 and 9 and removal of condition No. 4 attached to planning permission Ref. H18-0102-13 (Amendment to the approved inter-tidal cable installation corridor (DECC reference 12.4.09.04/76C) and onshore cable installation corridor (H18-0341-10)) for the Race Bank offshore wind farm

Please find attached our completed application for variation of conditions Nos. 3, 8 and 9 and removal of condition No. 4 of H18-0102-13 for the approved Race Bank offshore wind farm. The application is comprised of this letter and the completed application form, together with a copy of the approved site location plan Ref. RC-D-CE-0000-000000-012 Rev D.

As the Council is aware, the Race Bank project was purchased by DONG Energy (UK) Limited (DONG Energy) in December 2013 from the previous project developer, Centrica (RBW) Limited.

DONG Energy is currently reviewing the relevant onshore planning permissions in preparation for the start of onshore construction works. On review, a need to vary three of the conditions and remove one condition attached to planning permission reference H18-0102-13 has been identified. The rationale for the proposed amendments is set out below.

Condition 3

As the Council will be aware, condition 3 requires that the inter-tidal installation methodology details are submitted and agreed in writing by the Council prior to the commencement of any development approved by planning permission H18-0102-13.

The red line area covered by planning permission H18-0102-13 includes a small amendment to the northernmost section of the onshore cable route, immediately south of the primary sea defences at Sutton Bridge in South Holland District, in addition to the inter-tidal cable installation area, the largest part of which falls within the Borough of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk. It is likely that the onshore cable route works, south of the primary sea defence and

the Peter Scott Way, will be commenced prior to the approved inter-tidal cable installation/sea defence engineering works. Currently any works within the red line area are prevented from commencing until condition 3 has been satisfied. DONG Energy wishes to amend condition 3 in order to create flexibility between the construction phases on the north and south sides of the primary sea defence, in order to ensure there is no delay to the works programme. The suggested amended condition will not in practice have any impact on the Council's ability to secure submission of the inter-tidal installation methodology prior to the commencement of onshore works.

The proposed amended condition 3 is set out as follows (suggested insertions in **bold** and underlined):

"3. *Before development can commence* ***on the inter-tidal area north of the primary sea defence,*** *the following information shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority:*

- *Detailed export cable burial plan,*
- *Detailed contingency plan,*
- *Detailed saltmarsh mitigation and reinstatement plan,*
- *Detailed saltmarsh monitoring plan.*

The development shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved details".

Condition 4

Previous archaeological assessments carried out by Wessex Archaeology (in respect of the LINCS offshore wind farm onshore cable route in 2009 and 2010) confirmed that there was limited archaeological potential in the general area and that any deposits that did exist were likely to be buried at depth greater than the area which would be affected by the proposed works. RPS has discussed the matter previously with Louise Jennings (Historic Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council) and she has confirmed in an email dated 2 October 2013 (a copy of correspondence is attached to this application at **Appendix 1**) that removal of this condition would not be the subject of any concerns or objection from the County Council.

On this basis DONG Energy seek consent for this condition to be removed entirely.

Condition 8

Condition 8 requires the submission of specified material to the Internal Drainage Board, along with confirmation of approval, prior to commencement of development, where the development is within the Board's district.

As this condition relates solely to the onshore aspect of the project, DONG Energy is seeking to amend the condition in order to ensure that offshore construction works are not unduly delayed.

The suggested amended condition will not in practice have any impact on the Council's ability to secure submission of the required information, prior to the commencement of onshore works. Furthermore, the suggested wording will not in any way compromise the Council's ability to ensure the site is adequately drained, which is the stated reason for the condition.

The proposed amended condition 8 is set out as follows (suggested insertions in **bold** and underlined):

"*8. Prior to the commencement of development* ***south of the primary sea defence*** *the following information shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the King's Lynn Drainage Board where the development is within the Board's district:*

1. *Details of cable laying techniques for drainage ditches to be crossed together with the depth of cables below the bed levels.*
2. *Locations and constructional details of any temporary hardstanding areas for base drilling operations and building areas, together with access points.*
3. *Details of the phasing of the proposed works, together with measures to ensure that the flow and levels of water in the existing drainage system are maintained.*

The works shall only be carried out in accordance with the approved details".

Condition 9

Condition 9 requires submission of a detailed scheme of monitoring for the sea defences within the area of the works, before any development takes place.

DONG Energy proposes to amend the condition, to ensure that no work is carried on the sea defences until after a detailed monitoring scheme has been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The suggested amended condition will not have any impact on the Council's ability to secure submission of an acceptable monitoring scheme, before any work which affects the sea defences is undertaken.

The suggested amended condition will also have no impact on the Council's ability to ensure the future integrity of the sea defences and reduce the risk of flooding, which is the stated reason for including the condition.

"*9. Prior to* ***undertaking any construction work at the primary sea defence*** *a detailed scheme of monitoring of the sea defences within the area of the works shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall thereafter be carried out in accordance with the approved details*".

I trust the information provided is sufficient to enable the registration of this application. I would be grateful if you would contact me on receipt of the application, quoting a reference number, and I will arrange payment of the application fee of £195.

Yours sincerely
For RPS

Simon Gamage
Associate

cc: DONG Energy (UK) Ltd.

Enc: Copy of Site location plan Ref. RC-D-CE-0000-000000-012 Rev D
Email correspondence between RPS and Lincolnshire County Council – October 2013

APPENDIX 1

Email correspondence between RPS and Lincolnshire County Council - October 2013