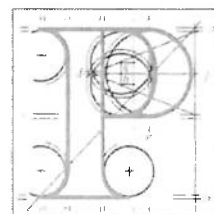


Our Case Number: ABP-319866-24



An
Bord
Pleanála

Commissioners of Irish Lights
Harbour Road
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin
A96H500

Date: 16 August 2024

Re: Proposed development known as North Irish Sea Array ("NISA") Offshore Wind Farm
Located off the coast of Counties Dublin, Meath and Louth (www.northirishsearraysid.ie)

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your submission in relation to the above-mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Board will revert to you in due course in respect of this matter. Please be advised that copies of all submissions/observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the coastal planning authority and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to marine infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email marine@pleanala.ie quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



Ellen Moss
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737285

OA15

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaao Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Ellen Moss

From: Melissa Lynch <Melissa.Lynch@irishlights.ie>
Sent: 07 August 2024 15:57
To: Marine
Cc: Nichola Meehan; Niamh Thornton; Ronan Boyle
Subject: Submission/observation from Irish Lights regarding North Irish Sea Array
Attachments: 20240807-IL- Response ABP - North Irish Sea Array Offshore Wind Farm.pdf
Categories: Ellen Case

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Dear ABP,

Please find attached a submission from Commissioners of Irish Lights as a Prescribed Body regarding North Irish Sea Array Offshore Windfarm Project.

Kind Regards,

Melissa Lynch

Navigation Support Officer

.....
M: +353 87 6650039

Commissioners of Irish Lights

Harbour Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland
A96 H500

<http://www.irishlights.ie>
.....



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An Bord Pleanála,
Marine/Climate Section
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
DO1 V902
07/08/2024

To Whom it concerns,

Thank you for notifying Irish Lights of the Application for Development Permission to An Board Pleanála under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

As a Prescribed Body under the Act, Irish Lights wishes to make certain observations in relation to the ongoing planning application for the proposed offshore wind farm called "North Irish Sea Array Offshore Wind Farm". These observations are rooted in the principles of marine spatial planning and the overarching goals of proper planning and sustainable development. In particular, the requirement to ensure that offshore renewable projects are integrated into the marine environment in a way that supports navigational safety and aligns with the National Marine Planning framework (NMPF) Chapter 19 - Safety at Sea, Policy 4 and Chapter 18 - Ports, Harbours and Shipping, Policy 4 is crucial.

Irish Lights has been actively engaged with the North Irish Sea Array Offshore Wind Farm project team through several meetings prior to submission of the planning application. Earlier concerns regarding the site proximity to Rockabill Lighthouse and the potential for inadequate sea room for vessels transiting through this gap have been taken onboard by the project team. Irish Lights is now generally satisfied with the position, layout and proposed mitigation measures included in the development consent application documents. The draft Lighting & Marking Plan (LMP) is well considered and provides a good basis for refining the plan as the project proceeds and design options are finalised. Note that due to a typo in the EIAR report, Appendix 17.2 is titled "Vessel Management Plan" but refers to the Lighting & Marking Plan.

Irish Lights suggests that certain conditions specific to marine aids to navigation are applied to any development consent granted. These conditions, listed below, include provisions for notifications to Irish Lights at certain key points in the development or in case of outages. These notifications may be required to other bodies in parallel.

Irish Lights retains the statutory authority under the Merchant Shipping Act to instruct an Offshore Windfarm project to effect changes to the provision of marine aids to navigation in future, if changes occur in the level of maritime activity such that the volume of marine traffic and/or the degree of risk changes from that considered as part of the LMP.

Suggested conditions for inclusion in any development consent for North Irish Sea Array Project

1. The Developer shall during the whole period from the commencement of construction of the authorised project to the completion of decommissioning, exhibit such lights, marks, sounds, signals and other marine aids to navigation (AtoN), and take such other steps for the prevention of danger to navigation as Irish Lights may from time to time direct.
2. The Developer must during the whole period from the commencement of construction of the authorised project to the completion of decommissioning keep Irish Lights informed of progress of the authorised project including:
 - a. notice of commencement of construction of the authorised project within 24 hours of commencement having occurred.
 - b. notice within 24 hours of any aids to navigation being established by the developer; and.
 - c. notice within 5 days of completion of construction of the authorised project.
3. The Developer must submit a close out report to Irish Lights within three months of the date of completion of construction. The close out report must confirm the date of completion of construction and must include the following details:
 - d. The final number of installed wind turbine generators (WTG)
 - e. As-built plans
 - f. Latitude and longitude coordinates of the centre point of the location for each WTG and offshore platform (OSP), substation, and meteorological mast; provided as Geographical Information System data referenced to WGS84 datum.
4. The Developer must provide reports to Irish Lights on the availability of marine aids to navigation (AtoN) in accordance with Irish Lights guidance and using the online portal reporting system provided.
 - g. Irish Lights works closely with Local Lighthouse Authorities and Developers to ensure that AtoN standards in offshore developments meet International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation & Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) standards. To ensure these criteria are met each developer provides access to records and information concerning the aids to navigation under their management to Irish Lights. Irish Lights conduct inspections and audits on a regular basis to assist the developer in maintaining records and policies/procedures for the operation of AtoN. The Developer must agree to such inspections and audits by Irish Lights.



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5. The Developer must during the whole period from the commencement of construction of the authorised project to the completion of decommissioning notify Irish Lights of any failure of the aids to navigation and the timescales and plans for remedying such failures, as soon as possible and no later than 24 hours following the developer becoming aware of any such failure.
 - h. During the construction and decommissioning phase, it is recommended that working areas be established and marked as appropriate. As construction areas become larger the spacing between marine aids to navigation and ranges of lights, need to be assessed so that it is readily apparent to the mariner that the AtoN are marking a zone.
6. In case of damage to, or destruction or decay of, the authorised project seaward of MHWS or any part thereof, excluding the exposure of cables, the Developer must as soon as reasonably practicable and no later than 24 hours following their becoming aware of any such damage, destruction, or decay, notify Irish Lights. In the event of this occurrence the developer must lay down such buoys, exhibit such lights and take such other steps for preventing danger to navigation as directed by Irish Lights.
7. In case of exposure of cables on or above the seabed, the developer must, within three days following identification of a potential cable exposure, notify mariners, DOT and Irish Lights of the location and extent of exposure.
8. The Developer must submit an application for statutory consent on each occasion to Irish Lights prior to the establishment, alteration, or disestablishment of any required aid to navigation associated with the Project. Such a consent must be sought in good time and cannot be granted in retrospect.
9. The Developer must, no later than 6 months prior to the Commencement of the Development, agree a Lighting and Marking Plan (LMP) with Irish Lights.
 - i. The LMP must make provision for amending the marking and lighting of the OSPs, as required by Irish Lights, in the event that any OSPs are constructed prior to the construction of WTGs within the Site, to ensure the marking and lighting of any OSP suits the layout of any surrounding WTGs that form part of any wind farm development located within the Site.
10. All marine aids to navigation must be published on nautical charts, in relevant publications and by promulgation of Maritime Safety Information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Boyle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ronan Boyle
Director of Navigation, Maritime & Consenting