
Stevedoring & Ships Agency

Warehousing

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6th November 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As a significant stakeholder in the Port of Waterford, Belview Port region, South East Port Services (hereafter SEPS) feels it necessary to make a submission in very definite support of the Port of Waterford's proposed *250-metre wharf extension for a proposed Offshore Renewable Energy ('ORE') development and general port development, land reclamation, ancillary works and a biodiversity enhancement area.*

The core points that underpin SEPS support of this comprehensive project can be summarised as follows ;

- **Early Stage Benefits**

The initial construction phase of the proposed development will have specific and immediate positive effect in the local area by generating at least 100+ construction jobs for the duration of the construction programme. It is SEPS understanding that this period may be up to 24 months with final remediation works thereafter.

This project will also require the typical local support of products and services that surround such projects and will clearly provide a significant economic boost to local enterprises throughout the associated project requirements and supply chain.

- **Long Term Benefits**

Of prime importance, once the new development moves into its full-time operational phase it will require a sizeable and sustained direct workforce to fulfil and maintain its planned provision of services. Early estimates would indicate that this may be up to 100 jobs which would have a major and highly positive impact on the area as the vast majority of these jobs can be supported from local resources.

Further, the development will continue to support indirect employment in the local area. Given the planned Offshore Renewable Energy related activities and the definite employment demand in the several supporting sectors this project will provide a demonstrable scaled increase in employment locally. These sectors would at the very least include operations and maintenance, servicing, prefabrication, haulage and handling as well as traditional port related activities.

There is research to indicate that similar developments have demonstrated a factor of 3.5 + indirect employment positions for each port position generated.

The long-term employment sustainability of such a project as this therefore becomes generational and underscores the regional roots of the community both from an economic as well as social perspective.

- **Positive Regional Impact**

Attracting a fresh commercial sector such as specific Offshore Renewable Energy support platforms to the region will bring many new opportunities for business development into areas that have not been catered for thus far in the Waterford and surrounding area.

Technological advancement will be assured as a vital component in this progression. There may be spin-off benefits as this industry takes hold in the area, to give one example, local 3rd level educational institutions would be offered the unique and enviable benefit of local research opportunities as well as potential post graduate employment opportunities locally.

It is not inconceivable that new or evolved education faculties could be established locally to provide a centre of excellence in ORE, supported by the Port of Waterford's operating development and direct engagement in this ever growing field.

Hence, the proposed development therefore has the capability to provide a strong and sustainable boost to the economy of not just Waterford but the outlying areas in the south east.

- **Expansion of Existing Services Supporting Economic Growth**

The project is centred around specifically expanding the facilitation capability of the Port for vessels involved in offshore wind farm construction, operation and maintenance. However, the Port of Waterford's proposed development has the capability to support the future growth of the Port by providing additional berthing space for more and possibly larger vessels at a given time and therefore increasing demand for other port-related activities.

- **Attraction and Establishment of New Business Entities in the Region**

In the event of the proposed development proceeding there will likely be a demand for new services that have heretofore not been necessary to provide.

Once again, this would broaden the regions palate of supporting services for ORE as well as encourage both local enterprise in addition to attracting new and possibly significant existing operators in the ORE sector. Further boosting local reputation and specialty capabilities to attract port business and energy sector providers and clients.

- **Positioning the Port of Waterford (and surrounding region) as a ORE sector associated destination of choice.**

It is SEPS understanding that the Government is enacting a variety of initiatives, plans and policies that will serve the needs of future ORE projects in the Celtic Sea off the southern coast of Ireland.

Given such a unique and singular opportunity which holds the ability for Waterford to be major stakeholder in the future development of Ireland's energy independence and potential for net energy export, SEPS firm view is that the proposed development is a critical step in achieving this role and therefore provide a solid basis to being able to potentially attract Government initiatives for further development diversity in this region to facilitate the evolution of a true, globally recognised gateway hub for the ORE sector in Ireland.



Southeast Port Services Ltd.

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Thus, in light of the points raised above, SEPS believes without doubt that the proposed 250-metre wharf extension with the further proposed supports, services and amenities is an essential development for the Waterford region to establish a strong foothold and identity in the future initiatives of the country.

The opportunity to present to the An Coimisiún Pleanála the views, hopes and support of South East Port Services with respect to this specific project and our further beliefs for the tangible benefits that the development will bring to the region and community is greatly and sincerely appreciated.

We therefore clearly and respectfully request that the An Coimisiún Pleanála considers and decides to grant permission for the Proposed Development.

Yours Sincerely,

Albert Lennon
General Manager

