

Attachment 10: Sample Copy of the Notification to Prescribed Bodies

Delivered by Email

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
Development Applications Unit
Department of Housing, Local Government and
Heritage,
Newtown Road,
Wexford,
Y35 AP90

4th June 2024

minister@housing.gov.ie

Re: Notice of a Direct Application to An Bord Pleanála in respect of a Maritime Area Planning Application

Dear Minister O'Brien,

Please be advised that Sure Partners Limited intends to apply to An Bord Pleanála under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for permission for the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 (ABWP2) Offshore Infrastructure (hereinafter referred to as the Proposed Development).

The Proposed Development is an offshore wind farm, located off the coast of Co. Wicklow and Co. Wexford, on the east coast of Ireland. A Maritime Area Consent (MAC) (Ref [2022-MAC-002](#)) was granted in December 2022 for the construction and operation of an offshore windfarm and associated infrastructure (including decommissioning and other works) on and around the Arklow Bank in the Irish Sea.

The site of the Proposed Development comprises an Array Area (the area within which the Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), the Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs), and associated cables (export, inter-array and interconnector cabling) and foundations will be installed and a Cable Corridor and Working Area (the area within which export, inter-array and interconnector cabling will be installed). The overall Proposed Development site area is 139.4 km² and all of the Proposed Development will be seaward of the High Water Mark (HWM). The Array Area is located approximately 6 km to 15 km off the coast and covers an area of approximately 63.4 km². The Cable Corridor and Working Area extends from the Array Area to the HWM at Johnstown North, north of Arklow Town, Co. Wicklow where the offshore export cables make landfall (the Landfall). The area of the Cable Corridor and Working Area is 76.0 km².

Certain details of the Proposed Development are unconfirmed in the planning application and an opinion on unconfirmed details from the Board pursuant to section 287B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), accompanies the planning application.

The Proposed Development will comprise:

- I. One of two Project Design Options - Project Design Option 1 (which comprises Models 1a and 1b, one of which will be selected) or Project Design Option 2. Project Design Option 1 (Models 1a and 1b) comprises WTGs with the same rotor diameter, hub height and tip heights and with slight variations in chord width and revolutions per minute (RPM) between the two models. The Project Design Options comprise the following parameters:

Parameters	Project Design Option 1		Project Design Option 2
Number of WTGs	56		47
Hub height (above Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)) (m)	155		162
Rotor diameter (m)	236		250
Upper blade tip height (above LAT) (m)	273		287
Lower blade tip height (above LAT) (m)	37		37
Chord Width (m)	Model 1a	Model 1b	6.9
	5.4	6.8	
Average annual RPM	6.34	5.73	6.19

- II. The WTGs for both Project Design Options will comprise three blades and a horizontal axis rotor. The blades will be connected to the hub, forming a rotor which turns a shaft connected either directly to the generator ('direct drive') or to a gearbox, which are located within the nacelle. Each WTG will be installed on a steel monopile foundation with a diameter ranging from 7 m to 11 m.
- III. Two OSPs each comprising a topside structure with a main structure height of 53 m above LAT, an antennae height of 63 m above LAT, topside length of 46 m and topside width of 33.5 m, supported on a monopile foundation ranging from 7 m to 14 m in diameter. One OSP will be located in the north, and one will be located in the south of the Array Area. The OSP topside structure will contain switch gear, transformers, control equipment, auxiliary electrical equipment, cranes, batteries, generators, fire control systems, communication mast and other ancillary equipment.
- IV. The monopile foundations for the WTGs and OSPs will consist of a hollow steel tube installed into the seabed. WTG monopile foundations will be installed to a depth ranging from 20 m to 37 m below Lowest Seabed Level (LSBL), while OSP monopile foundations will be installed to a depth ranging from 20 m to 45 m below LSBL.
- V. A network of inter-array cabling between WTG and OSP locations with a length of between 110 km and 122 km.
- VI. Interconnector cabling between the two OSPs with a length of between 25 km and 28 km.
- VII. Two export cable circuits extending from the OSPs to the proposed Landfall at Johnstown North with a combined length of between 35 km and 40 km.
- VIII. Associated ancillary works comprising cable protection and scour protection. Cable protection will be installed to prevent movement and exposure of the cables over the lifetime of the Proposed

Development where the cables cannot be buried to the required depth. Scour protection will be used to protect the monopile foundations from tide induced scour that may occur around the monopile foundation.

- IX. Ancillary components to be mounted on the monopile foundations including boat landings, J-tubes, platforms and davit cranes to support the construction, operation and decommissioning of the infrastructure described above.
- X. Confirmatory surveys comprising geotechnical, geophysical and environmental surveys.
- XI. Project Design Options 1 and 2 have defined WTG and OSP layouts with a 100 m limit of deviation applying to each location to allow avoidance of site constraints such as difficult ground conditions during construction.
- XII. At Landfall, the export cables will be installed using trenchless techniques between the HWM and the exit point of the trenchless technique. This involves installing the export cables along underground drilled pathways of length between 350 m and 880 m, without the need to excavate an open trench.
- XIII. This application is seeking a ten-year permission and 36.5 year operational life from the date of final commissioning of the Proposed Development.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development. As confirmed, the planning documents, planning drawings, EIAR and NIS have been published on the following website for the purpose of the application: www.arklowbank2offshoreplanning.ie.

The Proposed Development is likely to have significant effects on the environment of a Member State of the European Union or a state that is a party to the Transboundary Convention (the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, done at Espoo (Finland), on 25 February 1991).

The application relates to a Proposed Development which requires a Dumping at Sea Permit under the Dumping at Sea Act 1996 (as amended).

Please note that An Bord Pleanála, following its consideration of the application, can decide to:

- (a) grant the permission subject to such modifications (if any) to the proposed development as it may specify,
 - (b) grant the permission in respect of part of the proposed development concerned subject to such modifications (if any) to that part as it may specify, or
 - (c) refuse to grant the permission,
- and the Board may attach such conditions to a permission granted under paragraph (a) or (b) as it considers appropriate.

Submissions or observations may be made in writing to Marine/Climate Section of An Bord Pleanála ('the Board'), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, or by email at marineobs@pleanala.ie, relating to:

- (i) the implications of the proposed development for maritime spatial planning, and
- (ii) the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development, and
- (iii) the likely effects on the environment or any European site of the proposed development.

Any submission or observation must be received by the Board not later than 5.30 p.m. on the **7th August 2024**.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Marine Area Planning Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel: 01 8588100).

Yours sincerely,



Kaj Christiansen
Development Manager – ABWP2

Email kaj.christiansen@sse.com

Contact: 00353 873987668

CC: Joanne Lyons - Higher Executive Officer