

Welcome to the latest edition of the Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm Newsletter, providing the latest information on the Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm Project (BOWL).

If you have any questions following receipt of this newsletter please contact **Kirstanne McDowall, SSE Community Liaison Manager** using the contact details in the “Next Steps” section on the final page of this newsletter.

Further information about the Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm can also be found on our website: www.sse.com/beatrice or in previous editions of this newsletter which are available to download on our website.



The Moray Council Approve BOWL's Onshore Transmission Works

In our last newsletter from October 2012 we provided information on the submission of our Planning Application In Principal for the onshore transmission works associated with the offshore wind farm.

Since our last update, The Moray Council's Planning and Regulatory Services Committee have approved our application for Planning Permission in Principal at their meeting on Tuesday 19th February 2013, marking an important step forward for the BOWL project.

As the generating capacity of the wind farm is not yet finalised, two possible development options were applied for as part of the Onshore Transmission Works Planning Permission In Principal application— an Alternating Current (AC) and Direct Current (DC) connection. The designs are different depending on which engineering solution is progressed. Only one option will finally be installed and constructed to connect the Offshore Wind Farm, once consented and constructed, to the grid. Once the best option is agreed and confirmed for the offshore wind farm, a detailed planning application will be submitted to Moray Council for final consideration.

A detailed application is expected to be submitted towards the end of 2014 and we will keep the community informed with our progress. For further information on what is proposed for the onshore transmission works please refer to the October 2012 Newsletter which can be downloaded from our project website: www.sse.com/beatrice

Beatrice Addendum Submission

In April 2012, we submitted an application to the Scottish Government for consent to develop all the offshore elements of the Project. Since submission, consultation responses have been received from statutory and non-statutory consultees and there have been advancements in assessment methods for some of the environmental receptors. As such, BOWL has submitted an Addendum to the Environmental Statement to ensure further information as a result of this is incorporated in the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Project. The amendments to the original application, as submitted through the Environmental Statement Addendum, are minor with no changes being made to the original layout of the scheme.



IMAGE: Beatrice Demonstrator Turbines

THE CHANGES COMPRISE OF:

- An amendment to size of the footprint of the jack-up vessels to be used during construction;
- Slight amendment to the Offshore Transmission Works Corridor; and
- Changes to the timescales for the installation of the Offshore Transmission Works cable.

Consultation on the Addendum

The submission of the Addendum to the Environmental Statement resulted in a further round of public and stakeholder consultation on the application. The submission of the Addendum was communicated to the public through newspaper adverts and letters to key stakeholders including community councils. The Environmental Statement Addendum documents can be viewed by the general public at the following locations during normal working hours:

The Highland Council, Planning Office, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX	Helmsdale Library and Service Point, Dunrobin Street, Helmsdale, KW8 6JX	Moray Council, Planning Office, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX
Caithness Planning Office, Market Square, Wick, KW1 4AB	Brora Library, Gower Street, Brora, KW9 6PD	Buckie Library, Cluny Place, Buckie, AB56 1HB

A copy of the Non Technical Summary is available for download in the "More Information" section of the Beatrice website: www.sse.com/beatrice

Any representations on the Environmental Statement Addendum should be made by email to The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team mailbox at beatrice@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or by post to *The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, PO Box 101, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB* identifying the proposals and specifying the grounds for representation, not later than 15th July 2013.

Representations must state the reasons for supporting or objecting to the proposal, be dated and clearly state the name of the person, or persons, representing and include a full return email or postal address. Representations that do not include all of the above information will not be considered. Please note, all previous representations received in relation to the original application remain valid. If you have already commented on the application in the initial consultation phase you do not need to submit your comment again for the Environmental Statement Addendum as your feedback has already been documented.

No objection from Highland Council

In June 2013, Highland Council's North Planning Applications Committee raised no objection to the proposed Beatrice offshore wind farm. The ruling represents another major step forward in the consent process for the development, following Moray Council's decision to approve the project's onshore transmission works, in principal, in February this year.

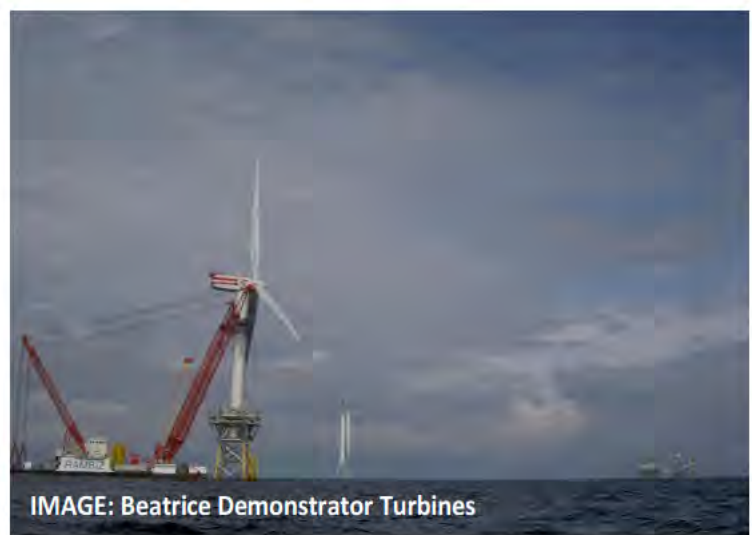
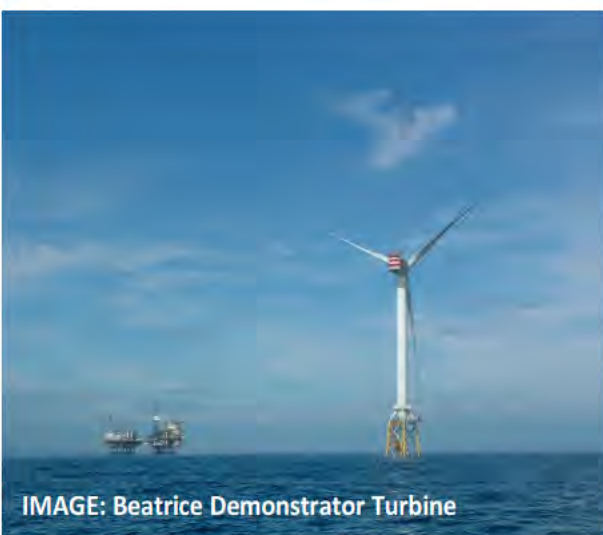
The offshore proposal will now be reviewed before a final decision is taken by Scottish Ministers on whether to consent the project. A final decision relating to the offshore wind farm is expected later in 2013 and if consented, the wind farm has the potential to deliver significant, long term, sustainable economic development opportunities for the Moray Firth region such as investment in local infrastructure, direct and in-direct employment and use of local businesses wherever possible.

Opportunities for Local Businesses

We are committed to using local, regional and Scottish suppliers during construction and operation of our wind farms wherever we can and to make the process easier; SSE has created a local online business portal in the Highlands, **Open4Business**, to allow local businesses to register their details and receive alerts for opportunities with SSE and our partners that directly match their skills.

Two SSE Open4Business information days were recently held at Mackay's Hotel in Wick, in association with Caithness Chamber of Commerce, on 12th and 13th June 2013. If you were unable to make it you can still register your details for any opportunities here: www.sseopen4business-highlands.com

It is our intention to place any opportunities that arise through the BOWL development on the portal for transparency and ease of access for local businesses. Further information days will be held locally should BOWL be consented.



BOWL Survey Work

BOWL will be carrying out marine survey operations at the wind farm site for 3 weeks starting from 15/07/2013. The engineering surveys will investigate ground conditions at the site which will input into the final design of the wind farm. A notice to Mariners was issued this week to make key marine stakeholders aware of the forthcoming survey work. Fisheries liaison for this survey will be co-ordinated by Brown and May Marine.

For commercial fishery queries please contact:

Rebecca Radford

rebecca@brownmay.com

07715 994134

Sponsorship of Caithness Horizons

BOWL is proud to sponsor Caithness Horizon's "Beatrice Works!" education programme with local schools; exploring renewables through art, engineering and technology. The education programme for Primary and Secondary schools surrounding Caithness aims to explore how current developments in renewable technology are making an impact locally, nationally and internationally. www.caithnesshorizons.co.uk



IMAGE: Beatrice Demonstrator Turbine

Next steps

The Beatrice Offshore wind farm now awaits a final consent decision from Scottish Ministers which is expected later this year. We will continue to work closely with local residents and stakeholders to keep them informed as plans for the project progress.

Should you have any questions in relation to the project or if you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive regular updates, please contact:

Kirstanne McDowall

SSE Community Liaison Manager

kirstanne.mcdowall@sse.com

0141 224 7569

BOWL Project Timeline

If the BOWL project is consented towards the end of 2013 we would expect the key stages of the project to follow the timeline below:

2013

Consent expected from the Scottish Government.

2016

Construction commences on the Beatrice site.

2018

Construction completes and wind farm starts generating.