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Dear Mr Montyn,

Rampion Offshore Wind Farm

Thank you for your letter dated 14 November 2013 seeking clarity on issues regarding the Rampion offshore wind farm. I respond to each issue in turn.

1. Benefits and facilities for local people

The overarching benefits of the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm are to create safe, secure, clean energy to help secure our energy supplies and keep the lights on, while tackling climate change through reducing carbon emissions and creating jobs during construction and operation.

In addition to these core benefits, our policy is to ensure that we are a good neighbour to the local community, to continue our track record on existing offshore wind farms of working with communities and supporting local projects and education initiatives. To achieve this, we will develop relationships with Sussex communities and consider the potential to provide initiatives through community benefits funds.

Our plan to deliver community benefits is intended to support initiatives in those communities associated with the offshore and onshore elements of the Project. The exact geographical scope and distribution of such initiatives need to be very carefully considered in view of the spatial extent of the Project.

We intend to consult the wider community through a number of existing communication channels that we established for the

purpose of consulting on the draft Rampion proposals. We have continued engagement using these communication methods as we have progressed the Project to submission and during ongoing survey works both on and offshore, and we will continue to employ these during construction, should the Project be consented.

i) The intention is to continue to utilise the established Project Liaison Groups (PLGs) which we initially set up with local stakeholders in 2011 (Community, Environment, Business & Tourism, Council Officers, Commercial Fishing and Sea Users), to discuss our Community Benefits Strategy to assist in identifying key geographical locations, local communities and criteria for potential community projects.

ii) The (Substation Residents) Local Liaison Group (LLG) met for the second time on Monday 4 November and part of the remit of the group is to, 'discuss and propose potential community projects in the vicinity of the proposed substation, should the scheme proceed' with our own obligation in this regard to, 'consider community project proposals proposed by the LLG, as part of a wider package of community benefits, should the scheme proceed'. Councillor Peter Griffiths has already proposed some potential community benefit projects in the vicinity of the substation, which were discussed by the LLG at the meeting.

iii) We also intend to consult relevant local authorities (Adur & Worthing Councils, Brighton & Hove City Council, Lewes District Council, Horsham District Council, Mid Sussex District Council, South Downs National Park Authority, West Sussex County Council and East Sussex County Council) and consider their views in delivering community projects which align with wider Council policy objectives for communities, environment, education, business and transport.

We are developing a draft Community Benefits Strategy with the aim of consulting the above-mentioned parties in Q1/2 2014. The process of consultation, project identification and delivery will continue in advance of, and during the construction phase.

A Visitor Centre may form part of the package of community benefits and we have devised a draft Visitor Centre Strategy, about which we will consult the relevant local authorities and PLGs in Q1/2 2014. The consultation will consider suitable site(s)

that encourage opportunities for students and visitors to raise awareness of Rampion and offshore wind energy more generally, maximise local community, educational and tourism interest and deliver economic benefits to the area. Should a centre be constructed, this is likely to assist in creating local jobs and attracting visitors to the area.

2. Direct and indirect job creation

The Rampion Supply Chain Steering Group (comprised of Marine South East, E.ON, East Sussex County Council, Lewes District Council, Brighton & Hove City Council and the Coastal West Sussex Partnership representing West Sussex County Council and Adur & Worthing Councils) has delivered a number of initiatives designed to maximise the opportunities for local and regional businesses resulting from the Rampion construction. 184 delegates from local businesses attended three information events held in Sussex to raise awareness of the opportunity created by Rampion and the Sussex Wind Energy Forum website www.sussexwindenergy.org.uk went live on 1 September 2013 to keep registered businesses updated, attracting 16,639 hits since it's launch with 132 businesses registered as of 7 November. A Meet the Buyer event is scheduled for early 2014 to offer local businesses the opportunity to meet prospective Tier 1 suppliers and better understand the timescale and process for bidding for contracts. Caroline Wood of the Coastal West Sussex Partnership is representing West Sussex County Council on the Steering Group.
It is also noteworthy that a study was produced by BVG Associates following completion of our Robin Rigg wind farm, which demonstrated that 32% of content was based in the UK and 12% in the region, which is a significant proportion given the lack of a UK-based turbine manufacturer with the wind turbines clearly being a major proportion of the overall project capital value.

During construction, there is likely to be an increase in interest in the wind farm which cannot be measured at this stage. However, there will be a need for temporary accommodation for construction staff of both the onshore and offshore elements of the Project within the local area, filling bed-spaces to the benefit of the accommodation providers, particularly in the shoulder and off season periods. Associated economic benefits such as increased use of shops and restaurants will bring additional

revenue into the local economy.

Vessel owners and Shoreham Port have already benefited from the offshore surveys during the development phase. Should the Project go ahead, there would be a need for guard boats and transfer vessels benefiting small local businesses, while Shoreham and Newhaven Ports would have an active role to play in supporting vessels during the two and a half year offshore construction. However, the precise level of support from the local ports during construction cannot be accurately forecast until the wind turbine supplier has been contracted and their proposals for construction and assembly are fully understood.

Turning to benefits during operation, the operations and maintenance (O&M) base at Newhaven Port will provide significant local economic benefit in terms of investing in the Port as a catalyst to its regeneration, and in terms of creating 65-85 full time jobs for the lifetime of the Project. We intend to recruit locally and at our Robin Rigg wind farm in Cumbria, approximately 80% of the jobs were recruited locally.

There may also be other spin-off benefits triggered by the operating wind farm, such as at our Scroby Sands wind farm off the coast of Great Yarmouth, where independent boat owners have capitalised on business opportunities by offering boat trips for visitors to see the wind farm. We will encourage boat owners to take advantage of these business opportunities for themselves off the Sussex coast, should the wind farm be consented and constructed. By adding interest both above and below sea level, we also believe that there could be an increase in sailing, chartered services, diving and recreational fishing activity in the wind farm area once constructed.

3. Mitigation of the development

Beginning with the design, we have been able to largely mitigate impacts of the physical development on the community and the environment. Through electing an underground onshore cable route for the entire length of the route and working with the community local to the onshore substation, the only permanent onshore above ground structure, we believe we will be able to mitigate visual impact significantly.

We recently received the results of the initial substation system

design which has enabled us to suggest a number of revised scenarios to the Local Liaison Group (LLG). We are using feedback from the LLG to help finalise a design that offers the least impact and balances those issues that are priority for local residents, such as mature hedgerows, public footpaths and views from their properties. We have already committed to reducing the footprint of the substation and the size of any buildings on site, and reducing the number and height of the transformers, the tallest substation structures. We will be re-consulting the LLG in January with further designs and we will revise our proposed mitigation planting around the substation to screen views of the updated substation layout.

We have already significantly reduced the maximum number of turbines from 195 to 175 and reduced the area of the wind farm from 271km^2 (exclusivity for zone 6) to 167km^2 (consulted under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008) to 139km^2 as submitted in our development consent order (DCO) application. During the recent Hearing on 31 October as part of the Examination process, we proposed a further concessionary exclusion area for turbines, in order to address continuing concerns in relation to views from the Heritage Coast, with this proposed exclusion area also benefitting Shoreham Port from a navigation perspective and commercial fishing interests. However, any further reduction in the available area within which we are able to optimise the scheme will risk our ability to deliver a buildable economic scheme.

While we have been able to mitigate impacts of the operating wind farm and physical onshore infrastructure, this is a major infrastructure and construction project. We are doing all we can to reduce impacts during construction and the detail of this can be found in a number of outline plans which we have submitted to accompany the DCO application, e.g. Construction Traffic Management Plan, Construction Noise Management Plan. These outline plans help to elaborate and provide greater clarity to DCO requirements, which need to be approved by the statutory authority to be implemented by us and subsequently monitored during construction. For most of the onshore construction activity, these plans need to be approved by either WSCC or the South Downs National Park Authority.

Offshore, we are working closely with the relevant marine authorities, as we did during the consultation process, to

minimise any risk to marine ecology and implement specific mitigation measures where required. For example, if this includes piling restrictions to avoid disturbance to spawning herring and black bream, then these will be conditions on us in the Marine Licence.

While we are mitigating the operational impacts of the Project and reducing the temporary construction impacts to a minimum, the benefits of the wind farm to the community and environment should not be underestimated. Rampion will make a significant contribution to energy generation in a region which demands more energy than it supplies, helping the national objective to secure our energy supplies. It will also make a significant contribution to carbon emission reductions, avoiding the release of over 920,000 tonnes of CO_2 each year that would otherwise have been released by conventional power stations. The job creation, and the wider local community and economic benefits outlined above in sections 1 and 2 are also not insignificant.

4. Working with WSCC in responding to concerns

The Rampion Project Team will continue to engage with WSCC as we have since commencing early work on the project in 2010. This engagement will continue in your role as a relevant authority, in terms of finalising, agreeing and monitoring requirements that must be met as part of implementing the DCO.

As outlined above, we will also be consulting WSCC as one of the key local authorities, in relation to our Community Benefits and Visitor Centre Strategies. The PLGs will continue, with WSCC represented on the Council Officers PLG by Michael Elkington and Susan Bragg. The Community PLG is also represented by West Sussex Strategy Partnership.

Please do not hesitate to contact me as a first point of contact in relation to any concerns raised about the Rampion Project.

5. Engagement with residents over the lifetime of the project

If the Project is consented, we will continue our active engagement with the Sussex community as we prepare for construction, as we have done since running our series of initial Public Information Events in 2011, through the following

communication methods and materials:

- Issuing our regular Newsletter and any key project updates to our database of over 2,500 stakeholder organisations in Sussex;
- Offering meetings in our Brighton Office and employing a local Development Manager dedicated to the Rampion Project, who will continue to deliver presentations to community groups and answer their questions;
- Continuing our relationships with the regional and local media, having seen well over 500 Rampion media stories published to date;
- Continuing our PLG meetings for key consultation activities and/or at key Project milestones. The role of the PLG representatives is to act as a conduit between E.ON and the wider community to broaden the reach of our engagement;
- Maintaining strong relationships with the relevant local authorities' elected members, relevant committees and key officials;
- Upon completion of the Examination, we will be carrying out a comprehensive update to our website. However, we currently direct those with an interest in Rampion to the Planning Inspectorate website where all the Project information is published and details of the consent process are continually updated;
- Subject to consent, we will be considering an exhibition in advance of construction, to inform the local community of the construction timetable and what is involved;
- Subject to consent, we will continue to hand deliver notices of intended construction activity to those living in close proximity to the cable route and substation.

6. Working with schools, colleges and universities

Schools

Our work with schools began early in the development process as in 2010 the Project was named 'Rampion' after the county flower of Sussex. We held a competition among local schools to choose a name for the site. Pupils from Davison High School in Worthing put forward the shortlisted entry and the winner was decided by a public vote.

E.ON has a UK-wide programme of working with schools using the *E.ON Energy Experience* to help teachers to teach young

people about energy. The resources help young people to understand about the different sources of energy we use, the relative merits of each, the options for energy production going forward and what their choices will mean locally, nationally and globally.

Under the programme, young people aged 5-16 are given the essential facts and figures, but more importantly are allowed to make virtual decisions about all stages of energy production, distribution and consumption and see the different effects of those decisions.

E.ON has worked closely with the education community to ensure that the programme offers an exciting interactive resource. Teacher support materials will provide lesson plans and curriculum links for geography and science curricula in England, Scotland and Wales, to help teachers get the most out of the programme too. For more information, please visit www.eon-uk.com/energyexperience.

We are also aware of the proposed initiative to link wind turbines to local schools to support education initiatives and increase awareness of offshore wind energy. This is something we need to consider internally in the first instance, to be followed by discussions with local authorities, in order to establish if and how such an initiative could be implemented.

Colleges and Universities

From our experience on London Array, the latest wind farm to be constructed in which we are a partner, the project team worked with education providers to identify the necessary skills and training needed to equip local people for wind turbine technician roles. Nine apprentices have been recruited who are undertaking the Wind Turbine Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship programme, which offers technical knowledge, basic skills and health and safety qualifications, with regular visits to wind farms. The course also sees the apprentices putting into practice what they have learnt, as they work alongside experienced technicians.

We are currently considering adopting a similar apprenticeship initiative for Rampion to enable young people in the region to acquire the skills necessary for wind turbine technician roles.

We are currently supporting two MSc students at Sussex

University, with one student studying Energy Policy and the other Climate Change and Development.
In November 2012, we supported the University Technical College (UTC) bid for Newhaven College, which was successful. The UTC will develop marine and environmental engineering workforce skills in Newhaven for 14-19 year olds, with an employer led teaching curriculum. It is envisaged that the course will draw in students from a catchment area across East and West Sussex, to work on routes to employability to achieve a local informed enthusiastic pool of people.

7. Performance of our operating offshore wind farms

The most important aspect of offshore wind energy is that the resource is renewable and free, therefore efficiency in the sense of conventional power (conversion of the ratio of electrical energy produced over fuel energy in) does not apply. This is different to the concept of load factor, which in the case of wind power gives a percentage of the 'maximum theoretical generation' which could be generated if the wind turbines were to operate at full output 100% of the time. It should be noted that even conventional power stations have load factors well below 100% since they do not operate at full load all of the time. What is more important is maintaining an availability as close to 100% as possible to capture the wind energy as effectively as possible and forecasting the energy production at least 1.5hours ahead to allow integration with the rest of the energy mix on the national grid. I set out below, three factors in measuring the performance of our offshore wind farm, Robin Rigg off the west coast of Cumbria, which has been operating since September 2010.

i) Load factor: Robin Rigg is budgeted to run at a load factor of just over 33%, in 2013. Over its life it is planned to run at a load factor of 33-35%. In 2013 for the year so far, it is running at 34%. The site is basically delivering against what was planned. It should be noted that load factor is mostly influenced by wind farm siting and the ratio of the rotor size to generator size, so once a site is selected and built using certain turbines, its load factor is pretty much set. There can then be variations each year depending on availability and wind resource within the year.

ii) While it is also not efficiency, availability is another key factor in assessing performance. Robin Rigg is probably the leading Vestas V90 offshore site in Europe. Current year availability

performance is just over 97%, which is well ahead of plan, and is comparable to the performance of a large modern onshore site.

iii) Power curve efficiency: The turbine is optimised to produce as much energy from the wind as possible, but the output varies as the wind speed varies. The efficiency of the turbine can be measured against its design "power curve", which predicts what the power output should be across the full range of wind speeds. We recently had the performance assessed and the turbines were performing within extremely close tolerance to their stated power curve.

We are also a partner in the London Array wind farm, but as this has only been fully operational since July, there is not sufficient data available to provide any meaningful performance statistics.

I hope this letter provides you with a comprehensive response to the issues for which you were seeking clarification, but please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

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