



A computer generated image showing what part of the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm could look like based on 288 125 metre tall turbines.

TRITON KNOLL OFFSHORE WIND FARM SUBMITTED TO IPC

Following our formal consultation which was held last year, RWE npower renewables' application for the proposed Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm has been submitted to, and accepted by, the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC)¹.

This brings the delivery of this significant renewable energy project one step closer to construction and operation. Offshore wind farms provide economic benefits during their construction and operation phases both through direct job creation and through the wider supply chain. So far, during assessments for Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm, we have already placed contracts with vessel operators around the wind farm site that exceed £3 million and a similar level of investment is planned this year.

The acceptance of the planning application for examination by the IPC is an important stage for local communities and interested parties, who must now register with the IPC to take part in the forthcoming stages of the decision making process on the offshore wind farm.

The application, known as a "development consent application", is for an offshore wind farm approximately 20.5 miles (33 kilometres) off the coast of Lincolnshire

and 28.5 miles (46 kilometres) off the coast of north Norfolk.

The exact size of the project is yet to be determined, but if granted consent to go ahead, it could produce up to 1,200 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. This could provide enough renewable electricity to meet the average consumption of the equivalent of approximately 850,000 homes each year².

The Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm project is divided into two parts:

- Package 1 which consists of the wind farm site itself and all elements within its offshore site boundary; and
- Package 2 which comprises the electrical system, including the offshore and onshore power cable routes and the onshore electrical substation.

The application which has been submitted is solely for Package 1.

Approximately 80% of people who completed a feedback form at our public exhibitions said they were in support of Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm.

From now on, the IPC becomes the lead organisation and official comments on the wind farm application must be submitted to them, in line with the timescale set out in the notices. All "interested parties" that wish to participate in the examination process must register with the IPC, to formally have a say on the development consent application. Only people who register with the IPC will be able to take part in the examination and express their views to the IPC regarding the development consent application at the examination stage. The window to register with the IPC opens on 21st March and closes on 9th May 2012. Details of how to register can be found on the IPC's website at:

<http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/triton-knoll-offshore-wind-farm/>
- reference EN010005.

You can register with the IPC online or by completing a paper version of the registration form. You can also telephone the IPC helpdesk on 0303 444 5000 and request a registration form.

When you register, you will need to provide your contact details and a summary of your views of the proposal. Everyone who has registered will later have the opportunity to provide more detailed written views of the proposal, and may request to speak at the Preliminary Meeting about how the application should be examined, request that a hearing be held and request to speak at a hearing.

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

Jacob Hain, Triton Knoll Project Manager at RWE npower renewables answers questions about the offshore wind farm development consent application and the next steps.

What does 'acceptance' of your application mean?

RWE npower renewables submitted its plans for Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm to the IPC. The IPC has accepted that the application complies with the requirements for an application and that they will now proceed to examine the application, in consultation with the public and statutory bodies.

How did you consult the public?

A formal 42 day consultation period with the public took place from 1 June to 12 July 2011. We consulted on plans and maps which showed the nature and location of the proposed offshore wind farm as well as information and results from the environmental studies we had been carrying out for the project. Information was also provided about the project components, layout and potential environmental impacts. In addition to making this information widely available, five exhibitions were held along the north

Norfolk, Lincolnshire and East Riding of Yorkshire coasts during June 2011 to which 431 people attended.

At the same time, we also consulted with local planning authorities and statutory bodies, organisations such as Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation.

The feedback received has been collated and considered as part of our application. The Consultation Report which accompanies the application, summarises the feedback and gives an overview of how it has been taken on board.

What has changed as a result of the consultation?

Comments, views and impacts raised through the consultation influenced the application submitted to the IPC. For example, the maximum number of offshore wind turbines has been reduced from 333 to 288 in light of comments from nature conservation bodies and to mitigate potential impacts on birds. These changes are detailed in the Consultation Report, which can be found on the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm page of the IPC website.



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CONTACT THE IPC

All comments about the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm application should now be submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission. Please always refer to application reference no. EN010005.

IPC Web: <http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk>

IPC Telephone helpdesk: 0303 444 5000

For more information about RWE npower renewables visit: www.npower-renewables.com

FOOTNOTES

Changes to the decision making authority

¹The IPC was established by the UK Government on 1 October 2009, under the Planning Act 2008, as an independent body to assess and determine planning applications for large scale, nationally significant infrastructure projects.

Under the Localism Act (2011), the IPC will be abolished on 1 April 2012 and its functions will transfer to a new national infrastructure directorate that has been created within the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate, among other things, processes planning and enforcement appeals. From April 2012, the relevant Secretary of State will be the decision maker on all national infrastructure applications for development consent. Following examination of the application, the Planning Inspectorate will have three months to make

a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State who will then have a further three months to reach their decision.

²Equivalent homes supplied is based on an annual electricity consumption per home of 4700 kWh. This figure is supported by recent domestic electricity consumption data available from The Digest of UK Energy Statistics and household estimates and projections from the UK Statistics Authority.

Energy predicted to be generated by the proposal is derived using wind speeds monitored in the local area and correlating to a modelled reference node. This enables a calculation to be made to estimate the average annual energy production for the site based on 195 turbines each of rated capacity 6.15 MW. The energy capture predicted and hence derived homes equivalent or emissions savings figures may change as further data are gathered.

NEXT STAGES

Now that the application has been accepted for examination, the acceptance will be notified by publication of notices in local and national newspapers. This will set out the period within which people can register to be involved, after which the examination stage will begin. If you would like to make any comments to the IPC¹ on Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm, you must first register as an interested party during the notified period. Once registered, you will then have the opportunity to take part in the examination process – and the IPC will keep you up to date with its progress.

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