

Graham Cadogan,
Foreshore Unit,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
Newtown Road,
Co. Wexford
20th of June 2022

Marine Adviser Environment Screening Stage Report

Re: FS007188 Foreshore licence application for Site Investigation for the proposed Dublin Array wind farm off the coast of Counties Dublin and Wicklow.

Applicant: RWE Renewables Ltd.

I have reviewed the Foreshore Application FS007188 and the environmental documents associated with it. My comments on and recommendations for this application are as follows:

Independent Environmental Consultant (IEC): The Department engaged **ARUP** as an IEC to provide assistance with regard to the statutory and non-statutory environmental assessments of this Foreshore Application. The IEC has conducted independent assessments of the information provided by the Applicant, having regard to the Habitats Directive, EIA Directive, and the public and prescribed bodies' consultations.

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations: The proposed project does not fall within the classes defined under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive. However the Consent Authority (DHLGH) must complete an examination for EIA as part of their obligations under the EIA Directive. Please find attached the **EIA Screening Examination document**.

Risk Assessment of Annex IV Species of Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) (Habitats Directive): Following a review of the applicant's environmental reports the IEC concluded that with the implementation of the DAHG (2014) mitigation measures it is very unlikely that there will be negative residual impacts from the proposed works on Annex IV species. It is also very unlikely that any of these animals will be injured or killed as a result of the proposed works. It should be noted that this risk assessment is not part of the Article 6.3 assessment and therefore identification and inclusion of mitigation measures within the risk assessment is appropriated at this stage.

Article 6(3) of Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) (Habitats Directive): Following a review of the proposed project, the IEC completed a **Screening for Appropriate Assessment** which concluded that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was required as the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on European sites.

Having considered the application by RWE Renewables Ltd. and the IEC's Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report I agree with and accept the Screening for Appropriate Assessment and its conclusions.

My signed Recommending Officer's **Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination** which requires the signature of the Minister as part of the decision-makers obligations under the Habitats Directive is contained in the Appendices.

If the Minister adopts and approves these reports and a determination is made that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required a public consultation will be held on the Appropriate

Assessment. On completion of this second consultation and the work of the IEC, I will furnish my final assessment report which will have regard to the information obtained during public participation and will include, if necessary, any case specific conditions.

Signature of Marine Advisor:

A square box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leahy".

20th June 2022