

// OFFSHORE WIND FARM LICENSING IN SCOTLAND

ROBIN RIGG OFFSHORE CASE STUDY



NACELLE HEADS ARRIVING AT ROBIN RIGG



SUBSTATIONS AT ROBIN RIGG

Introduction

Construction is now complete for the 180MW Robin Rigg offshore wind farm; one of the largest in the UK. Robin Rigg is costing around €500m and consists of 60 V90-3MW Vestas turbines.



ROBIN RIGG SAND FLAT, AND CABLE ROUTE. THE SEABED CONSISTS OF MOBILE SAND OVER CLAY.

Robin Rigg is located on the Scottish side of the Solway Firth. It is 11km from the nearest landfall at Balcary Point on the coast of Dumfries and Galloway, and is 13km the Cumbrian Coast. Each of the 60 turbines is connected to offshore substations by subsea cables. These substations are connected to the local electricity distribution system by two 132kV cables. The cables come ashore near Seaton, Cumbria where they run about 2km inland to a new onshore substation.

Licensing Robin Rigg

In Scotland, the legislative and regulatory requirements include licences under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA) and the Coast Protection Act 1949 (CPA). Additionally, if the offshore generating station is proposed to have over 1MW capacity, consent from the Scottish Ministers under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 is also required.

Solway Offshore Ltd and Offshore Energy Resources Ltd* first applied to the Scottish Ministers for licensing and consents in June 2002, and the necessary permissions were granted in March 2003.

*The project was acquired by E.ON UK Renewables in autumn 2003



FIRST COMPLETED TURBINE INSTALLATION AT ROBIN RIGG

To access the website follow the link
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/Infrastructure/Energy-Consents/Marine-Development-Guid>

Simplification process for marine renewable energy applications

The Scottish Government has appointed a partnership of consultants (Exodus Aurora and EMEC Ltd) to advise on the simplification of the consenting process. The consultants will invite key stakeholders to review and comment on their proposals early in 2010.

A single point of access

As an interim measure, the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Deployment Unit (ECDU) has entered into an agreement with the Scottish FEPA and CPA regulatory authorities. This provides applicants with a single point of access for initial enquiries relating to Electricity Act, FEPA and CPA applications.

Addressing environmental concerns

Monitoring potential environmental impacts brought

about by renewables developments is an important aspect of mitigation, and also provides data to inform the assessment of future development proposals.

The Robin Rigg Monitoring Group (RRMG) drew up a schedule of potential impacts for approval by Scottish Ministers. This schedule became the basis of the Marine Environment Monitoring Programme (MEMP). The MEMP has been fully implemented by E.ON UK, in consultation with the RRMG, and meets consent and licence conditions. The RRMG holds regular meetings and has formed specialist sub-groups to advise on migratory fish and bird issues. The membership, scope and remit of the group was agreed by Scottish Ministers.

Monitoring at Robin Rigg

The FEPA licence for the Robin Rigg development has a number of conditions attached. These include the monitoring requirement specifically described in the MEMP. The MEMP ensures that the environmental surveys that are required to ensure minimisation of the impact of the construction and operation of the wind farm are conducted. Survey results are recorded and held by the Robin Rigg secretariat.

Ensuring that licence conditions are met, E.ON UK provides monthly updates on the construction programme. These are scrutinised by Marine Scotland Operations Team, and circulated to the RRMG with a summary of recent monitoring/survey data.

Marine Scotland's on-going role

In 2009, Marine Scotland enforcement officers undertook two offshore site visits to the Robin Rigg turbines, and completed a licensing audit. As part of the audit, the officers reviewed the monitoring logs, plans and protocols and checked for compliance with licence conditions. The audit concluded that there were no breaches of protocol or licence conditions, and that all the documentation was in order.

Register online at www.scotland.gov.uk to receive the latest email news alerts, daily digest, weekly roundup or topic newsletters.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT MARINE SCOTLAND 2010

MARINE LABORATORY

375 Victoria Road, PO Box 101,

Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland