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Date: Tuesday, 7 November 2017

TO THE OCCUPANT

RE: Rampion Offshore Wind Farm – update on onshore construction works

I am writing on behalf of the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm project, a joint venture between E.ON, the UK Green Investment Group (GIG) and Enbridge, to update you on the work that is on-going in your local area.

Project Background

Rampion Offshore Wind Farm is the first offshore wind farm to be built off the UK south coast and consists of 116 turbines and an offshore substation. The offshore electricity cables will carry power from the offshore substation to landfall at Brooklands Pleasure Park in Worthing. From there, 27 kilometres of buried onshore cables will transport the power to the newly constructed onshore substation at Twineham, Mid Sussex to transform the power up to 400kV and connect into the existing National Grid substation.

Onshore cable works

As you are probably aware, for the past two years we have been working to install the cables that will bring the electricity from Brooklands Pleasure Park to the new substation at Twineham, and on to the National Grid substation at Bolney. While we have followed the construction management plans agreed with West Sussex County Council and South Downs National Park Authority, we appreciate that this work may have caused disruption to the local community and would like to apologise for any inconvenience. We very much appreciate your patience as we work to complete this major infrastructure project.

The work on installing the onshore cable is now complete, with the cables buried, tested and ready for operation. We now have one major element of work remaining, which is the reinstatement of the onshore cable route. This means returning the land along the full length of the cable route, including the South Downs National Park, to its pre-construction state.

The work will be carried out sequentially along the cable route and will involve restoring all the drainage, returning the subsoil and topsoil that is currently stored next to the cable route, re-seeding the ground cover, replacing boundary fences and planting hedges and trees. Once the grass and other vegetation has grown to a robust state, the final activity will be to remove the temporary fencing and restore all Public Rights of Way.

Registered Address:
Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park
Coventry, CV4 8LG
Registered in England and Wales

To ensure the success of the reinstatement it is vital to carry out these activities, particularly the topsoil replacement and re-seeding, at the most seasonally appropriate time of year.

Unfortunately construction was delayed due to a number of unforeseen issues that have led us to miss this year's planting window for much of the route. This means the reinstatement work will pause over the winter and resume as soon as conditions permit in the spring. Reinstatement activity has started with the sensitive chalk grassland of Tottington Mount and in areas that are required to regenerate naturally. It has also started in areas our stakeholders have asked us to prioritise, including near the substation and in Brooklands Pleasure Park. The remainder of the reinstatement activity will now be undertaken in 2018 to coincide with the growing seasons.

The activities will be phased and the timing of the final phase of the reinstatement work, the fence removal, will depend on the success of vegetation growth following the planting. However providing weather and conditions allow, we aim to have this work complete by the autumn of next year.

Once the reinstatement work is complete, we will start a 10-year monitoring programme to ensure the cable route and substation surrounds successfully return to their original condition.

Brooklands Pleasure Park

Due to the fact Brooklands Pleasure Park is an important amenity for the local community and visitors, we will focus our earliest reinstatement efforts on this section, and on returning it to the Council.

In the coming weeks we will reinstate the Par 3 golf course using specialist turf to ensure the greens will rapidly return to their former condition, so that the golf course can reopen at the earliest opportunity.

The section of cable route between the golf course and the railway will also be reinstated before the winter season, however the temporary construction fencing is expected to remain in place until spring 2018 to give the new grass the chance to grow before the area is opened to the public.

The Rampion construction compound, behind the green hoardings adjacent to Brighton Road, will need to remain in place until at least the middle of 2018. The offshore export cables require additional work and due to the fact they join the onshore cables at the compound in the park, these works need to be completed before this area can be reinstated.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the delay in our reinstatement activities and want to reassure you that we are dedicated to completing the works and returning the onshore cable construction route and Brooklands Pleasure Park to its pre-construction state as rapidly as possible.

If you have any queries about the planned works, please contact us via the Rampion Freephone number on 0800 280 0886 or email info@rampionoffshore.com. We also have a new website where we will post updates on the work plans and progress: www.rampionoffshore.com.

With regards

The Rampion Project Team