



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
Sandwick Road  
Stornoway  
Isle of Lewis  
HS2 2BW

**DATE**

29<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**SUBJECT**

Proposal of Application Notice accompanying cover letter

**Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm – onshore transmission infrastructure comprising electricity cables, electricity substations, and associated infrastructure including temporary construction compounds, landscaping, drainage, parking/servicing areas, access tracks and road alterations.**

**Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) submitted by Spiorad na Mara Limited.**

Dear Sirs,

The proposed Spiorad Na Mara Offshore Wind Farm is set in an area approximately 5-13 kilometres off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis, with a potential expected capacity of around 900MW. The Project will connect to the electricity transmission network at the proposed SSEN Converter Station located on land near Macaulay Farm, Stornoway.

Spiorad na Mara Limited is pleased to submit this PAN relating to the construction and operation of the onshore transmission infrastructure associated with the Spiorad na Mara offshore wind farm (National Development) to be located landward of the Mean Low Water Mark (MLWM), including:

- 6-8 cables exporting electricity from the offshore wind farm to transition joint bays (TJBs) at one of three potential landfall locations between Arnol and Baile an Truiseil on the west side of the Isle of Lewis;
- up to 2 onshore substations being:
  - a Landfall Substation (if required) to be located close to the final selected landfall location and TJBs;
  - a Grid Substation located near the Arnish Moors and the proposed Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) Converter Station;
- 2 export cable circuits linking the TJBs to the Landfall Substation and subsequently to the Grid Substation, or (in the event that a Landfall Substation is not required) 2 export cable circuits linking the TJBs to the Grid Substation; and
- export cables from the Grid Substation to the SSEN Converter Station; and
- associated infrastructure including (but not limited to):
  - temporary construction compounds;

- landscaping;
- drainage;
- parking/servicing areas; and
- access tracks and road alterations.

Following construction, the only above-ground infrastructure will be the substation compound(s) and associated access tracks; all cables will be installed underground.

A plan showing the extent of land included within the PAN boundary is attached. The proposed onshore transmission infrastructure works landward of the Mean Low Water Mark (MLWM) include potential landfall locations between Arnol and Baile an Truiseil on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis, with a cable corridor linking the landfall locations south of the A858 and A857 roads, before following the route of the A857 south east towards Stornoway before deviating from the road to the west of Stornoway culminating east of Creed Industrial Park.

The onshore transmission infrastructure referred to above relates to a scoping direction issued by the Scottish Ministers on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Offshore elements of the project (i.e. those seaward of the Mean High Water Mark) will be the subject of a separate consenting process managed by the Marine Directorate.

Sporad na Mara Limited has planned seven in-person consultation events, covering both the offshore and onshore elements of the project, at the following locations and hours:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Clan MacQuarrie Centre, 3-8pm
25 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Barvas and Brue Community Centre, 3-8pm
26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Old School, Shawbost, 3-8pm
30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Stornoway Town Hall, 3-8pm
1 <sup>st</sup> October 2024	Carloway Community Centre, 3-8pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024	Uig Community Hall, 3-8pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024	Bernera Community Centre, 3-8pm

We have also planned a further five 'information clinics'. These additional meetings will be available by appointment-only at the following locations and hours:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
4th October 2024	An Lanntair, 4- 8pm
5th October 2024	Cabarfeidh Hotel, 10-2pm
7th October 2024	Raebhat House, Horshader, 5-9pm
8th October 2024	Breasclete Community Centre, 9am-1pm
9th October 2024	Spòrsnis, 1-5pm

Appointments for the information clinics may be made using the booking tool on our website or by calling +44 (0) 7396 818 000.

Statutory newspaper notices relevant to the public events will be placed in the Stornoway Gazette on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and Fios on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (i.e. no less than seven days in advance of the final event). A draft version of the notice is attached for your information.

Copies of this PAN and accompanying plan outlining the site will be sent to the following parties:

**Barraigh agus Bhatarsaigh Ward Councillors**

Kenneth Maclean

Iain Macneil

**Uibhist a Deas Ward Councillors**

Iain Macleod

Paul Steele

Susan Thomson

**Uibhist a Tuath Ward Councillors**

Mustapha Hocine

Uisdean Robertson

**Na Hearadh Ward Councillors**

Paul Finnegan

Kenneth Macleod

**Sgire Nan Loch Ward Councillors**

Angus Morrison

Robert MacKenzie

**Sgir' Uige Agus Carlabhagh Ward Councillors**

Alasdair Fraser

Norman MacDonald

**An Taobh Siar Agus Nis Ward Councillors**

Donald MacSween

John MacLeod

Kenneth MacLeod

**Loch a Tuath Ward Councillors**

Calum Maclean

Donald Crichton

John A MacIver

**Steornabhagh a Tuath Ward Councillors**

Duncan Macinnes

Gordon Murray

Iain Macaulay

Malcolm MacDonald

**Steornabhagh a Deas Ward Councillors**

Angus McCormack

Frances Murray

George Murray

Rae MacKenzie

**Sgìre an Rubha Ward Councillors**

Norman Macdonald

Finlay Stewart

Community Council Members:

**Airidhantuim Community Council**

Roderick Martin

**Back Community Council**

Colin Thomson

**Bernera Community Council**

Mairi Madeleine Macaulay

**Breaschte Community Council**

Angus A MacKenzie

**Carloway Community Council**

Inga Benga

Susanne Erbida

**Kinloch Community Council**

Sandra C Macleod

**North Lochs Community Council**

Donna Fairbairn

**Ness Community Council**

David Green

**North Tolsta Community Council**

Innes Maciver

**Paìrc Community Council**

Morris Black

**Point Community Council**

James Allan

**Sandwick Community Council**

Robert Walker

**Shawbost Community Council**

Donald Mackinnon

**Uig Community Council**

Sophie Brown

**Stornoway Community Council**

Robert S Doig

**Holyrood MSP**

Alasdair Allan MSP

**Westminster MP**

Torcuil Crichton MP

**Additional consultation and publicity**

The prospective applicant carried out a booklet drop to all residential and business properties in the HS1 and HS2 postcode sectors, from 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024, outlining recent project updates and highlighting upcoming consultations. The prospective applicant is also carrying out a leaflet drop, scheduled from 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024, to all residential and business properties in the HS1 and HS2 postcode areas, to make the public aware of the consultation events. Please see the leaflet attached for your information.

Statutory newspaper notices relevant to the public events were placed in the P&J on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and The Stornoway Gazette on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 to meet the requirements of the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 for the offshore elements of the project, as both the offshore and onshore elements of the project will be displayed at the consultation events listed above.

Further adverts, for the benefit of the public, will be included in local newspapers and online platforms in the weeks leading up to the commencement of the consultation events.

A virtual exhibition, hosted on the project website, <https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/>, will also be open to the public as part of the consultation process, from 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024. This will include an online feedback form, through which people can make their views on all aspects of the project known.

This same, dedicated project website is also an ongoing source of information about the project and is updated on a regular basis as the project develops.

In addition to this focused period of consultation, the project commenced monthly community monthly drop-ins throughout the summer – June, July and August – at four different community venues across the island. The purpose of these was to provide an opportunity for local people to meet the Project team, ask questions and offer feedback on the project. These will resume after the consultation events conclude.

A second phase of public consultation will also be carried out in 2025 in advance of the application submission; dates of these events will be confirmed closer to the time. The second phase of public consultation will be different in its emphasis and consultation elements. The focus during this consultation will be on sharing updates on progress since Phase 1 and seeking feedback on these updated plans, including potential mitigations that have been identified.

We trust that the approach outlined above, along with the attached PAN, adequately fulfils the statutory requirements for pre-application consultation, without prejudice to the planning authority's obligations under the terms of Section 35(B)(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

We look forward to receiving confirmation of receipt and validation of this PAN, and any response that the Council may have, within 21 days.

Should you have any queries or require further information, please contact us directly.

Yours faithfully,

*Fiona MacGregor*

Fiona MacGregor  
**Onshore Consents Lead**