

FEDERAL MARITIME AND HYDROGRAPHIC AGENCY

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BUNDESAMT FÜR
SEESCHIFFFAHRT
UND
HYDROGRAPHIE

Hamburg Office

Early Notification on a draft plan or programme and the environmental report including possible transboundary environmental effects – Art. 10 para. 1 SEA-Protocol Amendment and updating of the Site Development Plan Implementation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment

Date
08 April 2022
Extension
+ 49 (0) 40 3190 - 6126
Reference
(please quote in your answer)
080001-5442/002

To whom it may concern,

On December 17th, 2021, the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie - BSH) initiated the procedure for amending and updating the Site Development Plan in accordance with §§ 8 para. 1, 4 et seq. Offshore Wind Energy Act (WindSeeG). As part of this procedure, a Strategic Environmental Assessment will be carried out.

In accordance with Art. 10 para. 1 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (SEA Protocol), I would like to notify you about the procedure as early as possible before the adoption of the plan.

Due to the early stage of the procedure, elaborated drafts of the plan and the environmental report are not yet available. However, I would like to inform you on the present state about the prepared preliminary draft of the Site Development Plan as well as the draft of the draft scope of the environmental report and the decision-making procedure.

The preliminary draft as well as the draft scope of environmental report have been published in English and as a machine translation in Polish on the BSH website:

https://www.bsh.de/EN/TOPICS/Offshore/Sectoral_planning/Site_development_plan/site_development_plan_node.html

The documents in German language are available at:

https://www.bsh.de/DE/THEMEN/Offshore/Meeresfachplanung/Flaechenentwicklungsplan/flaechenentwicklungsplan_node.html

If you would like hard copies of the documents to be sent to you, please feel free to send a message via e-mail to EingangOdm@bsh.de.

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Please inform me by 11 May 2022 whether you wish to be involved in the further procedure for amending and updating the Site Development Plan including the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

If yes, please additionally inform me whether a translation of the relevant information for the transboundary participation into English is sufficient or whether a translation into your official language should be provided.

If you wish to comment on the (preliminary) draft documents sent to you at this stage, please also send me your comments by **11 May 2022**. Then your comments or statements will be available to me in time for consideration in the further procedure.

Please address your indication, whether you wish to be involved in the further procedure, as well as any comments or statements to:

**Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie
Abteilung O/O33 (Ordnung des Meeres)
Bernhard-Nocht-Str. 78
20359 Hamburg
Germany**

or via e-mail an EingangOdM@bsh.de

In principle, all statements and comments submitted in the proceedings will be published on the BSH website. If you do not consent to this publication, please additionally submit a redacted version suitable for publication. A list of all submitted comments and statements will be published.

Information regarding the decision-making procedure:

Offshore wind development in the German EEZ follows a tiered planning procedure. Based on the Maritime Spatial Planning, the sectoral Site Development Plan determines areas for offshore wind energy as well as their grid connection and their temporal succession.

Subsequently, the defined areas are successively pre-investigated with regard to the marine environment, subsoil, wind and oceanographic conditions and the suitability of the areas for the construction and operation of offshore wind turbines is assessed. The suitability of an area is determined by legal ordinance, which may include specifications for the subsequent project. Suitable areas are then put out to tender. The wind farm planning of the awarded bidder requires planning approval prior to construction.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment is carried out as part of the Maritime Spatial Planning, Site Development planning and suitability assessment of a site. An Environmental Impact Assessment is carried out for the

planning approval procedure. The assessments build on each other in each case. In order to avoid multiple assessments, it is determined when defining the scope of the assessment at which of the stages of the tiered process certain environmental effects are focused. The subsequent stages are then limited, as far as possible, to additional or other significant environmental impacts and to any necessary updates and deepening.



The current procedure concerns the amendment and update of the Site Development Plan, last amended with the announcement of 18 December 2020.

The Site Development Plan is the sectoral plan for the orderly expansion of offshore wind energy and grid connections in the German Exclusive Economic Zone of the North and Baltic Sea and - under certain conditions - in the territorial sea. The purpose of the plan is to achieve the statutory expansion targets for offshore wind energy, to expand electricity generation from offshore wind turbines in a spatially orderly and space-saving manner, to ensure the orderly and efficient use and utilization of offshore grid connections, and to plan, construct, commission, and use offshore grid connections in synchronism with the expansion of electricity generation from offshore wind turbines.

The amended Maritime Spatial Plan for the EEZ of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea came into force on 01 September 2021. On this basis, additional areas and sites for the further expansion of offshore wind energy can now be defined compared to the determinations of the Site Development Plan from 2020.

BSH intends to address the following topics in the revision and amendment of the Site Development Plan:

- Spatial and temporal definition of additional areas and sites for the further expansion of offshore wind energy,
- Revision of the determination of installed capacities for the newly defined areas, taking into account current research results.
- Spatial and temporal determination of grid connections and platforms

- Adaptation of standardized technical and planning principles,
- Adjustment of spatial determinations resulting from the preceding topics,
- Further determinations resulting from a possible adjustment of the legal framework.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment will be carried out for the amendment and update of the Site Development Plan. It will build on the Strategic Environmental Assessments for the amended Maritime Spatial Plan for the EEZ in the North Sea and Baltic Sea and for the Site Development Plan 2020 and will be limited to additional or other significant environmental impacts as well as to necessary updates and deepening.

The following procedural steps will be carried out in the amendment and updating process. Depending on the development of the legal framework and the possible need for further procedures of public participation, the procedure is expected to be completed in the last quarter of 2022 or the first quarter of 2023. According to current plans for the further procedure, the transboundary consultations will probably take place in the 3rd quarter of 2022.

Initiation of the procedure	17.12.21
Publication of the preliminary draft of the Site Development Plan and the draft scope	17.12.21
Opportunity for comment (national)	18.01.22
Hearing date/Scoping (national)	26.01.22
Early notification (transboundary)	Q2/22
Determination of the scope of the environmental report	Q2/22
Elaboration draft Site Development Plan and draft environmental report	Q2/22
Participation of public authorities and the public (national) und transboundary consultations (transboundary)	Q3/22
Discussion hearing	Q3/22
If necessary: further participation steps	Q3-Q4/22
Elaboration and coordination/ consent final Site Development Plan and environmental report	Q3-Q4/22
Public announcement (national) and Information on adoption of the plan (transboundary)	Q1/23

With kind regards,
For the Maritime and Hydrographic Agency

Elena Scheiber