

FEDERAL MARITIME AND HYDROGRAPHIC AGENCY

BSH · P.O. Box 30 12 20 · 20305 Hamburg · Germany



Hamburg Office

**Notification of a preliminary draft plan or programme with potentially significant environmental effects - Art. 10 para. 1 SEA Protocol**

**Amendment and update of the Site Development Plan  
Carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Date  
28 February 2024  
Extension  
+ 49 (0) 40 3190 - 6123  
Reference  
(please quote in your answer)  
080001-5442/003

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

On 1 September 2023, the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) announced the initiation of the procedure for amending and updating the Site Development Plan in accordance with §§ 8 para. 2, 4ff. Offshore Wind Energy Act (WindSeeG). A strategic environmental assessment is carried out as part of this procedure.

In accordance with Article 10(1) of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Assessment in a Transboundary Context (SEA Protocol), I am writing to inform you of the process as early as possible before the adoption of the Plan.

Due to the early stage of the procedure, no elaborated drafts of the plan and the environmental report are available yet. However, I would like to inform you already at this stage about the preliminary draft of the Site Development Plan that has been prepared, as well as the draft scope for the environmental report and the decision-making procedure.

The preliminary draft and the draft scope for the environmental report were published in English on the BSH website:

[https://www.bsh.de/EN/TOPICS/Offshore/Sectoral\\_planning/On-going\\_update\\_Site\\_development\\_plan/ongoing\\_update\\_site\\_development\\_plan\\_node.html](https://www.bsh.de/EN/TOPICS/Offshore/Sectoral_planning/On-going_update_Site_development_plan/ongoing_update_site_development_plan_node.html)

The documents in German language are available at

[https://www.bsh.de/DE/THEMEN/Offshore/Meeresfachplanung/Laufende\\_Fortschreibung\\_Flaechenentwicklungsplan/ldf\\_forts\\_flaechenentwicklungsplan\\_node.html](https://www.bsh.de/DE/THEMEN/Offshore/Meeresfachplanung/Laufende_Fortschreibung_Flaechenentwicklungsplan/ldf_forts_flaechenentwicklungsplan_node.html)

If you would like the documents to be sent in paper form, please send a message by e-mail to [EingangOdM@bsh.de](mailto:EingangOdM@bsh.de).



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**Please inform me by 28 March 2024 whether you like to participate in the further procedure for amending and updating Site Development Plan, including the strategic environmental assessment.**

**If you wish to be involved, please also indicate for the preparation of the draft Site Development Plan and the environmental report whether a translation of the relevant information for transboundary participation in English is sufficient or whether you wish a translation into your official language.**

Please address your feedback on participation in the procedure to:

**Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency  
Division O/O33 (Order of the Sea)  
Bernhard Nocht St. 78  
20359 Hamburg**

or by e-mail to [EingangOdM@bsh.de](mailto:EingangOdM@bsh.de)

Information on the decision-making process:

The planning of offshore wind farms takes place in the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in a multi-stage procedure. Based on maritime spatial planning, the sectoral planning of the Site Development Plan determines, among other things, sites for offshore wind energy as well as their grid connection and temporal development.

Sites identified in the Site Development Plan which are the subject of the site investigation are pre-investigated with regard to the marine environment, the subsoil, wind and oceanographic conditions and the suitability of the sites for the construction and operation of offshore wind turbines. The suitability of a site is determined by means of a legal ordinance, which may contain specifications for the subsequent project. Suitable sites are then put out to tender. The concrete wind farm planning of the tendered bidder requires approval prior to construction.

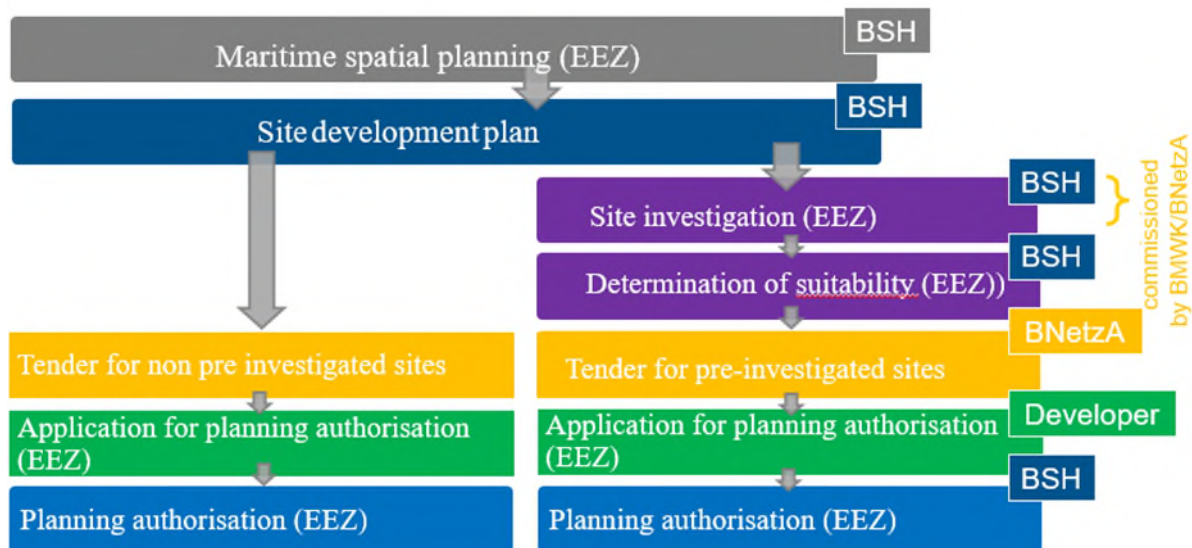
For sites that are not pre-investigated, the Federal Network Agency issues a call for tenders after they have been defined in the Site Development Plan. The wind farm project of the successful bidder must then be approved by the planning authorities.

A strategic environmental assessment is carried out as part of maritime spatial planning, site development planning and the suitability assessment of a site, and an environmental impact assessment is carried out in the case of approval.<sup>1</sup> The assessments build on each other. In order to avoid multiple assessments, it is determined when defining the scope of the as-

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<sup>1</sup> This is subject to any changes due to the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive III.

assessment at which of the stages of this process certain environmental impacts are to be assessed in particular. The subsequent stages are limited as far as possible to additional or other significant environmental impacts as well as to necessary updates and deepening.



The Site Development Plan is the technical plan for the orderly expansion of offshore wind energy plants and grid connections in the EEZ of the North Sea and Baltic Sea and - under certain conditions - in the territorial sea. Its purpose is to achieve the statutory expansion targets for offshore wind energy, to expand electricity generation from offshore wind turbines in a spatially ordered and land-saving manner, to ensure the orderly and efficient use and utilisation of offshore grid connection lines and to plan, construct, commission and use offshore grid connection lines in parallel with the expansion of electricity generation from offshore wind turbines.

The current procedure concerns the amendment and update of the Site Development Plan, last amended with the announcement of 20 January 2023.

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

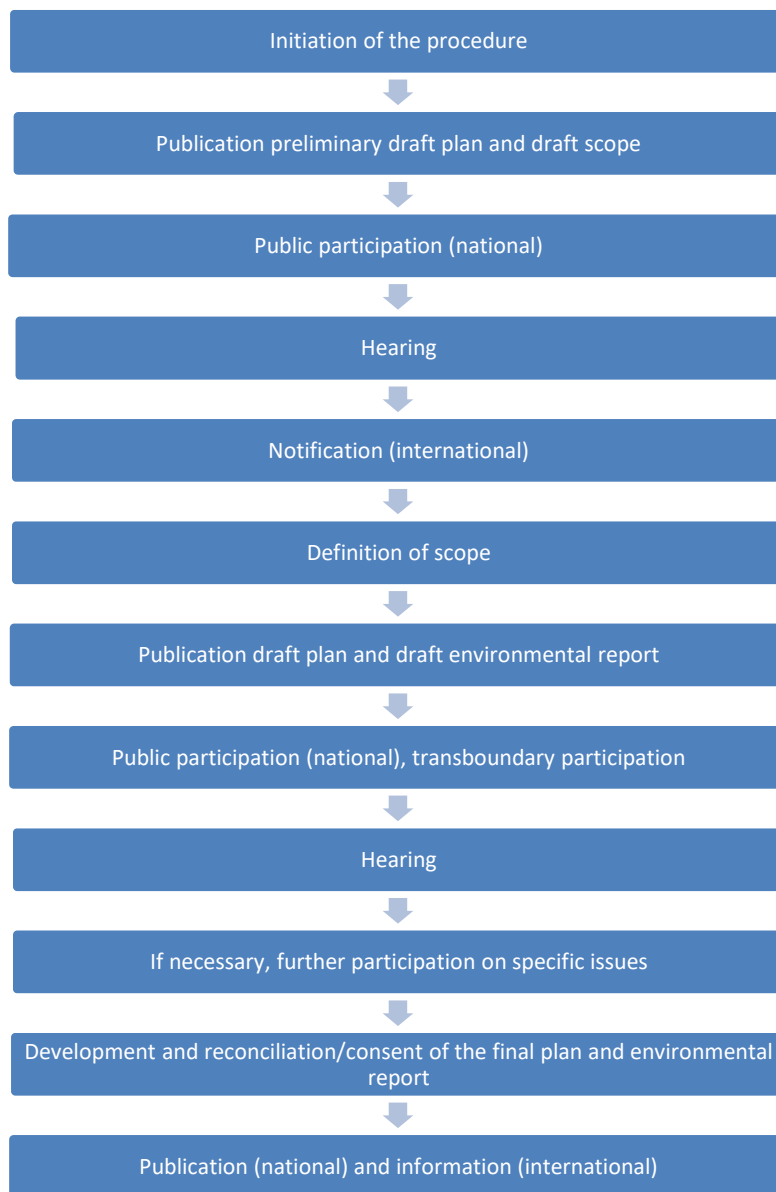
- Spatial designation of additional sites to achieve the statutory expansion target of at least 40 GW by 2035 and at least 70 GW by 2045.
- Spatial and temporal designation of offshore grid connection lines and platforms
- Spatial designation of interconnectors
- Spatial designations and review of the definition for "interconnections"
- Adaptation of planning principles
- Adaptation of the spatial designations to the conditions resulting from the previous topics.

- if necessary, further designations that may result from an adjustment of the legal framework conditions:
  - Determination of "acceleration areas" within the meaning of the Renewable Energy Directive III
  - Determination of associated avoidance and mitigation measures.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment will be carried out for the amendment and updating of the Site Development Plan. This 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 2023 and will be limited to additional or other significant environmental impacts as well as to necessary updates and deepening.

Depending on the development of the legal framework and the necessity of further participation steps, the amendment and updating process is expected to be completed in 2024.

The following procedural steps are carried out in the amendment and update procedure:



The previous Site Development Plan was announced and published on 20 January 2023. We will send you the translated documents shortly.

With kind regards

On behalf of the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency

Verena Seemann