

# **Caseworker Report**

**Application for a Non-Material Amendment of a Maritime Area  
Consent (MAC) under Section 86(5) of MAPA**

**9 December 2024**

The logo for MARA (Maritime Area Regulatory Authority) features the word "MARA" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are dark blue, with a lighter blue gradient at the top of each letter, suggesting a wave or horizon. A thin, light blue horizontal line is positioned directly below the text.

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí  
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

## 1. Application details

MAC Reference No:	2022-MAC-007
MAC Holder:	Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta (FST)
Date Application received:	21/11/2024
Non-material Amendment sought:	The granting of a <u>three-month</u> extension of time to the date by which the Holder's application for development permission must be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as set out in the Particulars Schedule and Condition 5.1 of the MAC. The associated date for compliance with the aforementioned is therefore sought to be extended from 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024 to 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025.

## 2. Reasons why non-material amendment is sought

FST have stated that their request for extension is being sought for the following reasons:

*“Following from the grant of boundary extension on 26 June 2024, FST has made good progress in revising the design and integrating this into the associated planning documents. Finalising these documents to ensure a robust application is ongoing and potentially could extend past the current date by which the application must be submitted. We are requesting an extension of time so that we can exercise discretion should it be needed. Based on the above, we believe that a 3-month extension to the date by which application for Development Permission must be submitted is appropriate.”*

The applicant also states that the “proposed extension of time will not result in any change to the expected Commercial Operation Date”.

## 3. Assessment

The application has been processed in accordance with MARA's procedure for processing non-material MAC applications. On receipt of the application for a non-material amendment to a MAC, the application was reviewed for completeness. The Assessment Research & Data Unit (ARDU) and the Compliance, Enforcement & Revenue Unit (CERU) were consulted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 and invited to make any observations and comments on the non-

material application. The ARDU confirmed on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 that they had no observations to make, while the CERU confirmed the same on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

The reasons for the particulars and conditions of the original MAC in relation to the timeframe for development permission were as follows:

*“The Particulars Schedule and Condition 5*

*REQUIREMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION*

*Reason: to ensure the application for Development Permission is submitted within a reasonable timescale in order to assist in meeting Government climate targets and for the effective management of State resources.”*

The applicant has indicated that if the amendment sought was granted, that the expected Commercial Operation Date for the project would remain at 2029. Government climate targets have been set for 5 GW of capacity in offshore wind by 2030. Accordingly, I am satisfied that the extension of the timeframe sought for submission of an application for development permission is unlikely to impact overall timescales for assisting in meeting Government climate targets.

To promote continued effective management of state resources, it is recommended that the cover letter issued to the applicant notes that, although the date by which an application for Development Permission shall be submitted to An Bord Pleanála is extended by 3 months to 23 March 2025, this does not preclude the Holder from submitting such an application at an earlier date/your earliest opportunity.

#### **4. Recommendation**

All of the required information was provided by the Holder for the purposes of the assessment of this application for a non-material amendment to a MAC.

Following the detailed assessment of this information, I am satisfied that the proposed amendment is non-material in nature and that reasonable grounds for this amendment were provided by the holder. Accordingly, I, recommend that the MAC is amended, as per the amendment sought, in accordance with section 86(5)(b) of the MAP Act.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 09/12/2024