

bp response - Proposed Revisions to Consenting and Licensing Guidance for Offshore Renewable Energy Applications

Key points

- A fundamental element of our transition is our involvement in offshore renewable energy. In 2022, bp and EnBW were awarded a lease option from Crown Estate Scotland to develop the Morven offshore wind project as part of the ScotWind leasing round. The Morven project area of approximately 860km² is located around 60km from the Aberdeenshire coast and we are working to develop it as a fixed-bottom offshore wind farm with an intended Installed Capacity of around 2.9 gigawatts (GW), which would be sufficient to power more than 3 million homes.
- The offshore wind farm array will be situated entirely within Scottish waters, but beyond the limit of Scottish territorial waters at 12nm. It is our intention to apply for consent pursuant to section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate the project. We will also apply for a marine licence for 'marine licensable activities'¹ under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 for any works within Scottish territorial waters.
- As such, although we will be utilising the existing consenting regime for Scottish waters, we are pleased to offer our views on the proposed changes to the Marine Scotland Consenting and Licensing Guidance for Offshore Wind, Wave and Tidal Applications (2018). We trust that our experience from the Morven project and from other relevant initiatives will be useful to Marine Scotland as it considers amendments and it will also support the outcome of our recent successful bid for an INTOG project in Scottish waters.