

## **SUBMISSION 1**

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for your email submission and interest in the AFLOWT project. Your concerns have been noted, and are addressed below.

The site investigation licence which this application is for, will have no onshore works or associated noise disturbances. The licence is being sought to acquire additional data to assess seabed suitability for laying marine cables and anchors for the floating structure. During operations a marine vessel will be deployed to the area via sea. No deployment will take place via roads, so there will be no impact on traffic and no heavy equipment or construction will take place during the proposed site investigation operations.

In relation to your concern on the use of hazardous materials and ocean pollution, the proposed operations are governed by EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA's) under Directive (2009/147/EC) legislation which considers the potential effects of any operations. Under this Directive, the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) submitted as part of the application for these site investigation works have concluded that the operations will have no impact on the marine and coastal ecology, fisheries or wildlife.

The site investigation is a temporary operation which will be carried out at sea, and will therefore not have any impact on views or the natural habitat of the onshore area.

Should you wish to discuss any elements of the project we would be happy to facilitate a meeting or a call where we can answer any further questions or queries on the project.

## **SUBMISSION 2**

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for your email submission and interest in the AFLOWT project. Your concerns have been noted, and are addressed below.

The site investigation licence which this application is for, will have no onshore works or associated noise disturbances. The licence is being sought to acquire additional data to assess seabed suitability for laying marine cables and anchors for the floating structure. During operations a marine vessel will be deployed to the area via sea, no deployment will take place via roads, so there will be no impact on traffic and no heavy equipment or construction will take place during the proposed site investigation operations.

The site investigation is a temporary operation which will be carried out at sea, and will therefore not have any impact on views of, or along the coast.

The proposed operations are governed by EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA's) under Directive (2009/147/EC) legislation which considers the potential effects of any operations. Under this Directive, the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) submitted as part of the application for these site investigation works have concluded that the operations will have no impact on the marine and coastal ecology, fisheries or wildlife.

Should you wish to discuss any elements of the project we would be happy to facilitate a meeting or a call where we can answer any further questions or queries on the project.

### **SUBMISSION 3**

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for your email submission and interest in the AFLOWT project. Your concerns have been noted, and are addressed below.

In relation to the project being a waste of taxes, the objective of the AFLOWT project is to help develop Ireland's potential offshore wind resource. The EU recently ratified a target of 32% renewable energy by 2030, in association with a target of 40% carbon reduction. Wind energy is currently the most mature & cost-effective means of renewable energy generation, however land space and access to shallow offshore site (less than 50m water depth) are limited, so harnessing the wind resource further offshore using floating platforms is paramount to achieving these targets. Should Ireland fail to achieve the targets set out, the country will be liable to face significant fines in future.

In relation to incurring increased energy costs, it has been shown that wind puts downward pressure on electricity prices. Analysis suggests prices fall on average 30 per cent or €15/MWh at current wind levels (IWEA, 2020).

The site investigation licence which this application is for, will have no onshore works or associated noise disturbances. The licence is being sought to acquire additional data to assess seabed suitability for laying marine cables and anchors for the floating structure. During operations a marine vessel will be deployed to the area via sea, no deployment will take place via roads, and no heavy equipment or construction will take place during site investigation operations.

The proposed operations are governed by EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA's) under Directive (2009/147/EC) legislation which considers the potential effects of any operations. Under this Directive, the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) submitted as part of the application for these site investigation works have concluded that the operations will have no impact on the marine and coastal ecology, fisheries, birds or any other wildlife.

The site investigation is a temporary operation which will be carried out at sea, and will therefore not have any impact on views of, or along the coast.

Should you wish to discuss any elements of the project we would be happy to facilitate a meeting or a call where we can answer any further questions or queries on the project.

### **Reference**

IWEA, 2020. Blog: How does wind energy affect Irish electricity prices? *Available at* : <https://www.iwea.com/latest-news/3173-blog-how-does-wind-energy-affect-irish-electricity-prices>