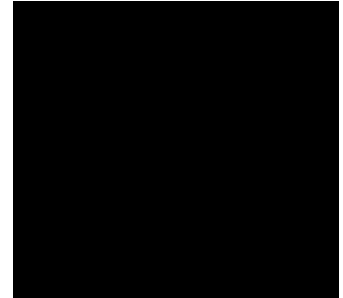


Ilen Array Ltd.



24/05/2022

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
29-31 Adelaide Rd,
Saint Kevin's,
Dublin,
D02 X285

To whom it concerns,

The site investigation surveys in the proposed FS007244 Foreshore License Application Area will support the development of the proposed Ilen Array Offshore Wind Farm. The delivery of the proposed development is in line with the Irish Government's Programme for Government, Climate Action Plan, National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) and Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA).

With the recent push for a transition towards a climate resilient economy, both at national and regional levels, ambitious 2030 offshore wind capacity targets have been set at 5 GW (Republic of Ireland). This heightened demand on marine resources calls for efficient marine spatial planning. This proposed site investigation surveys associated with the Ilen Array Offshore Wind Farm will support multiple Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) objectives under the NMPF, for example;

- "Support the development of ORE in Ireland as a driver to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate the move to cleaner energy in line with national and EU policy;
- Increase the sustainable ORE use of our extensive marine resource in an efficient and coordinated manner identifying, where possible, potential for synergies and opportunities for multi-use of our shared maritime area;
- Support the strategic growth of the ORE industry recognising the potential to derive benefits particularly for Ireland's coastal communities."

The proposed Ilen Array Offshore Wind Farm aims to take advantage of the offshore wind resource opportunity and is consistent with the policy context of the OREDP. In particular the proposal is consistent with the OREDP's vision, policies, and principles especially in relation to sustainable development, mitigation of climate change and delivery of Ireland's climate and renewable electricity targets.

The site proposed for the Ilen Array Offshore Wind Farm is located in the Atlantic Ocean Sea off the coasts of County Kerry and Clare in an area identified within the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPP) as being suitable for offshore wind development. The site lies within the West Coast – South area identified and assessed under the OREDPP (Figure 1, Page 8, OREDPP).

Ilen Array Ltd. intends to undertake a programme of site investigation surveys to verify that the proposed site is suitable for offshore wind development. The surveys will enable Ilen Array Ltd. to determine the ground conditions and ascertain the metocean conditions on site which will feed into the future design of the windfarm. The timeline for the survey programme is designed to ensure that the Ilen Array Offshore Wind Farm is in a position to bid into the second offshore specific Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (O-RESS) auction. A successful bid at this auction will ensure that Ilen Array Offshore Wind Farm can be operational in advance of 2030, thereby contributing to Ireland's 2030 renewable electricity and climate change targets.

Yours sincerely,

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