

RENEWABLE ENERGY LICENSING IN SCOTLAND

TIDAL POWER LICENSING IN SCOTLAND - SOUND OF ISLAY

DEMONSTRATOR



Introduction

Licensing is now complete for the 10 MW Sound of Islay demonstration tidal array; one of the first in the world and consisting of 10 Hammerfest Strom's HS 1000 devices.

The tidal array will be constructed in the Sound of Islay, between the islands of Jura and Islay on the west coast of Scotland. The generating devices will be fully submerged on the seabed just south



of Port Askaig. Each of the 10 turbines will be connected to an onshore substation by subsea cables. The cables come ashore near Daimhsgeir where they run about 2 km inland to a new onshore substation.

Licensing Sound of Islay Demonstrator

An application for licensing and consents was submitted to Marine Scotland's Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) for this project in July 2010. The Electricity Act S36 and Coast Protection Act consents and Food and Environment Protection Act licence were granted in March 2011.

New licensing regime (Marine Licence) - post April 2011

Part Four of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 gives Scottish Ministers responsibility for the new marine licensing system for activities carried out in the Scottish inshore region of UK waters from 0-12 nautical miles (nm). Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, they are also the licensing and enforcement authority for the Scottish offshore region from 12-200nm (other than reserved matters). Both Acts were implemented on 6th April 2011.

The new system has a broad scope that will enable consistent decision-making about what activities are allowed to take place at sea. Therefore, marine renewable energy developers will be able to apply simultaneously for a Marine Licence and Electricity Act 1989 Section 36 consent, underlining the commitment to the one stop shop



Addressing environmental concerns

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) brings together environmental information so that it can be assessed and taken into account in reaching a decision on a relevant consents and licence application.

A key part of the EIA process is the collection of environmental information, (including the assessment of the likely effects of the development on the environment) and the subsequent publication of this information in the form of an Environmental Statement (ES). The legislation requires an assessment and description of the likely significant environmental effects of the development to be done. In addition, a description of any proposed mitigation measures that will be taken to reduce, prevent and offset any significant effects is also required. This is set out under the relevant EIA Regulations

The EIA for the Sound of Islay Demonstration Tidal Array has been undertaken in accordance with the Electricity Works (EIA) Scotland Regulations 2000. It also takes into consideration issues such as:

- Benthic ecology
- Terrestrial ecology
- Ornithology
- Marine Mammals
- Visual Impact

- Noise
- Navigational Safety
- Commercial Fisheries

Post consenting monitoring

Monitoring potential environmental impacts brought about by renewables developments is an important aspect of mitigation, and also provides data to inform the assessment of future development proposals.

MS-LOT will draw up a schedule of potential impacts with the developers, advisors and stakeholders. This schedule will be the basis of the Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP) and Fish Mitigation Plan (FMP) which will be fully implemented by Scottish Power Renewables and will meet consent and licence conditions.

Marine Scotlands on- going role

In addition to MS-LOT's role in the EMP and FMP, it is planned that Marine Scotland's enforcement officers will undertake site visits to the Sound of Islay demonstrator site, to complete licensing audits. As part of the audit, the officers will review the monitoring logs, plans and protocols and check for compliance with licence conditions.

