

Authorities and public participation of the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) for the drafting of the Site Development Plan 2019 and the draft environmental reports (North Sea and Baltic Sea) as part of the strategic environmental assessment

Dear Sir or Madam,

In accordance with sections 4ff. WindSeeG, the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) presents the Site Development Plan for the period from the commissioning year 2026 for offshore wind turbines until at least 2030. The Site Development Plan is the sectoral plan for the orderly expansion of offshore wind turbines and their connection lines in the German exclusive economic zone of the North and Baltic Seas. Under the statutory conditions, it may also contain sectoral planning rules for the coastal waters on the basis of an administrative agreement with a German coastal state.

With its rules, the Site Development Plan serves to expand offshore wind energy as well as the offshore connection lines necessary for this. The purpose is to achieve the statutory expansion targets for offshore wind energy by 2030, to expand the power generation from offshore wind turbines in a spatially organised and space-saving manner, to ensure an orderly and efficient use and utilisation of the offshore connection lines, and to plan, build, commission and use offshore connection lines in line with the expansion of the power generation from offshore wind turbines.

According to the legal basis, the Site Development Plan essentially concerns sectoral planning stipulations relating to

- areas for offshore wind turbines
- sites in the areas
- the expected generation capacity of the offshore wind turbines to be installed in the sites
- locations for platforms
- routes or route corridors for offshore connection lines, for cross-border power lines and for possible connections between systems
- places of crossing of the boundary between exclusive economic zone and coastal waters by the offshore connection lines and standardised technical and planning principles.

With regards to time-related stipulations, the Site Development Plan determines the order in which the sites are to be put out to tender by the Federal Network Agency, including the respective calendar years of the invitation to tender. In addition, the calendar years of commissioning of the respective approved offshore wind turbines and the corresponding offshore connection lines are specified.

A strategic environmental assessment is carried out to accompany the plan preparation.

The preliminary draft of the Site Development Plan and the drafts of the scopes for the environmental reports were put to consultation from the end of May to the middle of June 2018. On 27 June 2018, a hearing on the (preliminary) draft documents and the statement of the transmission system operators (TSOs) took place.

With the letter of 04 June 2018, the countries adjoining the North and Baltic Sea were notified under Section 60 of the UVPG (Environmental Impact Assessment Act)/ Espoo Convention.

The scopes for the environmental reports for the drafts of the environmental reports were set out on 25 October 2018.

The draft of the Site Development Plan and the drafts of the environmental reports were prepared on the basis of the results of the consultation and the hearing.

The participation of the national authorities and general public was launched on 26 October 2018.

The draft documents are available for viewing at the BSH offices in Hamburg and Rostock. In addition, the documents are available in German on the BSH website under:
https://www.bsh.de/DE/THEMEN/Offshore/Meeresfachplanung/meeresfachplanung_node.html

Within the scope of the cross-border participation and on the basis of feedback on the notification of 04 June 2018, the draft documents are available in the following languages under this link:

<https://filebox.bsh.de/index.php/s/7PgaD21q9g1xuQF>

- Cover letter (German, English, Danish, Polish)
- Summary draft Site Development Plan 2019 (English, Danish, Polish)
- Summary draft North Sea Environmental Report (English, Danish)
- Summary draft Baltic Sea Environmental Report (English, Danish, Polish)

It is also planned to publish the documents in English on the BSH website which is currently under construction.

There is an opportunity for authorities and individuals of the North and Baltic Sea States to comment on the draft documents until 25th March 2019.

Due to the statutory time frame for the establishment of the Site Development Plan and the implementation of the strategic environmental assessment, the time limit for issuing the statement is fixed and cannot be extended.

Therefore, it is requested that the statement or comments be sent to:

**Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH)
Department O/O33 (Sea Management Section)
Bernhard-Nocht-Str. 78
20359 Hamburg**

or by email to EingangOdM@bsh.de

In principle, all statements and comments submitted in the proceedings will be published on the BSH website. If you do not consent to this publication, please additionally submit a redacted version suitable for publication. A list of all submitted comments and statements will be published.

The hearing for discussion of the main changes to the plan since the preliminary draft, the main contents of the drafts of the environmental reports and the statements and comments will take place on

**Thursday, 31 January 2019
at 10:00 a.m.
Katholische Akademie
Herrengarten 4
20459 Hamburg**

The hearing will be conducted in German. Insofar as there is a wish to discuss topics on possible cross-boundary environmental impacts and this must be carried out in a language other than German, please let us know by 25th February 2019. I will then organise a special hearing. In this case, please also state whether the hearing can be conducted in English.

Process summary:

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- Public notification of procedures and expected completion ✓
 - Preliminary draft Plan/drafts scope of environmental reports ✓
 - Consultation and statement Transmission System Operators ✓
 - Early hearing/Scoping June 27, 2018 ✓
 - Draft Plan and draft environmental reports ✓
 - National and international consultation
 - Hearing January 31, 2019
 - Final version of Plan and environmental reports
 - Public notification by June 30, 2019
 - Update (at least every 4 years)

Yours faithfully,
pp.
Anna Hunke

