



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 08/12/2022

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)<sup>1</sup>

### Overview

Project Name:	<i>NORTHWESTER 2</i>
Project Number:	<i>20170897</i>
Country:	<i>Belgium</i>
Project Description:	<i>A project for the construction, financing and operation of a 224 MW offshore wind farm located 46km from the Belgian coast.</i>

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

**EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Project Completion.**

The project comprises the construction of an offshore wind farm, consisting of 23 wind turbines with a unit capacity of 9.5 MW, and associated ancillary facilities, including inter-array cables, offshore substation and export cable to connect to the modular offshore grid (MOG). The MOG, including a high voltage offshore switchyard and subsea export cable(s) up to the connection at Zeebrugge, is being constructed by the Belgian grid operator.

According to the information owned at the time of appraisal, the project's location is in-line with the Marine Spatial Plan of the Belgian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the North Sea approved in March 2014 within the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Belgian government.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the off-shore wind farm project, including an appropriate assessment regarding the impact on neighbouring Natura 2000 sites in Belgium and MOG, received a positive opinion.

The competent authority, the Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models (MUMM), concluded the review of the EIA in December 2015 with a positive opinion towards granting the environmental permit, subject to conditions including but not limited to:

<b>Conditions defined at appraisal stage</b>	<b>Assessment at PCR stage</b>
Prior agreement and approval by the competent authority of critical works, such as excavation and storage of excavated materials, cable laying or piling	An extensive project risk register has been created, based on NW2's experience with previous Offshore Wind Farm projects and available industry data. Risks are defined and categorized, a risk owner is assigned, an inherent risk score is given, mitigating actions are defined, and a residual risk score is given.
Noise mitigation measures to protect sea mammals (using bio sonar for orientation and	Use of Hydro Sound Dampers (HSD) for noise mitigation was approved in 30.4.2019 for a cost

<sup>1</sup> The template is for ILs and FLs



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foraging), such as an overall noise limit, the banning of piling activities from January to April (breeding season), acoustic deterrents and noise ramp-up procedures (“soft-start piling”)	of EUR 1.2 m. Additional noise measurement analysis was planned for a costs of 19,000 EUR. The updated noise mitigation plan has been sent to the MUMM and has been approved on 27/03/2019.
Conditions and procedures for stopping the turbines in the event of a large bird migration with increased risk of bird collision	The promoter implemented the provisions set out in the Project Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE) Master Plan <sup>2</sup> dedicated to all operations’ phase
Obligation to collect all sunk material	The promoter implemented the provisions set out in the Project Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE) Master Plan dedicated to all operations’ phases
Complete decommissioning of plant after the end of its technical lifetime	Decommissioning phase is ruled in the Project Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE) Master Plan
A strict monitoring program of all environmental relevant data (in addition to the monitoring and research activities by MUMM for the whole offshore zone)	The integrated beaconing plan (with SeaMade), as well as the individual beaconing plan, has been approved by the MRCC.

As indicated by the promoter in accordance with the annual environmental monitoring report, there were no major issues with impact on the environment nor severe accidents.

#### **Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

The project has been implemented and operated in compliance with the requirements under the Environmental permit (Ministerial Decree of 18/12/2015).

EIB is of the opinion based on reporting from the promoter and inputs provided by Lenders’ Supervisors during Construction and operation that the project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.

<sup>2</sup> The HSSE master plan describes all obligation and procedure subject to the project (e.g. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), HSSE inspections and audits, environmental protection, HSSE records, vessels coordination, etc.)