EMEC SCALE SITE CONSENTING PROCESS: GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPERS (August 2012)

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1. Introduction

The EMEC scale test sites (also commonly referred to as “nursery” sites) at Scapa Flow (wave test site) and Shapinsay Sound (tidal test site) were established to enable developers to test intermediate scale prototypes of their devices and rehearse installation techniques in more benign conditions than those found at the main grid-connected wave and tidal test sites. The scale site facilities are aimed at making it as easy as possible for developers to bring concepts and test them in accessible, real sea conditions, without the need for some of the larger vessels or plant used in the deployment of commercial-scale devices. The opportunity to introduce a streamlined consenting process has been key to the success of this facility.

Two consents are required for installation of marine energy converter devices at the scale test sites:

1. Marine Licence issued by the Regulator, Marine Scotland.
2. Harbour Works Licence issued by Orkney Islands Council (OIC).

EMEC has worked closely with Marine Scotland’s Licencing Operations Team (MS-LOT) and its key environmental and navigational consultees, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB), to establish a streamlined consenting process for its nursery sites which is inclusive, proportionate, and timeous while still satisfying all relevant legislation. To this end, EMEC has been granted a ‘generic’ Marine Licence allowing an envelope of device types and operations to be installed/carried out at the scale sites. These generic licences have been issued in EMEC’s name with EMEC, as the licensee, being responsible for ensuring that any licence conditions are complied with. For each new developer wishing to install at its scale sites, EMEC is required to submit an application for amendment of the generic Marine Licence to MS-LOT. This application must be accompanied by supporting documentation from the developer, outlining the proposed project and identifying any potential device-specific environmental and navigational risks, together with any proposed mitigation. MS-LOT typically requires 6-8 weeks from receipt of application to issue a licence amendment.

Similarly, EMEC has worked closely with OIC to establish a process whereby a generic Harbour Works Licence for the purpose of installing devices for testing has been granted to EMEC (the scale test sites are located within the Council Harbour Authority area). Under the terms of this licence, EMEC is required to give OIC at least 21 days’ notice of each new developer wishing to install at its scale sites.

For testing at the EMEC grid-connected test sites, developers are required to submit a Decommissioning Programme to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which is subject to public consultation. This is not required of developers testing at the scale sites (EMEC will submit a Decommissioning Programme to DECC for removal of all infrastructure at the end of the site lifetime). However, each developer will be required to provide full details of their proposed device removal method within their supporting documentation for amendment of licences (see below).

2. Documentation Required

Each developer is required to produce the following documentation to support the Marine Licence amendment application:

1. Project Information Summary (PIS)
2. Annex to EMEC Site Navigational Risk Assessment
3. Annex to EMEC Site Environmental Description

2.1 Project Information Summary

This document should be around 10 pages in length and include the following sections:

- Introduction (no more than one page giving a brief background to the company, the technology, and the project; can include brief details of any testing undertaken to date)
- Device Description (three to four pages, including any relevant diagrams/photos, details of scale of device, max. power output, how the device works, description of moorings, and list of materials to be used in construction of device & moorings)
- Project Description (no more than three pages, including any relevant diagrams, details of deployment location, installation method, device monitoring systems to be used, and decommissioning/removal method)
- Environmental & Navigational Risk Considerations (no more than one page providing a brief summary of any potential environmental and navigational issues identified and proposed mitigation)
- Proposed Timescales (provide details of proposed installation schedule and key project dates – can provide as a Gantt chart)

2.2 Annex to EMEC Site Navigational Risk Assessment

EMEC commissioned a full site Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA) for each of its scale test sites in support of the application for the generic site licences. Developers should familiarise themselves with this document (available to download from the secure area of the EMEC website) and produce a device-specific annex describing the navigational risks pertaining to their device. This annex should be no more than two or three pages in length and include the following information:

- Device Overview (no more than one page, including any diagrams; brief description of device; reference Project Information Summary document for full device details)
- Key risks identified and proposed mitigation (1 – 2 pages highlighting any device-specific risks considered after review of EMEC Site NRA, and actions taken to mitigate)

2.3 Annex to EMEC Site Environmental Description

EMEC produced a site Environmental Description for each of the scale sites in support of the application for the generic site licences. Developers should familiarise themselves with this document (available to download from the secure area of the EMEC website) and produce a device-specific annex describing any device-specific environmental issues to be addressed during the project. This document should be no more than two or three pages in length and include:

- Device Overview (no more than one page, including any diagrams; brief description of device; reference Project Information Summary document for full device details)
- Key environmental issues considered after review of EMEC Site Environmental Description
- Environmental Monitoring Plan describing any additional monitoring proposed, not already covered by the EMEC environmental monitoring programme.

EMEC has developed templates for the above documents, approved by Marine Scotland as suitable for providing the appropriate level of detail required to inform the licence amendment process. These templates can be downloaded from the secure area of the EMEC website.

2.4 Other Documentation

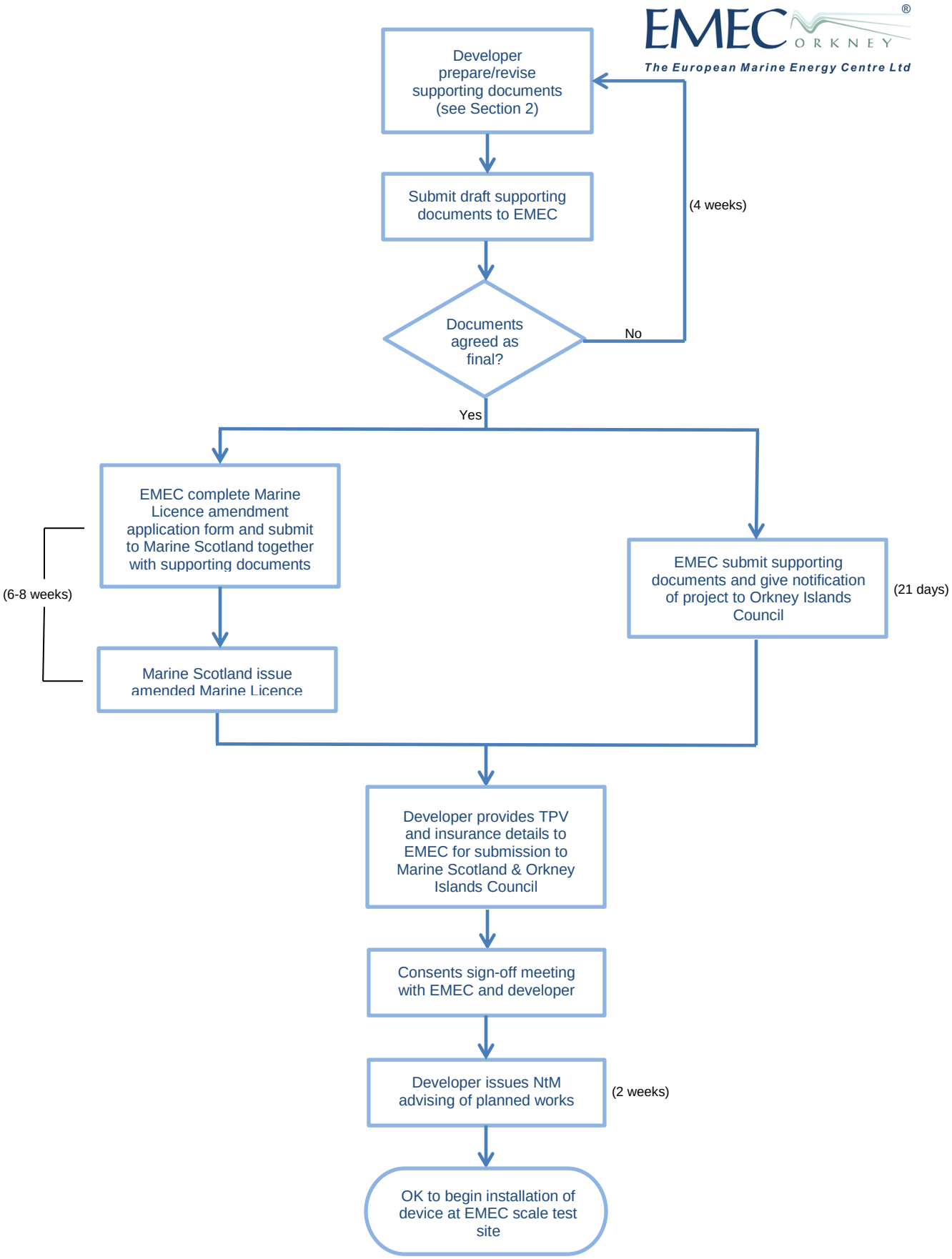
In addition to the above documents, a Third Party Verification (TPV) report will require to be provided to EMEC (for submission to MS-LOT and OIC to satisfy licence conditions) before any device can be installed at the scale test sites. The TPV can be provided by any reputable independent consultancy with a demonstrable track record in this field – eg Germanischer Lloyd, DET Norske Veritas, Atkins - or an academic expert in the field (preferably from an independent institution) who has undertaken an assessment of the device and its moorings' ability to withstand the conditions expected at the test site.

Developers will also be required to provide details of the level of insurance they have for their device while installed at the scale site (to satisfy conditions of the EMEC berth agreement and OIC licence conditions).

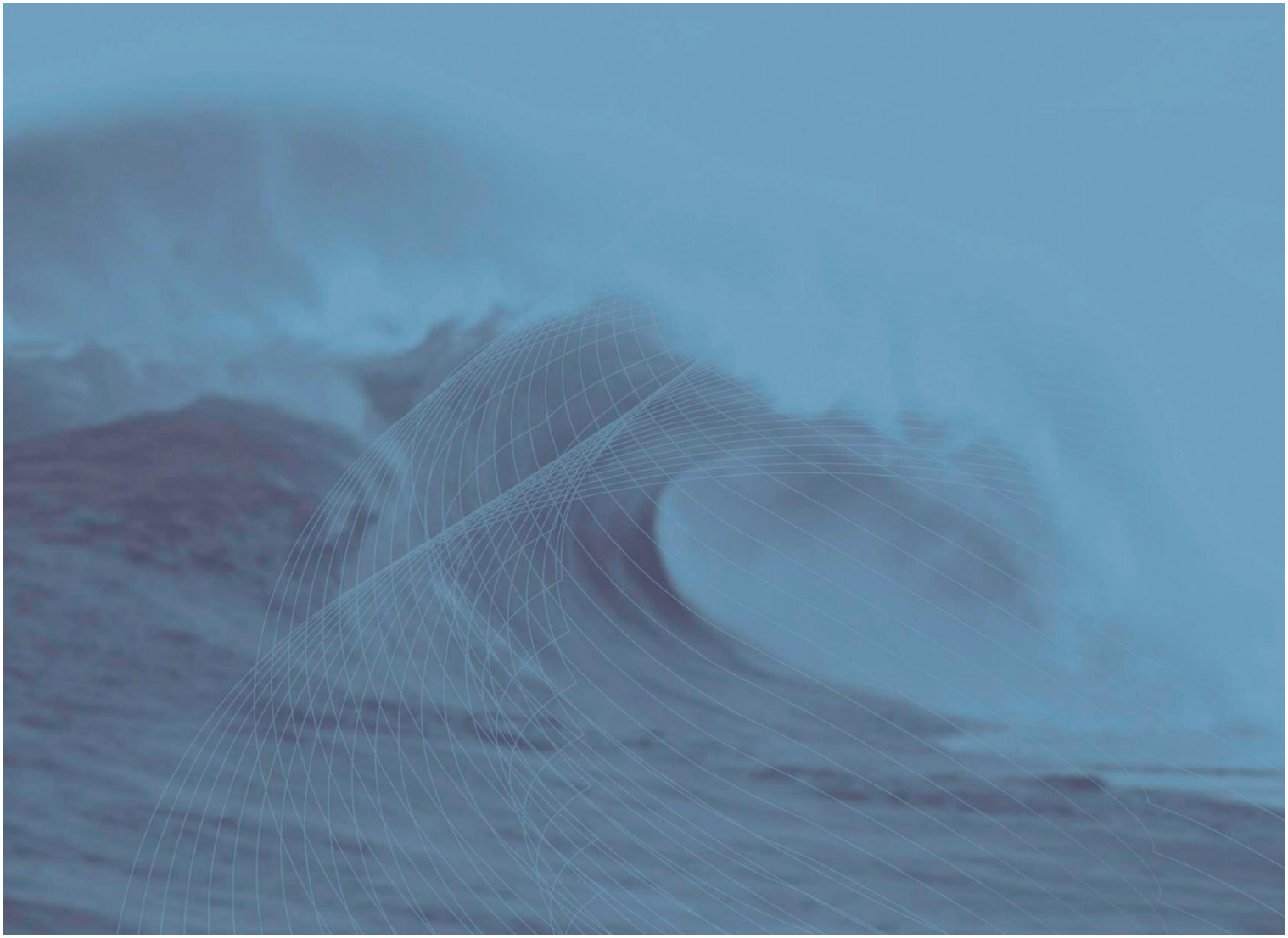
Finally, prior to any installation works commencing at the scale test sites, developers are required to issue a Notice to Mariners (NtM) describing the location, start-date and duration, and nature of the works. The NtM must be issued at least 2 weeks in advance of any work commencing and must be published in the local newspaper and copied to other key parties (including MS-LOT, OIC Marine Services, representatives of local fishermen, and the UK Hydrographic Office).

3. Consenting Process

The flowchart below shows the consenting process for developers wishing to install at the EMEC scale test sites, together with typical timescales for each stage in the process.



Consenting process for EMEC scale test sites



FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:
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