

Gunfleet Sands – Project Briefing Note Number 8

Date: 20th August 2009

Subject: **Gunfleet Sands Offshore Wind Farm – Generation of first electricity**

DONG Energy is delighted to announce that the generation of first electricity has taken place at the Gunfleet Sands offshore wind farm. The 48 turbine Gunfleet Sands offshore wind farm is 7km off the Essex coast in the Northern Thames Estuary.

Electricity has been generated from the first two of the 48 turbines that Gunfleet Sands offshore wind farm will consist of when full constructed. Each turbine is capable of generating 3.6 megawatts (MW) of electricity, enough to power over 2,500 homes each.

Following a successful construction programme that began back in October 2008, 16 wind turbines have now been erected with another 32 left to be installed.

Frits Kristoffersen, Project Manager for the Gunfleet Sands project, said today *"The construction process is progressing well and the first generation of electricity is another important milestone for the project."*

Frits Kristoffersen went onto say; *"with the current progress being made we anticipate the remaining 32 wind turbines to be fully erected and operational towards the end of this year, we are currently commissioning the next batch of erected turbines and these too will be generating electricity shortly."*

The remaining 32 turbines will arrive directly from Esbjerg in western Denmark, each turbine comprises of 7 basic components, two tower sections, the nacelle, the hub, and 3 blades. The total weight of each of the 129m tall turbines is approximately 450 tonnes.

We are currently laying the remaining inter-array electrical connection cables between the turbines. A number of smaller vessels are also working out of Brightlingsea on the River Colne, these boats carry out monitoring surveys and are continuing environmental studies, they are also used to ferry personnel to and from the wind farm construction site.

The Gunfleet Sands project will generate enough clean renewable energy for approximately 120,000 households or approximately 20% of the households in Essex. The project will make a considerable contribution to the domestic UK target of reducing CO₂ emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010. The wind farm will reach full production during 2010.

- **Peter Sills, Communication Manager, Gunfleet Sands project is available for media interview, please contact in the first instance on 07976 437467**
- **For further project information and high resolution photographs and maps, please contact peter@sillson.com for ftp server access details (24hr download available)**

Photograph attached:

Wind turbines at Gunfleet Sands, off the Essex coast

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Additional information:

Who is DONG Energy?

DONG Energy is one of the leading energy groups in the Nordic region. Our headquarters are in Denmark. Our business is based on procuring, producing, distributing, trading and selling energy and related products in Northern Europe. We employ approx. 5,000 people and generated DKK 41.6 billion in revenue in 2007.

Renewable Energy

Renewable energy is an integral part of the UK Government's aim of reducing CO₂ emissions by 60% by 2050. To help combat climate change, the Government has set a target of 15% of electricity supply from renewable energy by 2015. In March 2007 the 27 nations of the European Union agreed to a legally binding target of 20% of all energy to be supplied from renewable sources by 2020. Increasing the amount of energy generated from renewable sources also increases the diversity and hence the security of supply.

The Gunfleet Sands project

The Gunfleet Sands project is located approximately 7km south-east of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex. The project consists of two phases, Gunfleet Sands 1 with 30 turbines and Gunfleet Sands 2 with 18 turbines. The capacity of each turbine is 3.6MW, giving a total capacity of the Gunfleet Sands project of 172MW. The rotor diameter of the turbines is 107m, with a maximum height of 129m from blade tip to sea level.

The total area of the phase 1 development is 10km² and 7.5km² for phase 2. The turbines will be positioned with a spacing of 435m x 890m.

The turbines will be mounted on top of a monopile foundation. The monopiles will be in the region of 5m diameter, with an overall length of up to 50m and a seabed penetration of up to 40m. The use of rock for scour protection is being considered.

All consents and licenses to build both phases of the project have been achieved.

When the project is completed, approximately 120,000 homes or approximately 90% of the households in Tendring district and Colchester City could be provided with clean electricity in the years to come. The project makes a considerable contribution to the domestic UK target of reducing CO₂ emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010.

Gunfleet Sands project programme

- March 2004 - Consent awarded for Gunfleet Sands 1
- March 2008 - Consent awarded for Gunfleet Sands 2
- March 2008 - Commencement of onshore construction works
- October 2008 - Commencement of offshore construction covering foundations and cabling
- Summer 2009 - Turbine installation
- Winter 2009 - Project commissioning