

Minutes

Offshore Renewable Energy Steering Group (ORESG)

Tuesday October 2nd 2018 10:00

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

Attendees: DCCA Eamonn Confrey(EC), Sinead Hart Moran(SHM), Deirdre Durnin(DD), Philip MacFadden (PMF), Paul Ahern (PA, present for item 7 only) SEAI Declan Meally (DM), Patricia Comiskey (PC) Eirgrid Mark Norton (MN) DBEI Joseph Cummins (JC) GSI Sean Cullen (SC)

Apologies: DHPLG Roger Harrington (RH) Marine Institute Jeffrey Fisher (JF) GSI Koen Verbruggen (KV) DTTAS Mary Lally

1. **Adopt Agenda** – The Agenda was agreed.
2. **Minutes of ORESG meeting of 16 April 2018** – The minutes were agreed.

3. Update from each Working Group

PC gave an update on the activities of the Environment Working Group

- Guidelines on baseline and monitoring data published, some comments have been received on these and are being reviewed.

PC also gave an update on the shared work being undertaken by the Infrastructure and Environment working groups:

- Opportunity and Constraint Mapping Exercise- currently updating data and developing management plan for ongoing system development and use. GSI has taken ownership of the tool and is working to build a user interface.
- The joint group is undertaking work to map all processes relevant to consenting offshore activities. A stakeholder workshop has been scheduled for the 13th of November. The final process map is expected by year end.
- All of the working groups have updated their 2018 work programmes to include relevant recommendations of the OREDP Interim Review.

SHM gave an update on the work of the Infrastructure working group:

- IPORES update report has been completed and is due for publication post ORESG meeting
- The group is progressing the following Interim Review actions as per their updated work programme
 - a. Test site infrastructure is under continuous review by the test site WG.

- b. SEAI have begun the process of reviewing and updating the Prototype Development Fund.
 - c. A pilot pre-commercial technology fund is in development
- Test site updates:
 - a. Lir NOTF- Expected to be 100% commissioned by year end. Official opening of full facility planned early 2019.
 - b. Galway Bay – Judicial review proceedings to be heard in Commercial court at end of November.
 - c. AMETS- review complete. Proposal to extend testing capabilities to other technologies e.g. floating wind. EU co-funding being sought for projects at the site.

EC and DM gave an update on the progress of the Job Creation Working Group (JCWG).

- A representative from the Marine Development Team has been added to the JCWG.
- The jobs potential chapter of the upcoming IPORES report was welcomed.
- Actions assigned to the JCWG under the OREDP Interim Review are being progressed.
- A disruptive technology fund has been opened by DBEI.

Action: JC to feedback to JCWG on projects being funded by Disruptive Technology Fund.

4. 2018 Interim Review of OREDP

- Recommendations from the OREDP Interim Review have been assigned, and are being progressed, by each working group.
- A discussion arose regarding inviting members of the external stakeholders group to working group meetings. It was agreed that there could be merit to inviting relevant stakeholders to attend WG meetings on occasion when there are relevant agenda items.

5. MAFA Bill Update

In the absence of a representative from DHPLG SHM gave an update to the group. A memo to government will be issued by DHPLG outlining options to advance the MAFA legislation as soon as AGO advice has been made available. This advice is expected in the next couple of weeks. The urgent need for marine legislation in relation to ORE and the scale of the opportunity that could be missed if legislation is not delivered in a timely manner was stressed by a number of attendees.

6. Marine Spatial Planning Update

In the absence of a representative from DHPLG SHM gave an update to the group. MSP legislation is required by March 2021 and is being progressed by DHPLG. A baseline MSP

report has been published and DHPLG have organised a series of workshops around the country to work on MSP. The group agreed that the provisions of MAFA must align with MSP.

7. Update on Renewable Energy Support Scheme

PA addressed the group with an update on the RESS. The scheme has been approved by government and auction design and an application for State Aid approval are proceeding in parallel with a view to open the first RESS auctions in 2019. A lowest cost, technology neutral approach is being taken for the first auction. This may be revised for future auctions.

8. Date for next meeting

A date in late January 2019 was suggested. **Action:** PMF to circulate poll to choose most suitable date.

9. AOB