



## Minutes Q&A's plenary session Workshop Wind Farm Zone Borssele, October 14, 2015

### Progress legal framework (general) – Joost Vermeulen (Ministry of Economic Affairs)

- **Question:** The demonstration in innovation Borssele Wind Farm Site (BWFS) V can start in August 2019. The TenneT platform will be operational in 2020. What will happen in between?
- **Answer:** Innovation BWFS V will not start in 2019, but in 2020 when the platform is operational. This will be corrected in the presentation. *(is corrected in the published presentation)*
  
- **Question:** When will the platform be available?
- **Answer:** Planning is August 2019 for Borssele Alpha that connects BWFSs I and II.
  
- **Question:** Will the innovation wind farm site (BWFS V) influence BWFS III?
- **Answer:** The string of innovation BWFS V will be connected to a separate J-tube and bay on the TenneT platform. BWFS III will be reduced to 330 MW. Innovation BWFS V will have a maximum capacity of 20 MW. TenneT guarantees a total of 350 MW for both wind farm sites. Actual transport capacity may be higher, but is not guaranteed and depends for instance on the actual temperature of the export cables. This extra transport capacity is not covered by the compensation scheme. For BWFS III there is room for 30 MW overplanting (to 360 MW), on innovation BWFS V overplanting is not allowed.
  
- **Question:** Timeline innovation BWFS V: the tender announcement is scheduled next year, the closure a year later and there will be no prototype. What happens during the years in between: what kind of modality are you looking for?
- **Answer:** Innovation BWFS V is aimed at demonstrating innovations that are close to market, not at prototype testing. On proposal it has to substantiate that the innovation will be ready for demonstration.
  
- **Questions:**
  - Why not opening the tender for innovation BWFS V in 2019? That will be closer to the newest techniques.
  - Who is going to evaluate the level of innovation?
  - The wind farm site has room for two turbines: two different manufacturers or two consortia?
- **Answer:** RVO.nl will execute the tender for innovation BWFS V. At this point, the details and criteria of the innovation tender still have to be determined. We will discuss these questions and suggestions with the Top consortium for Knowledge and Innovation Offshore Wind (TKI) and the offshore wind sector. You are invited to share your ideas with the TKI or with RVO.nl.

## Calls for grant and permit tenders – Bert Wilbrink (Ministry of Economic Affairs)

- **Question:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> call for tenders will be open for just one month. Why not open the tenders earlier? For the industry it is important that the tenders open earlier, that contributes to the internal confidence.
- **Answer:** The most important date is the date of closure. If the industry would prefer to open earlier, we will consider that. The 2<sup>nd</sup> call for tender has a tight time schedule. That tender could open earlier if there are no appeals against the Wind Farm Site Decisions.
- **Question:** Will there be insight for the industry which parties will go to court?
- **Answer:** For instance Veere cannot appeal because of the 'Crisis- en Herstelwet'. But we do not know if other organisations or people will go to court. We can guess, but it is up to them.
- **Question:** There will not be an irrevocable Wind Farm Site Decision for BWFSs I and II before the closing of the first tender. Can the bidding be conditional to the assumption that the Wind Farm Site Decisions will not change. And if they do, can the bidding then be adopted? Example: a company files a bid for a certain price. But then the Wind Farm Site Decision changes and by that increasing the CAPEX or OPEX (i.e. For instance additional mitigation measures, people allowed to dive in Wind Farm Zones etc. This increases risks and price). Is it possible for this company to adapt the price afterwards according to these changes?
- **Answer:** It will not be possible to change the bid (price). But a company is free to withdraw their bid if the Wind Farm Site Decisions change afterwards. In such a case RVO.nl will return the bank guarantee to the bank.

For the next tenders we will try to open the tender when the Wind Farm Site Decisions are irrevocable. Suggestion is to read the opinions on the publication of the Wind Farm Site Decision and make your own assessment about the risk that something changes afterwards. The government will reply on the opinions in November 2015; that might give you an impression of the risks changing the Wind Farm Site Decisions afterwards.

- **Question:** There are discussions/consultations ongoing with cable and pipeline owners; what is the outcome?
- **Answer:** We aim at providing standard crossing and proximity agreements and include these in the Project and Site Description. The winner of a tender has to negotiate with the cable and pipeline owners to implement the details and sign the agreements. We will try to provide details who is mandated to conclude crossing and proximity agreements on behalf of the cable consortia.
- **Question:** What does addressing the benefits for the local/ regional economy means for the bid?
- **Answer:** Addressing the local benefits is not part of the call for grant and permit tender. It will be part of the Wind Farm Site Decision. The winner of a tender should provide a plan showing the local economic benefits, on a best efforts base.
- **Question:** Will it be possible to be involved in several bids (i.e. as a member of a consortium and as subcontractor in another consortium?)
- **Answer:** This answer will be published after review by RVO's legal department on <http://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-regelingen/sde/faq/wind-op-zee>

- **Question:** Will the maintenance zone be 750 or 500 m?
- **Answer:** 500 m on each side of a cable or pipeline.
- **Question:** About the safety zones around cables and pipelines: Can cable owners make an appeal against the decision to reduce the safety zones from 1,500 to 1,000 m?
- **Answer:** There is a maintenance zone around pipelines and telecom cables, not a safety zone. Cable owners who have submitted an opinion on the draft Wind Farm Site Decision can appeal against decision which allows wind turbine rotor tips at 500 meter from cable. There is no separate decision about maintenance zones, as there is for safety zones.
- **Question:** What will be the status of the maintenance zones around cables and pipelines during construction?
- **Answer:** In the Wind Farm Site Decision it is stated that both infield cables and wind turbines must be placed within the Wind Farm Site, overhanging of rotor blades in the maintenance zone of cables and pipelines is prohibited.  
After installation of the wind turbines a safety zone of 500 m comes into place. This safety zone may overlap with the maintenance zone of a cable or pipeline. In such a case this should be dealt with in the proximity agreement.

#### **Wind Farm Site investigations – Ruud de Bruijne (RVO)**

- **Question:** Will there be an innovation Wind Farm Site in one of the Hollandse Kust Wind Farm Zones for demonstration facilities?
- **Answer:** There is no decision yet about an innovation Wind Farm Site in one of the Hollandse Kust Wind Farm Zones.
- **Question:** The location of the innovation site (BWFS V) is in the centre of the Borssele Wind Farm Zone. From an innovation point of view: What criteria have been used to select the Wind Farm Site?
- **Answer:** There were no criteria involved related to innovations. Only practical considerations matter: this Wind Farm Site allows the owner to have his own string to platform Beta, without crossing any other Wind Farm Sites.
- **Question:** What is the assumption for foundation types to be used in the SoW for the soil investigations?
- **Answer:** Starting point is that all types of foundations are allowed. In the SoW of the soil investigations the depth of boreholes is 50 metres, in some cases deeper, up to 70 – 80 metres. For the seabed CPT's the target depth is also 50 metres.

## **Benefits to nature and local economy (general introduction) – Rob Gerits (Rijkswaterstaat) and Peter Geertse (Zeeland Seaports)**

- **Question:** There are harbours in Vlissingen and Terneuzen. Is Terneuzen behind locks?
- **Answer:** Yes, therefore the focus is on Vlissingen, because there are no restrictions there.
  
- **Question:** Nature inclusive building in relation to the regulative decommissioning plan: There is a suggestion that the remaining structures under water can have a reef function and that the ecosystem can benefit from it. Will that change the regulations on decommissioning?
- **Answer:** It will help in the development of nature (hard substrate). It is something to consider. During the preparation of the general rules under the Water Act it has been discussed what would be practical and what would be necessary concerning the question what to remove and what to leave on the seabed.
  
- **Question:** If rock dump is needed, should that be removed when decommissioning or can it be left on the seabed because of benefits to nature?
- **Answer:** This will be discussed by that time.
  
- **Question:** Removing rock dump is expensive. The industry cannot anticipate now to a discussion that you may have in 20 years.
- **Answer:** In the Wind Farm Site Decisions it is conditional to issue a bank guarantee (for the decommissioning costs) before the wind farm starts generating electricity. The industry should take into account the removal of rock dump during decommissioning. If in future times it is decided to leave rock dump at the seabed, the decommissioning costs will be lower.
  
- **Question:** In the oil and gas sector the same discussion is ongoing. Do you take this into account?
- **Answer:** There is a difference between oil and gas and wind. Sources of oil and gas are depleted at a certain time. An area for wind energy can be developed again. The exact way how to handle this question will have to be discussed.
  
- **Question:** Will issues like nature inclusive building, co use and regional economy be fully voluntary or will it be obligatory?
- **Answer:** It is not included in the call for grant and subsidy tender conditions. However, in the Wind Farm Site Decision it is stated that there should be a plan before building starts. There is a so called 'inspanningsverplichting', an obligation to make an effort. You have to make the best effort possible, it cannot be an empty shell. All plans that are prescribed in the Wind Farm Site Decision and general rules will be discussed. There is time enough; 8 weeks before building. Addressing the local benefits and nature inclusive building is not part of the call for grant and permit tender. It will be part of the Wind Farm Site Decision. The winner of a tender should provide a plan showing the local economic benefits and how nature inclusive building is addressed, on a best efforts base.
  
- **Question:** Will there be a code of conduct (as now is the case for land based Wind Farms)?
- **Answer:** It is in the interest of the Wind Farm owner to establish a good relationship with his neighbours. It is not a formal part of the enforcement.