

Press Release

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E.ON submits planning application to build one of the UK's largest offshore wind farms off the Yorkshire coast, hopes for swift resolution to MoD objection

E.ON, one of the country's leading green generators, has today submitted a planning application for a £700m offshore wind farm located over 8km off the East Yorkshire coast.

If built, the 300MW Humber Gateway Offshore Wind Farm - which would generate enough clean, green electricity to power up to 195,000 homes – will be one of the largest offshore wind farms in UK waters.

The application is the first for an offshore wind farm since Business Secretary John Hutton's call for more than 33GW of offshore wind to be installed by 2020.

Dr Paul Golby, Chief Executive of E.ON UK, said: "The next generation of large-scale offshore wind farms like Humber Gateway have a vital role to play in the UK's future energy mix.

"This scheme will displace the emission of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide every year and will make a significant contribution to helping the Government meet its tough renewable energy targets.

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“As part of our multi-billion pound investment strategy, not only will it make a major contribution to the fight against climate change, it will help ensure a secure, reliable and clean supply of electricity for families and businesses in the UK.”

E.ON is submitting the planning application despite recent objections by the Ministry of Defence to the wind farm. The MoD did not raise an objection when it was initially consulted about the project in 2004.

“We’re speaking to both the MoD and BERR and we’re confident that we can find a way forward that is acceptable to all stakeholders,” said Dr Golby.

“We’re currently in a race to replace up to a third of the UK’s generation, which will be phased out over the next 15 years and so it’s vitally important that the Government deliver a clear framework that will allow us to develop projects like Humber Gateway.”

E.ON is committed to reducing the carbon intensity of its emissions across Europe by 50% by 2030. This builds on the existing achievement of reducing carbon intensity by 20% since 1990.

To achieve its goal, E.ON is changing energy for the better and investing for a low-carbon future. The company has recently announced plans to invest billions of pounds in renewable energy projects globally by 2030 and plans to close almost 3GW of coal-fired generation in the UK by 2015.

E.ON’s UK investment plans include:

- £1bn for gas-fired power stations at the Isle of Grain in Kent (which is currently being built) and at Drakelow in Derbyshire;
- £1bn+ for a cleaner coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth in Kent;

- £325m on building the Robin Rigg offshore wind farm in the Solway Firth;
- Gas storage facility at Holford in Cheshire and at Aldbrough in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Combined, E.ON's renewable portfolio generates enough green energy to supply the homes in a city the size of Manchester. The company currently has enough renewable energy projects in development in the UK to power the equivalent of one million homes and displace the emission of two million tonnes of carbon every year.

Ends

Notes to editors:

- E.ON is one of the UK's leading power and gas companies – generating and distributing electricity, and retailing power and gas – and is part of the E.ON group, the world's largest investor-owned power and gas company. We employ around 17,000 people in the UK;
- E.ON is the new name for Powergen. Our retail business is a leading energy supplier in the UK, with around 8 million electricity and gas customer accounts, covering domestic, SME and industrial. E.ON offers central heating and boiler care through its Home Energy Services business.

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A 3D animation of the project is available to broadcast media