

## **Eskdalemuir Working Group Minutes – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

### **Welcome/Introductions**

A Scottish Government official opened the meeting and group members welcomed a new representative for UK Government, completing a round of introductions setting out their individual backgrounds and roles in the working group.

### **Scottish Government update**

A Scottish Government representative provided a brief update on the guidance drafting process, noting that the initial draft guidance document had been made available to group members via sharepoint on 23 October 2023 and the vast majority of members' initial comments had now been received.

Following the previous meeting and workshop discussions, a Scottish Government representative confirmed that conversations were ongoing between UK Government, Scottish Government and MOD on understanding potential legislative/regulatory options. The Scottish Government representative has an action point, in collaboration with MOD, to pull together a brief summary of the current policy and legislative framework

### **Phase 4 and 5 Studies – update**

The AIFCL/SLG representative confirmed that final revisions to phases 4 and 5 were completed and submitted to MOD for consideration. The MOD representative confirmed receipt of this and advised that internal discussions were underway to determine how best to assess these documents.

### **Draft Guidance – comments**

A Scottish Government representative presented a copy of the draft guidance to the group, with members taking the opportunity to discuss some of the comments already within the document.

It was acknowledged there were still responses outstanding and group members agreed an extension to the deadline to provide contributions until COP 23 November 2023. The Scottish Renewables representative agreed to recirculate the sharepoint to group members for ease of access.

### **AOB**

A Scottish Government representative acknowledged the resource constraints faced by organisations represented on the group and a discussion was held on the best, most effective way to engage on particular topics which would minimise double-handling of requests and ensure more efficient, effective communications.

It was agreed that the AIFCL/SLG representative would be primarily responsible for engaging with MOD on the Phase 4/5 revisions, including any coordination required for technical discussions between MOD and Xi Engineering.

It was further agreed that Scottish Renewables and Scottish Government would take away an action to discuss potential for support on working group administration. Following the meeting it was agreed that BVGA would provide additional support to the Scottish Government on meeting preparations, minutes and coordinating comments on the draft guidance document.