



**2 April 2015**

John Pentland MSP  
Convener  
Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP  
Tel: 0131 348 5178

Dear Mr Pentland

**Response to Petitions Committee - Consideration of Petition PE1537**

Thank you for your letter of 4 March 2015 requesting further information on the public consultation planning in relation to the Cockenzie site.

On 30 March 2015 Scottish Enterprise (SE) announced that it would not be proceeding with the consenting process for a marine energy park at Cockenzie. We started looking at the job creation potential of the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station last summer. Since then we've been considering early stage proposals for a marine energy park and listening closely to feedback from the local community and stakeholders, while at the same time continuing to work with the offshore wind industry to understand its needs.

Since we started exploring the potential development at Cockenzie, detail around the scale, timing and location of offshore wind projects has changed and become clearer. As a result we believe that that time isn't right to develop a marine energy park at Cockenzie, with industry requirements being met through other sites in Scotland.

In addition, major inward investment projects require the strong support and backing of the local community in order to be successful. This was one of the reasons we held the initial community consultation very early in the process of developing the concept for a marine energy park. We are very aware that there are concerns from some areas of the local community about the scale of the project and we looked forward to being able to address these through the development of detailed proposals.

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Although we did consider continuing with our plans to consent the site and holding off with any firm investment plans until the offshore wind market was ready, we were conscious that this had the potential to prevent other proposals for the site being developed.

We continue to believe that the site is strategically important and are keen to work with East Lothian Council, the site owner and all stakeholders to explore alternative uses for the site that support job creation and sustainable economic growth at the local and national level.

Cockenzie was one of a number of locations identified as having the potential to provide port infrastructure for the growing offshore wind industry, and this decision will not impact on our plans for the sector in Scotland.

We'll continue to work closely with partners and port operators across Scotland to drive forward and accelerate infrastructure development at key sites to support the development of the offshore wind sector and the energy industry as a whole.

I hope the above is helpful and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely

**DAVID LEVEN**  
**Head of Energy Infrastructure**