

The Investor in the Investment is RWE Offshore Wind Poland Sp. z o.o. Limited Liability Company with its registered office in Słupsk, Poland.

The objective of the procedure is to conduct an environmental impact assessment of the investment consisting of the construction and operation of the FEW Baltic II offshore wind farm, considering the changes that the Investor plans to introduce in the Investment scope.

After the environmental impact assessment including the transboundary impacts was conducted, the FEW Baltic II Investment has already obtained the Decision on Environmental Conditions No. 14/2021 of 30 November 2021 issued by the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Szczecin.

As part of the transboundary environmental impact assessment, Denmark and Sweden expressed their stance. The comments submitted by both states were taken into account when issuing the decision on environmental conditions.

The changes planned to be introduced by the Investor within the limits of Polish legal requirements are processed based on an amendment to the decision on environmental conditions. This procedure requires an environmental impact assessment, where the subject of the assessment would be the effects of implementing the Investment within the planned scope of its implementation and operation after the changes covered by the application are introduced.

As part of the planned changes resulting primarily from the development of knowledge and technology related to offshore wind farms, the basic parameters of the Investment are to be amended, namely:

- the maximum number of WTGs (changed from 44 to 25);
- the maximum rotor diameter (changed from 250 m to 305 m);
- the maximum installed capacity of the offshore wind farm (changed from 350 MW to 440 MW);
- the maximum total height of the offshore WTG together with the rotor (changed from 300 m to 327 m);
- the maximum sweep area of a single rotor (changed from 49,087 m² to 73,062 m²);
- the sweep area of all rotors installed within the farm area (changed from 2,159,828 m² to 1,826,550 m²);
- the maximum diameter of the foundation resulting from the diameter of the monopile used (changed from 12.5 m to 11.4 m);
- the maximum area of scour protection system per one foundation (changed from z 56 565 m² na 32 682 m² for monopile);
- the depth of foundation embedment (changed from 25–50 m to 25–43.5 m);

- the parameters of the inter-array cable network (allowing larger cables with a cross-section of up to 1,200 mm², an external diameter of 181 mm, and a weight of 65 kg/m in air).

Also, the possibility of using the DDD (drive-drill-drive) technology has been allowed in the event of a monopile encountering an early refusal point in the piling process (due to the occurrence of compact soil layers in several locations, which may constitute an obstacle to the conventional driving of monopiles into the ground).

The Investment, taking into account the changes described above, was subjected to analyses and an impact assessment, including information on the current state of the environment. Re-modelling of suspended solids dispersion and underwater noise propagation was also conducted, with the amended Investment parameters considered. The assessment also took into account the possibility of the effects of other investments accumulating with the impact from the FEW Baltic II; also, the modelling studies of the accumulated collisions with birds based on updated data on planned and implemented offshore wind farms in the Baltic Sea were included.

The findings and results of the environmental impact assessment presented in the environmental impact report allowed for the identification of all significant and possible impacts of the Investment and the determination of their nature and receptors. On this basis, taking into account the risk of adverse impacts, appropriate actions were proposed to minimise or modify the conditions in this regard, which had been originally established based on the environmental impact assessment approved in the Decision on Environmental Conditions of 30 November 2021, no. 14/2021 issued by the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Szczecin, which has been requested to be amended. It should be noted that the proposed changes do not intensify adverse impacts, and in some cases, even reduce them.

The scope of changes in the conditions specified in the decision issued by the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Szczecin on 30 November 2021, no. 14/2021 was indicated in the Investor's application for the decision amendment. The proposed modifications to the conditions for the Investment implementation are a consequence of changes in the scope of the Investment.

For the purposes of this document, which describes and summarises the objective of the procedure aimed at implementing changes to the Investment and presenting the most important aspects related to this process, a list of the clauses modified with a short description has also been prepared in the form of an appendix. The appendix presents a summary of the results obtained within the framework of the environmental impact assessment report including their effect on the issues of transboundary impacts based on the findings of the assessment already made in this scope.

In relation to transboundary impacts, the report defines what transboundary impact is. According to the definition included in the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, a transboundary impact is any impact, not exclusively of a global nature, within an area under the jurisdiction of a Party caused by a proposed activity the physical origin of which is situated wholly or in part within the area under the jurisdiction of another Party.

The FEW Baltic II Investment is designed in the Polish Exclusive Economic Zone, at a distance of approx. 27.8 km from the meeting point of the Swedish, Danish, and Polish EEZs.

According to the methodology adopted, a transboundary impact (of international range) is considered in the report as:

- an impact, the effects of which are felt outside the Polish territory, in the territories of other countries;
- an impact which refers to fauna species migrating outside the Polish sea areas.

First of all, the Report assessed that in the case of:

- underwater noise impact exerted during the construction phase on adult fish and marine mammals;
- migratory birds;
- bats,

the impact range may be international.

The impact was assessed as insignificant, and the proposed changes do not intensify it and may even cause its reduction. This assessment results from the considerations and conclusions presented in the report prepared for the purposes of the applicable decision on environmental conditions.

The actions proposed to minimise the adverse impact on marine mammals include the use of measures to dampen underwater noise propagation, such as air bubble curtains or other systems of a similar function. However, to reduce the number of collisions with birds (common cranes/nocturnal migrants), a system of WTG shutdown/rotation speed reduction will be implemented at the operational stage.

In addition, as part of the administrative procedure for issuing the applicable environmental decision of the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Szczecin of 30 November 2021, no. 14/2021, a procedure was conducted on the transboundary environmental impact assessment. Considering that the change in the Investment parameters will not generate any new transboundary impacts or increase those originally assessed, it can be assumed that no reassessment is necessary in this regard for the planned amendments, and the findings of the previously conducted transboundary impact assessment remain valid for the Investment in the form in which it will be implemented based on the amended decision.

No significant adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 site or other significant negative impacts were identified based on the environmental impact assessment, also considering the transboundary impact assessment. The results of the assessment in this scope with possible transboundary impacts included, confirm that all impacts of the Investment as modified by the assumed changes, are within the limits of the impacts identified and determined as part of the environmental impact assessment concluded with the issuance of a decision on environmental conditions by the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Szczecin on 30 November 2021, no. 14/2021. The specification and contents of the changes proposed are presented in Appendix 7.