

Our Ref: 01.08.06.15/592C
UKOP Doc Ref:1229641



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

CHRYSAOR PETROLEUM COMPANY U.K. LIMITED
BRETENHAM HOUSE
LANCASTER PLACE
LONDON
WC2E 7EN

Registered No.: 00792712

Date: 6th October 2022

Department for Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]
Fax [REDACTED]

www.gov.uk/beis
bst@beis.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020
JUDY production increase**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2317/0 (Version 1), dated 28th September 2022 has been issued under regulation 6 of the above Regulations. The screening direction notice, and any relevant conditions and comments are attached. A copy of this screening direction will be forwarded to the application consultees, the Oil and Gas Authority and published on the gov.uk website.

If you have any queries in relation to this screening direction or the attachments, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] or email the Environmental Management Team at bst@beis.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020**

**SCREENING DIRECTION CONFIRMING THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT IS NOT REQUIRED**

JUDY production increase

PR/2317/0 (Version 1)

Whereas CHRYSAOR PETROLEUM COMPANY U.K. LIMITED has made an application dated 28th September 2022, under The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020, and whereas the Secretary of State has considered the application and is satisfied that the project is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment; in exercise of the powers available under regulation 6, the Secretary of State hereby directs that the application for consent in respect of the project need not be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment, provided that the project is carried out as described in the application for the screening direction and in accordance with the conditions specified in the attached schedule.

In giving a screening direction under regulation 6 of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State accordingly gives agreement to the Oil and Gas Authority to the grant of consent for the project as detailed in the application, PCON/6294.

Effective Date: 6th October 2022



THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2020

SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION CONDITIONS

The grant of this screening direction is conditional upon the screening direction holder complying with the following conditions.

1 Screening direction validity

This screening direction shall be valid from 28 September 2022.

2 Change to production level(s)

The holder of the screening direction shall ensure that the change in the level(s) of production do not exceed the amended level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction, and in the application for consent relating to the approval for the getting of petroleum issued under the relevant production licence Model Clause.

3 Prevention of pollution

The holder of the screening direction must ensure that appropriate measures are taken to minimise discharges, emissions and waste, in particular through the appropriate use of technology; and to ensure that necessary measures are taken to prevent incidents affecting the environment or, where they occur, to limit their consequences in relation to the environment.

4 Inspections

Should the Department consider it necessary or expedient for an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State to investigate whether the conditions of the screening direction are being complied with, the holder of the screening direction shall afford the inspector with such facilities and assistance as the inspector considers necessary to exercise the powers conferred by the regulations. The holder of the screening direction shall additionally ensure that copies (electronic or paper) of the screening direction and any other relevant documents are available for inspection by the inspector at:

- a) the premises of the holder of the screening direction; and
- b) the facilities undertaking the project covered by the screening direction.

5 Check monitoring

Should the Department consider it necessary or expedient to undertake an independent monitoring programme to assess the impact of the project covered by the screening direction, the screening direction holder shall afford the Department



with such facilities and assistance as the Department considers necessary to undertake the work.

6 Atmospheric emissions returns

Following completion of the project covered by the screening direction, the holder of the screening direction shall report all relevant atmospheric emissions, such as combustion emissions, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms.

7 Screening direction variation

In the event that the holder of the screening direction proposes changes to any of the particulars detailed in the application for a screening direction, the holder must notify the Department immediately and submit an application for a post screening direction amendment. The post screening direction must be in place prior to the amended proposals taking effect.

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COMMENTS ON THE APPLICATION FOR SCREENING DIRECTION

Section 1

The attention of screening direction holders is drawn to the following provisions regarding The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020.

1) You are deemed to have satisfied yourself that there are no barriers, legal or otherwise, to the carrying out of the project covered by the screening direction. The issue of a screening direction does not absolve the screening direction holder from obtaining such authorisations, consents etc that may be required under any other legislation.

2) The Department would draw your attention to the following comments:

The Department has no further comments.

3) All communications relating to the screening direction should be addressed to:

bst@beis.gov.uk

or

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]

Fax [REDACTED]



SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION DECISION REASONS

The Secretary of State has decided that, based on the information provided, the project is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The main reasons for this decision are:

Decision reasons

The following provides a summary of the assessments undertaken by OPRED to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for this project, summarises the information considered, the potential impacts and sets out the main reasons for the decision made. In considering whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required or not, the following have been taken into account:

The information provided by the developer.

The matters listed in Schedule 5 of The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Regulations 2020) (the Regulations).

The results of any preliminary verifications or assessments of the effects on the environment of the project; and

Any conditions that the Secretary of State may attach to the agreement to the grant of consent.

Characteristics of the Project

Having regard, in particular, to the matters identified at paragraphs 1(a) to (g) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the characteristics of the project include the following:

Summary of the project :

Increase in oil and gas production from the Judy field.

Description of project

This project consists of an increase in oil production of less than 500 tonnes per day and gas production of less than 500,000 cubic meters per day at the Judy field, due to the drilling of the proposed RD well at the Judy riser installation. The existing production consent is valid until 2022 and this application seeks to extend this to 2025.

No cumulative impacts are expected to occur with any other existing or approved projects.

There is no change to the assessment of a major accident. The Developer has control measures in place to reduce the risk of a major accident occurring and there is no potential for an MEI related to any Major Accident.

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters.



There is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

Location of the Project

Having regard in particular to the matters identified at paragraphs 2(a) to (c) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the project has been considered as follows:

The Judy platform is in Block 30/07a in the Central North Sea (CNS) approximately 263 kilometres (km) from the Scottish coast of the UK and 13 km from the UK/Norway median line, in an approximate water depth of 75 metres (m). The area is referred to as the J-Area comprising the Jade, Jasmine, Joanne, Judy and Talbot developments.

Regional sediments are defined as 'Offshore Deep Circalittoral Sand' and 'Offshore Deep Circalittoral Mixed Sediments'. Surveys in the area have shown local sediments to consist of fine, slightly shelly, silty sand, with some areas having dispersed shelly communities.

The benthic assemblage identified from site surveys undertaken in the J-area indicate a community typical of the sediments identified. Observed macrofauna included annelids (bristle worms), arthropods (including shrimps and crabs), molluscs (including bivalves and snails), echinoderms (including star fish and brittle stars). Surveys of the Talbot area to the south identified the presence of horse mussel at all stations, along with bacterial mats. The biogenic reefs formed by horse mussel are listed under Annex I of the Habitats Directive and is classified as a threatened and/ or declining habitat. However, the criteria for positive identification of the biogenic reef were not fulfilled for the Talbot survey area. No other potential Annex 1 habitats have been identified in the J-area.

The closest area protected for Annex I habitat is the Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Southern North Sea (SAC). These are located over 100km to the south of the J- Area.

The J-area development partly overlaps the Fulmar Marine Conservation Area (MCZ) designated for protection of broad-scale habitats of subtidal mud, subtidal sand and subtidal mixed sediments, as well as the protection of ocean quahog. The Judy platform, which is the focus of this application, is located 13km North of the Fulmar MCZ.

The PMF habitat 'offshore subtidal sands and gravels' is known to occur within the J-Area and the PMF species Ocean quahog. The presence of Ocean quahog was confirmed during site surveys of the J-area in low densities.

The Judy field lies within International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 42F2. The area is a spawning and nursery ground for several species throughout the year.



Many of the species identified are Scottish Priority Marine Features.

Seabird vulnerability for Block 30/07 is low year-round. Adjacent blocks show sensitivities for short periods ranging from medium to very high, but overall are considered low. Block 30/08 shows extremely high vulnerability in May and June.

Atlantic white-sided dolphin, Common dolphin, Harbour porpoise, Minke whale and White beaked dolphin have been observed in the area between the months of January and April to November. Atlantic white sided dolphin, Minke whale and White beaked dolphin have been observed in high densities in the area whereas the other species identified have been observed in moderate densities. Grey and harbour seals are not frequently sighted within the area with individual densities of both ranging from 0-1 individuals per 25 km².

Fishing effort in ICES 42F2 is dominated by demersal and shellfish species with some pelagic fishing also taking place. This area contributes to 0.004% of UK landings and value when compared to overall UKCS fishing.

The Judy platform is not located within a Military of Defence (MoD) training range.

There are no telecommunications cables in the vicinity of the Judy platform.

There are no wrecks in the vicinity of the platform.

There are no shellfish water protected areas or active aquaculture sites in the vicinity of the J-Area. The closest active aquaculture sites are located on the Aberdeen coast >250 km to the west of the J-Area.

Given the location of the project, it is not likely that the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) or (viii) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations will be affected by the project.

Type and characteristics of the potential impact

In accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the likely significant effects of the project on the environment have been considered. Potential effects of the atmospheric emissions on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed. Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

The increase in production at the Judy platform will not result in any modifications to the existing plant or any increased energy requirements. Atmospheric emissions are not forecasted to increase as a result of additional oil and gas production from the Judy field. The proposed increase in production will not alter the power generation philosophy of the platform and no change is expected in operational flaring or venting levels compared to currently permitted 2022 flare and vent consents.



In the short term, produced water rates may reduce due to the new well and overall, produced water oil concentrations are not forecast to change as a result of the additional oil and gas production from the Judy platform.

There will be no additional chemical discharges required as a result of the increase to production.

As there is no increase in atmospheric emissions from the increase in production, there are no expected transboundary effects from the operations.

It is considered that the increase in oil and gas production from the Judy field is not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea, the seabed, marine life or cetacean species and no cumulative impacts are expected to occur.

Decision

Taking the above considerations into account, the Secretary of State has concluded that the project is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment and that an environmental impact assessment is not required.

Mitigation of significant effects

The following are features of the project or measures envisaged that the developer has proposed to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment:

Not applicable