

Consents given under the Petroleum Act 1998 and Reviews under the Assessment of Environmental Effects Regulations 1999

Operator: Amerada Hess Ltd.

Name of Project: Perth Development Block 15/21b

Project Description

- The drilling of 3 production wells and 2 water injection wells each connected to a central manifold tied back to the Scott platform.
- The installation of an 11km, 8" flexible production export pipeline and 8" injection water pipeline, a 4" gas lift pipeline and a control and chemical umbilical.
- Perth oil will be combined with Scott production and exported via an existing pipeline to the Forties system. Gas will be exported via the SAGE pipeline. Field control will be from the Scott platform.
- Perth is a sour reservoir. It is proposed that the gas be blended with Scott gas untreated and exported via SAGE with the final pipeline CO2 specification being achieved by dilution only. The H2S would be treated to the necessary level on the Scott platform. This will lead to a significant reduction of emissions offshore.

Habitats and Birds Directive potential issues:

The area in which the development is located is not environmentally sensitive with any SAC's within the vicinity of the development. The main sensitivities identified are seabirds and the potential interference with fishing activities.

Consultation:

The statutory consultees were FRS and JNCC.

FRS was closely involved with the development of the chemical treatment system to reduce H2S levels in the well fluids, which was achieved to FRS's satisfaction. Recommendation of approval was given.

JNCC also recommended approval for consent, but requested additional information which mainly related to emissions and the phasing of the drilling programme with respect to sensitive periods for seabirds. Further information was received from the operator satisfied these concerns.

Public Consultation: No comments were received within the 28 day period.

Conclusion:

An environmental statement was submitted to cover the proposed exploration well, which considered the potential implications of the project. Following consultation with the statutory consultees and the provision of additional information for clarification purposes from Amerada Hess Limited, Dti are satisfied that this project is unlikely to

have a significant impact on the receiving environment, including any habitats and species protected under relevant conservation legislation.

Recommendation:

Based on the information presented in the ES and further information received it was advised that project consent be given.

Approval date: August 2001

ES Signed off by (for SoS): Wendy Kennedy