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

BG Group

DRAKE, HAWKINS & FLEMING FIELDS

Pursuant to Regulation 5(8) of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry gives notice that, being content that the requirements of the above Regulations have been satisfied, he has, pursuant to Licence P356, granted a consent to BG International to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the above fields. The consent for the above fields took effect from 23/06/94 and shall last until 30/09/05.

Background

British Gas International Limited (BG) and its partners propose to further develop the Armada gas/condensate field complex, which is located in the Central North Sea (Block 22/5b). The proposed Phase 2 development will involve drilling up to seven additional wells and modifying one of the existing wells. This will provide access to new reserves and maintain production for the anticipated field life of 20 years. It will involve the installation of wellheads and flowlines between the Armada phase 2 wells and the production and test manifolds. Phase 2 will use existing infrastructure including the present Armada platform with gas export via the Central Area Transmission System (CATS) and condensate via the Forties pipeline.

Armada is a gas/condensate field and the environmental hazards were identified as minor or insignificant. Key issues focused on the discharge of drill cuttings from the use of water based muds, atmospheric emissions from power generation and well testing, and the risk of hydrocarbon (notably condensate) spillage. BG proposes using SBM for drilling the lower well sections but re-injecting or shipping to shore any contaminated cuttings. No significant transboundary effects were identified.

Recommendation

Overall the environmental statement is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development. Recommend that consent be given.