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

BP

MAGNUS ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY PROJECT

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 P 193, granted a consent to BP Exploration Operating Company Limited to the laying of a pipeline in relation to the development of the Magnus Enhanced Oil Recovery Project. The consent for the Magnus Enhanced Oil Recovery Project took effect from 01/05/00 and shall last until 31/12/04.

Background

BP propose constructing a subsea pipeline to carry natural gas from the Foinaven, Schiehallion and Loyal fields west of Shetland to the Sullom Voe Terminal in Shetland. The pipelines form Foinaven and Schiehallion will meet at a Pipeline End Manifold (PLEM). The gas will be treated at Sullom Voe terminal and enriched with Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), which is currently exported by tanker. A further subsea pipeline from Sullom Voe to the Magnus platform will transport the enriched gas where it will be injected into the oil-bearing rock using wells designed for gas injection.

The enriched gas will act as a solvent that removes oil remaining in the rock enabling normal production processes to be effective. The additional oil recovered will partially replace decreasing levels of production due to natural decline of the Magnus reservoirs.

A section of the pipeline from Schiehallion to the PLEM will be trenched with the rest of the pipeline surface laid. A survey will be carried out after the pipeline has been laid to identify areas requiring rock dumping.

A pressure test will be required to the existing production facilities. Six existing water injection wells as Magnus will require modification. All re-drilling of wells will involve the use of oil based muds with the drill cuttings re-injected into a formation above the Magnus reservoir.

Recommendation

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