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

**BP**

### **HOTON DEVELOPMENT**

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 P001, granted a consent to BP Exploration Operating Company Limited to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Hoton field. The consent for the Hoton field took effect from 09/07/01 and shall last until 17/09/10.

#### **Background**

BP Exploration Operating Company Limited propose to re-enter a single existing well and drill a new multilateral sidetrack in blocks 48/6 and 48/7b of the UKCS. Due to the production of proppant from the original bore, which needs to be separated from the gas as soon as possible due to its abrasive nature, a Normally Unmanned Installation (NUI) will be installed - essentially a proppant separation and containment system, metering equipment and an overpressure protection system. The NUI will export gas unprocessed to Easington through a new 11.7km, 8" tie back to the existing 24" West Sole export gas pipeline. Power and production chemicals will be supplied via the West Sole Alpha platform through a 12 km umbilical.

The new well and original vertical bore will undergo two short well tests of not more than 24 hours each. Produced fluids will be predominantly gas with small quantities of condensate, negligible quantities of water and some condensed water.

The identified hazards were screened on a qualitative basis and a list of key environmental issues produced, namely: seabed disturbance during pipeline installation; drilling discharges, hydrocarbon spills, physical presence of the platform and VOC emissions from platform.

No significant impacts have been identified from the proposed development and it is unlikely to affect any potential future SAC that may be identified. There were no major objections to this project. Following the provision of additional information, the Environmental Statement was approved.

#### **Recommendation**

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