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

### **BP Exploration and Operating Company Limited**

#### **BOYLE PROSPECT**

Pursuant to Regulation 5(8) of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry gives notice that she is content that the requirements of the above Regulations have been satisfied. Pursuant to Licence P064, consent has been granted to BP Exploration and Operating Company Limited the getting of petroleum and the drilling of an exploration well in Block 204/10 subject to BP Exploration and Operating Company Limited conducting operations in respect of the project in accordance with the relevant environmental statement.

#### **Background**

BP and its co-venture partners (BG and Amerada Hess) wish to develop the Boyle Prospect by drilling a single well from the existing Davy platform using the Brown 49/30a-A5 well (also existing). They wish to achieve this by employing a sidetrack.

Environmental issues discussed in the ES included:

- Discharge of water based mud, cuttings and chemicals.
- Flaring associated with well clean-up.
- Physical presence of the drilling rig
- Potential oil spill risk.

#### **Sensitivities**

The ES indicated that no sensitive habitats were identified and no scarce or endangered species were recorded in the area. No potential cumulative impacts were said to occur. Overall, no significant impacts on the nature conservation value of the marine environment were identified and the impact of drilling this well will have a transitory effect on the environment. The proposed development is also unlikely to adversely affect spawning aggregations of species prevalent in the area.

#### **Recommendation**

Overall the environmental statement is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed operation. It is recommended that consent is given to the project.