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

### Burlington Resources

#### DALTON FIELD

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 P706, granted a consent to Burlington Resources Limited to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Dalton Field. The consent for the Dalton Field took effect from 05/10/98 and shall last until 31/12/00.

#### Background

The Dalton field is located in Block 110/2b, adjacent to the existing Morecombe Bay facilities. The scope of this ES covers a development comprising a maximum of three gas wells, each contained within a single sub sea wellhead protection system, tied in to the North Morecombe platform by a single pipeline and control cable. Gas production is estimated to be 858 million m<sup>3</sup>/year of sweet gas. There are no changes to the platform.

#### Drilling and Well Completion

##### Drilling

Current expectations are that a minimum of two wells will be drilled 2nd/3rd quarter of 1999. Possibly using an existing, suspended well 110/2b-9, which if adopted will require only one new well to be drilled. Provision for a third satellite well later, if warranted by reservoir performance. Drilling operations will be conducted from a jack-up mobile offshore drilling unit.

Burlington intends to use, and discharge, WBMs wherever practicable, however, no information provided on the use of other mud systems other than reference to their impact as part of general discussion on muds.

##### Well Testing/Completion

Well testing may be conducted burning approximately 0.7 million m<sup>3</sup> over roughly 55 hour period. Well completion fluids will most likely be discharged to sea.

#### Pipelines

An 8 km pipeline and control line will be installed between the wellhead and the North Morecombe platform. The route will be trenched. A small quantity of hydrotest fluids will be discharged.

#### Abandonment

At the end of the field life the wells will be plugged with the casing removed to at least 3m below the seabed. No indication that obstructions will be removed from the seabed nor if the area will be inspected by ROV to check for obstructions and identify the extent of any cuttings pile. The pipeline will be filled with seawater and left buried *in situ*. Abandonment details will be provided as required under the appropriate regulations.

#### Environmental Sensitivities and Impacts

The development lies some 38km from the Lancashire coast and the block is a spawning area for various fish species. The area is fished and has a high shipping density, though the major routes do not cross the Block area. Birds in the block are particularly vulnerable in winter and spring. The coastline contains a number of protected coastal sites.

##### Recommendation

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

