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

Burlington Resources

MILLOM WEST 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 P 287, granted a consent to Burlington Resources (Irish Sea) Limited to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Millom West field, (hereafter referred to as "the project") subject to Burlington Resources (Irish sea) Limited conducting operations in respect of the project in accordance with the relevant environmental statement. The consent for the Millom field took effect from 23/02/99 and shall last until 31/03/15.

Background

The Millom West development will initially comprise a normally unattended, minimum facilities wellhead platform, producing from two opposing dual lateral wells. In addition to the initial development, a further two dual lateral wells and a single vertical well may be drilled through the platform at a future date depending on reservoir performance.

An Addendum to the ES was submitted on 3 June 1999 concerning the possibility of water breakthrough resulting in formation water being carried to the surface in the gas stream. If this prediction comes to fruition, then produced water will be treated to a level at or below 30 ppm oil in water prior to discharge to sea at the Millom West platform location.

No significant environmental effects have been identified and adequate mitigation of potential environmental impacts are presented in the ES and its Addendum. WBM will be used in the drilling of the wells and each of the wells will be tested over a 24 hour period. Produced gas from Millom West will be transported to the existing Millom East pipeline end manifold (PLEM). The gas will then join production from Millom East and the commingled product will pass from the Millom East PLEM to the North Morecambe platform via an existing 8.65 Km pipeline and on to shore.

Recommendation

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