

Environmental Statement (ES) Summary and Sign-Off

Title:	Calder Field Production Increase Environmental Statement
Operator:	Burlington Resources (Irish Sea) Limited (BRIS)
Report No:	D/4144/2012
Submission Date:	July 2012
Block No:	110/07a
Development Type:	Production Increase
Reviewer:	Julie Cook
Date:	21 November 2012

A) Project Description:

The Calder Field is located in Block 110/07a of the East Irish Sea, 42 km north east of the Cumbrian Coastline and 110 km west of the UK / Irish median line. The Calder platform is a normally unattended, minimum facilities wellhead platform which produces sour gas via a dedicated pipeline to the Rivers Gas Terminal at Barrow-in-Furness. The normally unmanned installation (NUI) is currently operated by Hydrocarbon Resources Limited (HRL) (a subsidiary of Centrica PLC) on behalf of Burlington Resources (Irish Sea) Limited (BRIS) (a member of the ConocoPhillips Group). Verification of the current production profile confirmed that an increase in the production consent was necessary and that the level of the increase would exceed the EIA Directive threshold of 500,000 cubic metres/day. No additional subsea facilities or wells are currently proposed.

B) Key Environmental Sensitivities:

The EIA identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- **Fish:** The Calder area is within spawning grounds for whiting (February to June), sole (March to May), cod (January to April), plaice (December to March), lemon sole (April to September), sprat (May to August) and *Nephrops* (January to December), and within a nursery area for *Nephrops*.
- **Seabirds:** Seabird vulnerability to surface pollution in block 110/07 is high or very high in November to April and September, and moderate for the remainder of the year.
- **Protected Habitats:** There are no designated protected habitats in the vicinity of the Calder Field. The closest identified Annex I habitat is the Shell Flat and Lune Deep candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC), located 20 km to the east of the platform. The platform also lies in the vicinity of two proposed Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) (Flyde Offshore and West of Walney).
- **Protected species:** Harbour porpoise have been recorded in low numbers in the Calder area with highest numbers recorded during the summer months.
- **Other users of the sea:** Total fishing effort in the Calder area is comparatively low. Shipping intensity is high.

c) Key Environmental Impacts:

The EIA identified and discussed the following key activities as having the potential to cause an environmental impact:

- **Chemical use and discharge:** There will be no significant increase in chemical use or discharge as a result of increased production from the Calder platform.
- **Produced water discharges:** Produced water from the Calder platform is low in volume and is exported to and treated at the existing facilities at the Rivers Gas Terminal. There is no discharge of produced water to sea from the Calder platform.
- **Accidental discharges:** The increase in production has been incorporated into the Centrica/HRL Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) under which the Calder platform is covered. Blow-out modelling has been undertaken and included in the EIA; and appropriate mitigation measures are in place to prevent a spill.
- **Atmospheric emissions:** The supply of energy and control via cable from the HRL CPP1 platform minimises fuel storage and maintenance on the Calder platform requirements. Venting is limited to emergency depressurisation and occasional maintenance and there is no offshore flaring of gas. The increase in production is not expected to increase atmospheric emissions at the Calder platform.
- **Cumulative impacts:** No significant cumulative impacts are anticipated as a result of the increase in production.
- **Transboundary impacts:** The UK / Irish median line is approximately 110 km west of the Calder platform. The boundary between UK waters and those of the Isle of Man is approximately 44 km from the Calder platform. No transboundary impacts are likely as a result of the increase in production.

D) Consultation:

Comments were received from The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS Environment and Chemical). The ES was also subject to public notice.

JNCC: JNCC confirmed that they were satisfied with the assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed operations.

CEFAS (Environment): CEFAS Environment confirmed that they have no concerns.

CEFAS (Chemical): CEFAS Environment confirmed that they have no concerns.

Public Notice: No comments were received in response to the public notice.

E) Conclusion:

Following consultation and the provision of further information, DECC OGED is satisfied that this project will not have a significant adverse impact on the receiving environment or the living resources it supports, or on any protected sites or species or other users of the sea.

G) Recommendation:

On the basis of the information presented within the ES and advice received from consultees, DECC OGED is content that there are no environmental or navigational objections to approval of the proposals, and has advised DECC LED that there are no objections to the grant of the relevant consents.

Approved : Sarah Prichard
Head of Environmental Operations Unit

Sarah Prichard

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Date: ...22/11/2012.....