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

Caledonia EU Ltd

Block 43/27a

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, a consent has been granted to Caledonia EU Ltd to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in Block 43/27a (hereafter referred to as "the project") subject to Caledonia EU Ltd conducting operations in respect of the project in accordance with the relevant environmental statement.

Background

The Johnston Field is located in Block 43/27a of the North Sea, 83 km east of Flamborough Head in approximately 39 m depth of water. The proposed Johnston Field Project will involve a single subsea well tied back to the existing Johnston Field subsea facilities approximately 6.8 km west, which will be tied back to the subsea manifold via an 8" flexible flowline and umbilical. Produced fluids will be exported via existing infrastructure to the Ravenspurn North Platform.

The drilling will start in April 2005 and is expected to last 78 days. The well will be tested during which flaring will occur for between 12 and 24 hours with an expected volume of flared gas of 50 to 60 MMscf.

The well will be drilled and completed using a jack-up rig.

A slimhole well design is being used to minimise the amount of cuttings and mud discharged. WBM will be used to drill the majority of the 43/27a-H (J4) well with 490 tonnes of cuttings and 1148 tonnes of WBM drilling muds to be discharged from the well (this includes a contingency for sidetracks). LTOBM will be used in the 12.25" section, where cuttings and mud will be contained and shipped to shore.

Sensitivities

The environmental statement identifies a range of potential environmental hazards and outlines proposed mitigation measures, including:

- Physical presence
- Seabed disturbance
- Noise and vibration
- Atmospheric emissions
- Marine discharges
- Loss of containment
- Cumulative impacts

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.

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