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

Centrica

Rose Field Development

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. Consent has been granted to Centrica for the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations, in relation to the development of the field in accordance with the environmental statement.

The Rose development project entails the drilling of a single bi-lateral well tied-back to the Amethyst platform. Both water-based mud and oil-based mud will be used during the drilling of the well. All oil-based mud will be contained and shipped to shore. Once the well is completed there will be no requirement for a well test but a well clean-up lasting no more than 24 hours will be required.

The new well will be tied-back to Amethyst line by either a 10 km or 22 km 8" flow line. The pipeline will be trenched and allowed to back-fill naturally. Some rock dumping will be required to avoid upheaval and buckling. Where rock-dumping is undertaken the rock will remain below the surface of the seabed and covered by the natural back fill thus minimising the impact on the environment.

An environmental description was presented within the Environmental Statement. Evidence of the consultation process is presented as is a screening study undertaken prior to the submission of the ES that identified potential areas of concern, including herring spawning.

The Environmental Impact Assessment presented within the Environmental Statement identified no significant environmental impacts.

Concerns raised by consultees over the potential impacts of drilling during the herring spawning period were addressed by the operator by undertaking a dedicated survey. The survey

results indicated that the area was unlikely to be suitable for herring spawning. However, drilling is to be scheduled so as to minimise drilling disturbance during peak herring spawning season.

Both CEFAS and the JNCC reviewed and commented on the Environmental Statement and both consultees are satisfied that there are unlikely to be any significant environmental impacts arising from this development.

Recommendation

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

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