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

### **ChevronTexaco**

#### **Alba Extreme South 2 Development**

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, she has, granted a consent to ChevronTexaco to the getting of petroleum and the drilling of an exploration well in Block 16/26 (hereafter referred to as "the project") subject to ChevronTexaco conducting operations in respect of the project in accordance with the relevant environmental statement. The consent for the well was given in August 2004 and shall remain in force for a period of two years.

#### **Background**

ChevronTexaco proposes installing a four well producer sub-sea manifold and drilling three new sub-sea producing wells. The combined AXS/AXS-2 production fluids are co-mingled with platform derived production fluids and passed through the Alba platform process trains. The extension of the subsea facilities by adding a further three wells does not require hardware modifications to the existing platform facilities. The wells are planned to be drilled in March 2004 and is expected to be completed by August 2004. Installation of the new subsea production facilities will begin in September 2004 with first oil from AXS-2 planned for October 2004. The wells will be drilled and completed using a semi-sub mobile drilling unit. The position of the rig will be maintained by anchors/anchor chains. The anchor chain spread avoids pockmark depressions and existing seabed infrastructure. The well will be drilled using WBM and LTOBM, with 1313 tonnes of cuttings and 735 tonnes of WBM drilling muds to be discharged. LTOBM cuttings and reservoir section WBM cuttings will be shipped to shore for processing. Once drilling is completed, the wells will be cleaned-up prior to completion. It is estimated that around 2470 tonnes oil and 135 tonnes gas in total from the three wells will be flared over

a period of 72 hours.

### **Sensitivities**

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

- WBM/LTOBM cuttings disposal
- Chemical use and discharge (drilling muds/cementing)
- Power generation during drilling phase
- Well clean-up (flowing)
- Installation of subsea facilities
- Testing/pre-commissioning discharges
- Presence of subsea facilities
- Flaring
- Produced water
- Production chemical use
- Accidental events

### **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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