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

CNR

COLUMBA B/D TERRACES

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 Licences P204, P202, P203 & 199, granted a consent to Ranger Oil U.K. Limited to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Columba field. The consent for the Columba field took effect from 01/01/00 and shall last until 31/12/10.

Background

This is the final phase of the development of the Columba B and Columba D Terraces. This Final Phase comprises drilling five wells, two producers (BP4 & BP5) and three water injectors (BW6, BW7 & BW8). Three of these wells (two producers and one injector) will be drilled from the Ninian South platform and the remaining two water injection wells from the Ninian Central platform.

All production from these wells will take place on the Ninian platforms using existing facilities. The oil will be processed and exported via the existing pipelines to Sullom Voe Terminal. The incremental increase in flaring, due to this Final Phase Development, is predicted to fall to zero by end 2002. Trans boundary effects are predicted to be negligible. As far as drilling is concerned, incremental increases to existing cuttings piles due to the discharge of WBM/SBM are predicted. SBM-contaminated cuttings will be shipped to shore post end 2000.

Recommendation

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