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

CNR

KYLE FIELD

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 Licence P748 & P224, granted a consent to Ranger Oil (U.K.) Sea Limited to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Kyle field. The consent for the Kyle field took effect from 16/11/00 and shall last until 30/11/05.

Background

Ranger Oil (UK) Ltd is proposing to exploit the Kyle discovery, situated in blocks 29/2a and 29/2c in the Central North Sea, and produce oil and associated gas. The Kyle field is approximately 170 km due east of Stonehaven, on the Scottish mainland and 70 km west of the UK/Norway median line.

The development will comprise two existing sub-sea well centres, two existing wells, one to each well centre and their associated in-field pipelines and control umbilicals. All well fluids will be transferred by a new 305 mm pipeline to the *Curlew* FPSO, operated by Maersk Contractors, approximately 17 km south of the Kyle Field, for separation and export. Oil will be exported by shuttle tanker and gas by existing *Curlew* pipeline into the Fulmar pipeline and hence to St Fergus. There will be no sea-surface facilities. Initial production will be from the two existing wells and, depending on the production performance of these wells, up to another four wells may be drilled, two at each well centre. The planned well programmes for drilling are the same for each well and all sections will be drilled with water based muds (WBM) except the 12¼ " section where low toxicity oil based mud will be used. All wastes (cuttings) and muds from this section will be taken ashore for treatment and disposal.

Environmental Sensitivities and Impacts

The ES identified four principal activities, which could present risk to the environment:

- the installation of the pipelines and control umbilicals
 - the production operations
 - hydrocarbon storage and export
 - the future drilling operations

The installation and future drilling operations are of short duration with well defined procedures for their conduct and environmental management. The emissions and discharges from the drilling operations are considered to be within acceptable limits and an approved OSCP will be in place before any drilling commences. The processing of the Kyle oil and gas will lead to no increases of gaseous emissions from the *Curlew* FPSO and the produced water emissions will be well within the approved design capacity of the installation. The *Curlew* has an OSCP in place and this will continue to be used, as will the management procedures for avoiding oil spills and minimising emissions from storage and loading operations.

The views of the statutory consultees, SERAD and the JNCC, were taken into account in coming to the decision and no sites were identified within the area, which would be likely to be future SAC's or SPA's. It is considered that no significant environmental impacts would arise from this development.

Recommendation

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