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

CNR

Playfair

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 CNR to the getting of petroleum and the drilling of a production well in Block 211/19a (hereafter referred to as "the project") subject to CNR conducting operations in respect of the project in accordance with the relevant environmental statement. The consent for the well shall remain in force for a period of two years.

Background

The proposed development will involve the drilling of a single production well through an existing production well from the Murchison platform, 6km to the south. The Playfair field is located 240km northeast of the Shetland Islands and adjacent to the UK/Norwegian median line. The well is planned to be drilled in July 2004 and is expected to last approximately 90days with first oil expected in October 2004. The well will be drilled using LTOBM and the cuttings will be collected and transported to shore for disposal. Following completion, the well will be flowed back to the Murchison Platform through the existing flowline. Oil and gas from the well will be produced through Murchison and there will be no flaring of well test fluids. No modifications to the Murchison Platform are required.

Sensitivities

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

- Accidental hydrocarbon releases
- Additional produced water discharge on Murchison

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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