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

Conoco

JUPITER 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 P25, granted a consent to Conoco (U.K.) Limited to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Jupiter field. The consent for the Jupiter field took effect from 26/05/94 and shall last until 30/09/14.

Background

Five wells to be drilled using a jack-up over a not normally manned platform, plus a 12" and 3" pipeline of 4.5 km length. All reservoir fluids to pass down the line for export via the Sinpe Tee and on to the LOGGS gas gathering facility where the development is controlled. The fluids are then exported to Theddlethorpe.

Drilling

It is intended that the drilling will commence in May 1999 for 12 months. Water Based Mud and Synthetic Based Mud will be used if necessary. WBM will be disposed overboard as would the SBM if it has to be used.

Gas Production

Gas is the main product with some condensate expected. (gas and condensate non-quantified).

Other Issues

Hydrotesting. Total volume of hydrotest fluids 250 cu m with discharge at platform end intended.

Vulnerabilities;	seabirds - Feb and Nov
	grey seals.-. Sept to Oct
	common seals - June and July
	shellfish - all year
	tourism - May to Sept
	commercial fisheries - May to Aug

Interfield lines will be trenched to 1 m with possible backfilling and rockdumping if necessary. A vessel frequency study has been requested by DETR and this is *being* prepared. Although gas is the main product, some condensate will also be produced. No stochastic modelling has been reported in the ES to show the direction and time for "oil" (condensate) to reach shorelines. The North Norfolk coastline is environmentally sensitive, and the probability of hydrocarbons reaching the shore should be ascertained.

Recommendation

The operator may feel a stochastic modelling study to determine the probability of condensate reaching shorelines is desirable bearing in mind the above comments. Overall, the ES is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development. Recommend that consent is given.