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

### **ConocoPhillips**

#### **Saturn Field Development**

Pursuant to Regulation 5(8) of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry gives notice that she is content that the requirements of the above Regulations have been satisfied. Consent has been granted to ConocoPhillips for the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations, in relation to the development of the field in accordance with the environmental statement.

The Saturn development project will develop the two gas fields Atlas and Hyperion in block 49/10 in the Southern North Sea.

Two wells are to be drilled into Atlas and one into Hyperion; although there is the possibility for an additional well into each. The wells will be tied back to a normally unmanned installation (NUI) from which the gas will be exported via a new 40 km pipeline to the LOGGS complex.

all the wells will be drilled using water based mud, with the mud and cuttings discharged on site. There is a possibility that some oil based mud may need to be used, in which case the mud and contaminated cuttings will be skipped and brought ashore. A well clean-up of approximately 12 hours will be required for each well.

The Normally unattended installation (NUI) has no processing facilities, which greatly reduces offshore emissions and discharges at the field location.

The 14" gas export line and piggybacked methanol line to LOGGS will be trenched and then backfilled using the spoil from the trenches.

After submission of Environmental Statement but prior to consent a Sabellaria spinulosa reef was discovered along the proposed pipeline route. Sabellaria spinulosa can form biogenic reefs which is a habitat listed in Annex I of the EC

Habitats Directive. Consequently, following advice from the JNCC and after further discussions with the operator the pipeline route was moved up to 5 km east so as to avoid having any environmental impact impacting upon the previously unknown reef.

The Environmental Impact Assessment identified all the main issues that may potentially have a significant environmental impact. These were addressed in further detail.

Both CEFAS and the JNCC commented on the ES both CEFAS and JNCC are satisfied that there is unlikely to be a significant environmental impact arising from this project.

### **Recommendation**

Overall the environmental statement is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development. It is recommend that consent is given to the project.

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