**Valkyrie Field Development 49/16**

**ES Web Comments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ES Title:</th>
<th>Valkyrie Development in Block 49/16</th>
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<tr>
<td>Operator:</td>
<td>ConocoPhillips (U.K.) Limited</td>
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<tr>
<td>ES Date:</td>
<td>September 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Block Nos:</td>
<td>49/16</td>
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<td>Development Type:</td>
<td>Gas Field Development</td>
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**Synopsis:**

The project involves the development of the Valkyrie Field in Block 49/16. The proposed development will consist of drilling a single extended reach well into the Valkyrie reservoir from the existing Vampire platform. The well is planned to be drilled during February/March 2004 with first production during the third quarter of 2004. Field life is expected to be approximately three years.

The well will be drilled and completed using a jack-up rig positioned alongside the Vampire platform. There may be a requirement for rig stabilisation, in which case up to 3000 tonnes of rock will be dumped. The well will be drilled using water-based mud (WBM) and approximately 2,256 tonnes of cuttings will be produced and discharged along with the mud at the drilling location. Once drilling is completed a well clean-up will be undertaken during which an estimated 3.43 million m$^3$ of gas plus some condensate will be flared over a period of 36 hours.

The ES includes an option selection process and presents a case for the development. One of the primary drivers appears to be the potential issues arising from developing a tie-back that would impact upon a sandbank.

Evidence of an extensive consultation process is presented and any comments or concerns arising from this process are clearly addressed within the ES.

A detailed risk assessment has been undertaken and the following significant risks are addressed within the ES:

- Rig stabilisation,
- Discharge of WBM and cuttings to the seabed,
- Well clean-up,
- Blow-out of gas and condensate,
- Spillages of fuel,
- Large collision with gross loss of fuel.

Of those risks identified, of particular concern were the discharge of water-based mud:

The discharge of water-based mud may impact the nearby sandbanks. However, the results of drill cuttings modelling undertaken specifically for environmental impact assessment, suggests that the discharge of water-based mud from the drill site will not significantly impact on the sandbank.

Mitigation measures are in place to ensure that impacts are kept to a minimum and details of the management systems in place were presented.

Both CEFAS and the JNCC have reviewed the ES and neither consultee had substantial comments.

**Recommendation**

Based on the information presented in the environmental statement, it is recommended that project consent should be given.