

DONG E & P (UK) Ltd – Exploration well 214/30a-A (Glenlivet)
Comments On Environmental Statement

To: Sarah Pritchard

Signature: *S Pritchard*

From: Carol Newbigging

Date: 10 June 2009

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ES Titles:	Exploration well 214/30a-A (Glenlivet) West of Shetland
Operator:	DONG E & P (UK) Ltd
Consultants:	ERT (Scotland) Ltd
ES Report Nos:	W/4046/2009
ES Date:	April 2009
Block Nos:	214/30a
Development Type:	Exploration well

Synopsis:

DONG is planning to drill an exploration well to confirm the presence or absence of gas and condensate in Block 214/30a. The proposed well location is approximately 64km northwest of mainland Shetland. The well will be drilled using the Transocean Rather semi-submersible which is an anchored drilling rig. The probable 8 anchor spread radius will extend to around 2068m of which approximately 820m will lie on the seabed.

The current plan is to commence drilling between July and December 2009 with the duration of the drilling and logging operations expected to be around 40 days.

Water Based Mud (WBM) will be used. The proposed WBM discharge is anticipated to be 2113 tonnes, with 1047 tonnes of WBM cuttings to be discharged.

Wireline logging will be carried out once the well has reached its total depth. Should the well establish the presence of gas, a reservoir sample will be taken using Schlumberger's Modular Formation Dynamics Tester (MDT). There will be no well test.

A vertical seismic profile (VSP) survey is planned and will be confirmed during monitoring in the reservoir.

Once all drilling and logging operations have been completed, the well will be plugged and abandoned.

As a result of an environmental risk assessment there were the following potentially significant aspects identified and addressed within the ES:

- Impacts on seabed fauna and habitats
- Noise generation
- Use and discharge of chemicals

- Risk of hydrocarbon spills
- Atmospheric emissions
- Disposal of controlled wastes
- Cumulative and transboundary impacts

Mitigation measures are in place to ensure that impacts are kept to a minimum.

Recommendation: Based on the information in the Environmental Statement, it is recommended that project consent be given.

Consultees:

<u>JNCC:</u>	The DTI Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001 were considered and no significant effects likely.
<u>FRS</u>	No objections.