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

### **Energy Resource Technology UK**

#### **Aberdonia Field Development 53/01a**

##### **Synopsis**

- The proposed development consists of a well being developed through drilling an extended reach well. Produced fluids will be transported from the Camelot A NUI via the existing 15km gas export line to Perenco's Leman platform.
- 6th March 2007
- 53/1a
- The Aberdonia gas field is located in the Southern North Sea, approximately 39km, northeast of Bacton in water depths of 15m. The proposed well is located approximately 2.3km to the east of the North Norfolk Sandbanks dSAC.
- First gas is scheduled for June 2008.
- Drilling fluids will consist of WBM. If LTOBM is used, any cuttings will be skipped and shipped to shore.

##### **Key Environmental Sensitivities:**

- Low to moderate fishing activity (occurs throughout the year).
- Low Harbour porpoise sightings.
- Spawning area for lemon sole, sprat, sandeels, mackerel and plaice. Nursery area for lemon sole, sandeels, mackerel, cod and whiting.
- With respect to the drilling schedule, seabird vulnerability low between February and April, high in May and moderate in June.
- Shipping activity averages 33 vessels per day on shipping routes within a 10nm radius.
- Area is dominated by gas fields, including Arthur, Leman and Hewett.

##### **Habitats and Birds Directive potential issues:**

- Annex 1 Habitats: Situated 2.3km east of the North

Norfolk Sandbanks.

- Annex 2 Species: Low occurrence

**Issues requiring further investigation:**

Request that site survey data be included in future PON 15B submissions.

**Additional Information Requests:**

BERR asked for additional information to clarify a number points throughout the ES. These included clarifications regarding the processing of discharges and production implications; the EMS compliance of contractors; mitigation measures in relation to drilling and accidental spills; and further consideration of the impact on birds and fish in the event of an accident.

**Identification of Significant Impacts:**

No significant impacts identified.

**Consultees:**

- JNCC
- CEFAS

Public Consultation: No comments were received within the 28 day period.

**Conclusion:**

An environmental statement was submitted to cover the proposed field development, which considered the potential implications of the development. Following consultation with the statutory consultees and the provision of additional information for clarification purposes from Energy Resource Technology (U.K.) Ltd. on 23 September 2007, we are satisfied that this project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the receiving environment, including any habitats and species protected under relevant conservation legislation.

**Recommendation:**

Based on the information presented in the ES and further information received it was advised that project consent be given.

**Approval date:** 14th September 2007

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