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

Freya Appraisal Well

The Freya Appraisal well is located approximately 40Km
West of Shetland in block 206/10 in the Atlantic Margin, in
water depths of approximately 150m. The nearest
international boundary is the UK/Faroes Median line, which
lies just approximately 100Km to the west. The anticipated
hydrocarbon reserve from Freya is heavy oil.

Faroe Petroleum intend to drill a single deviated appraisal
well using semi submersible anchored jack-up rig, with
drilling being undertaken over a 41 day period, including
clean-up and contingent well testing. The well, which is
scheduled for August/September 2007, will be drilled using
seawater and bentonite sweeps for the top two sections (36" &
17.5") with either water based muds (WBM) or low toxicity
oil based mud (LTOBM) being used for the 8.5" section. 474
tonnes of cuttings will be generated from the top two sections,
with 171 tonnes of cuttings discharged to sea surface if WBM
is used. Should LTOBM be used for the 8.5" section then the
171 tonnes of cuttings will be contained and shipped to shore
for treatment and/or disposal. If the well is required to be
tested then the well will be flared for a maximum of 36 hrs
with a maximum of 461 tonnes of oil and 30.2 tonnes of gas
flared, resulting in 1,800 tonnes of CO² generated from the
well cleanup and testing. It is likely that the well will be
suspended with a view to returning at a future date to
sidetrack the well and complete as a horizontal production
well. If the well does not encounter movable oil, the well will
be plugged and abandoned.

The ES identified the following potential areas of impact
arising from the drilling of the proposed appraisal well which
required further consideration:- Drilling discharges, noise
generation, oil & chemical spills, physical presence and
cumulative & transboundary impacts. However these were
considered further and it was concluded that whilst there
would be some temporary moderate environmental impact in
the direct vicinity of the well and anchor chains, this was
unlikely to result in any significant adverse, long term
impacts.

**Habitat Issues/ Sensitivities**

Patches of cobbles and gravelly sediment lie within the anchor spread of the proposed well. However further consultation with JNCC confirmed that they did not believe that due to the nature and extent of cobble area that this was likely to be designated as a "stony reef" under Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive.

**Conclusions**

Following consultation, we are satisfied that the project is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact and, in particular, that it will not have a significant adverse effect on the marine environment in general or on any protected sites or species covered by the "Habitats Regulations".

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that well consent be given for the Freya appraisal well.

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