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

Focus Energy Ltd

Skipper Field Development 9/21

Background

The Skipper development project will develop a Northern North Sea oil field in block 9/21, approximately 140 km southeast of Shetland and 38 km from the UK/Norway trans-boundary line. The development will use the services of a floating, drilling, production, storage and offloading vessel (FDPSO) built according to the MOST (Multi Operational Service tankers Inc). The vessel will also be capable of implementing all decommissioning operations.

Initially the development will consist of six wells (producers and injection) drilled through a single subsea manifold using under-balanced and slim-hole technology. Flexible production risers will conduct produced hydrocarbons to the FDPSO and the same riser will be used to inject water into the reservoir. If these wells are successful it is anticipated that up to thirty wells may be drilled over the life of the field. Individual wellheads will be retrieved for refurbishment and re-use as wells are abandoned and decommissioned.

An Environmental Impact Assessment presented within the ES identified activities having the potential to impact the environment. Prevention, control and mitigation measures aimed at minimising those potential environmental impacts are presented and discussed in the impact assessment.

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

Recommendation

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

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