

Hess Limited – Cambo 3 Appraisal well
Comments On Environmental Statement

To: Sarah Pritchard

Signature: *Sarah Pritchard*

From: Carol Newbigging

Date: 22/01/2009

Date: 22 January 2009

ES Titles:	Appraisal well 204/10, Cambo 3
Operator:	Hess Limited
Consultants:	ERT (Scotland) Ltd
ES Report Nos:	W/4011/2008
ES Date:	October 2008
Block Nos:	Block 204/10
Development Type:	Drilling of one appraisal well

Synopsis:

Hess Limited proposes to drill the Cambo 3 well in block 204/10 approximately 140km west of Shetland.

Drilling operations are planned between April and July 2009 and are estimated to take approximately 68 days using a dynamically positioned drill ship.

Water Based Mud (WBM) will be used, with a total of 940m³ of mud and 750 tonnes of cuttings being discharged.

Well logging and testing operations are still to be finalised, but for the purposes of the Environmental Statement, there has been an assessment of the impacts from well logging operations which may include vertical seismic profiling (VSP) and a conventional well test. The operation of the airguns used for the VSP operations will be conducted in accordance with the JNCC guidelines for minimisation of effects on small cetaceans. When carrying out a conventional well test, Hess will ensure that no more than 2000 tonnes of oil will be produced, within a period not exceeding a total of 96 hours, in order to make sure it will not qualify as an 'extended well test' (EWT).

Depending on the hydrocarbons found, the well will either be suspended or abandoned.

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

- Physical presence
- Noise Generation
- Atmospheric Emissions
- Drilling Discharges
- Hydrocarbon spills
- Transboundary impacts
- Cumulative 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:

JNCC:

JNCC commented that the ES was lacking in terms of detailed survey information and requested further information.

Further information was received from Hess on 18/12/2008. JNCC confirmation that they have no objections, DTI Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001 considered and no significant effects likely.

FRS

No objections. Commented on the high standard of the Environmental Statement.