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

Ithaca Energy UK Ltd

Polly Exploration Well 12/26c

Ithaca Energy (UK) Ltd have applied to BERR to drill an exploration well in block 12/26C into the Polly prospect. The well is located in the Moray Firth, approximately 23 km from the closest land (Lybster) off the Caithness coast. The proposed well is situated to the south west of the Beatrice field.

The well will be drilled using a jack up rig, using water based mud (WBM) for the 36" and 17.5" section. A slim-hole design has been chosen for the well with a 36" section and 17.5" section which will result in 445 tonnes of cuttings discharged to sea. The bottom hole section will be drilled using a low toxicity organic phase fluid (LT-OPF), with all chemicals and cuttings returned to the rig and shipped to shore for disposal. The works are programmed to commence in Dec 2007 and last for approximately 41 days. Ithaca Energy (UK) Ltd have applied to BERR to drill an exploration well in block 12/26C into the Polly prospect. The well is located in the Moray Firth, approximately 23 km from the closest land (Lybster) off the Caithness coast. The proposed well is situated to the south west of the Beatrice field.

A number of commercially important fish and shellfish species spawn and/or have nursery grounds in the area; cod, lemon sole, plaice, sprat, herring, haddock, whiting, saithe, sandeel and Nephrops. The Moray Firth region also contains important populations of Atlantic salmon. Ithaca Energy (UK) Ltd have applied to BERR to drill an exploration well in block 12/26C into the Polly prospect. The well is located in the Moray Firth, approximately 23 km from the closest land (Lybster) off the Caithness coast. The proposed well is situated to the south west of the Beatrice field.

The Moray Firth and surrounding coastline is of year round importance for birds and there are a number of coastal and marine SAC's, SPA's and Ramsar sites in the vicinity of the

Moray Firth Area. The Moray Firth marine SAC is located approximately 35Km from the well location. Sites and species of known or potential conservation importance were considered as receptors in the process of assessing potential effects of the proposed appraisal well. This assessment identified hydrocarbon spillage as the main mechanism identified with the potential for significant environmental effects. However taking account of the probabilities of a spillage and mitigation measures, it is concluded that significant effects on the integrity of this site are not expected. Ithaca Energy (UK) Ltd have applied to BERR to drill an exploration well in block 12/26C into the Polly prospect. The well is located in the Moray Firth, approximately 23 km from the closest land (Lybster) off the Caithness coast. The proposed well is situated to the south west of the Beatrice field.

Following consultation with statutory consultees and the provision of further information from Ithaca on 14 November 2007, BERR is satisfied that this project is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact on the nature conservation of the local marine environment or on any protected sites or species covered by the 'Habitats Regulations.' The Polly Environmental Statement was consequently approved on 30 November 2007.

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