

James Field Development 30/17a ES Web Comments

ES Title: James Field Development Environmental Statement
Operator: Kerr McGee North Sea (UK) Limited
ES Report No: D/2172/2004
ES Date: May 2004
Block Nos: 30/17a
Development Type: **Phase 1:** Single Production Well to be tied back by a 5.6Km pipeline to the existing Janice A Floating Production Unit.
Phase 2: Existing well to be recompleted and tied into existing WI subsea manifold at Janice

Synopsis:

The James field is situated 275Km ESE of Aberdeen on the South West Margin of the West Central Graben in block 30/17a, and is approximately 30Km from the UK /Norway median line. The proposed development is planned in two phases:- Phase 1 – drill a single well and tie back to the Janice FPU via a new 5.6km. Gas lift will be supplied through two 1” lines in the main umbilical. Phase 2 – if water injection is found to be required, then an existing well will be re-entered and used as a water injection well. A new flow line will also be required between the James water injector and the Janice water injection manifold.

Drilling is expected to commence in August 2004 and last for 43 days, with a further 19 days to re-enter the existing suspended well in phase 2, which if required is due to commence in the 2nd quarter 2005. The well will be drilled with a combination of Water Based Mud (WBM) and Low Toxicity Oil Based Mud (LTOBM), with a discharge of 243 tonnes of WBM cuttings and 359 tonnes of LTOBM contained and returned to shore for recovery and disposal. The well will be flowed for a maximum of 36 hours prior to being suspended for hand over to production. The pipeline and umbilical will be trenched together and the trench left to naturally backfill.

First oil at James is forecast for 1 December 2004 and peak daily oil flow rate is predicted to be 1,590m³ per day. James production fluids will be combined with the fluids from Janice, however no top-sides modifications are required on Janice.

Further information was requested in relation to the well completion and clean-up, and produced water. However following the provision of additional information on 11 August 2004, we are satisfied that the ES addresses the impacts of the proposed development and overall no significant environmental impacts have been identified.

Consultees: The statutory consultees for the ES were the JNCC and CEFAS.

JNCC: JNCC had no queries and were content for the project to proceed.

CEFAS – CEFAS commented that although mackerel and lemon sole spawn in this area, both species spawn over a wide area of the North Sea and the stocks are unlikely to be affected by this new development. There are no English fisheries-related restrictions on drilling in this Block and they have no other concerns and recommend consent.

Public Consultation - No comments were received as a result of public consultation.

Recommendation: The project should be granted consent.