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

Kerr McGee

LEADON FIELD

Pursuant to Regulation 5(8) of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry gives notice that, being content that the requirements of the above Regulations have been satisfied, he has, pursuant to Licence P90, P277 & P631, granted a consent to Kerr McGee North Sea (U.K.) Limited to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Leadon fields. The consent for the Leadon field took effect from 12/12/00 and shall last until 24/11/11.

Background

The Leadon Field is located in Blocks 9/14a and 9/14b, 8km east of the Beryl facilities and 23km to the north of Kerr-McGee (KMUK) Gryphon development. It lies in a water depth of approximately 120 metres, 166 km from the UK coastline and 8.5 km from the Norwegian transboundary line. KMUK addressed several development options with the FPSO option considered the most flexible.

The ES presents a detailed account of all projected atmospheric emissions, giving a detailed description of power generation, intended to meet PPC requirements as well as the overall ES needs. The ES describes the system for oil storage and loading for the FPSO and shuttle tanker and presents very low figures for VOC releases by venting during loading operations, attributable to the use of a burned diesel gas blanket and the low GOR of the Leadon crude.

Drilling of a total of seventeen wells will take place from two separate sub-sea clusters and one satellite location, using a combination of WBM and LTOBM, with cuttings from the WBM drilling (36", 17.5" and 8.5") discharged to sea and cuttings using the LTOBM (12.25") skipped and shipped to shore. The sub-sea clusters will be linked to the FPSO via large diameter pipeline bundle. Produced water will be treated to an oil content of 30ppm, suitable for overboard discharge, but it is planned to re-inject over 95% into the reservoir (along with associated process chemicals).

No significant impacts have been identified from the proposed development activities and they are unlikely to affect any possible future SAC that may be identified in the area.

Recommendation

Overall the ES is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development. Recommend that consent be given.