



[Home](#) | [Field Index](#)

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

Marathon

BLOCK 153/5a

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 P957, granted a consent to Marathon Oil U.K. Limited to the getting of petroleum and the drilling of an exploration well in Block 153/5a (hereafter referred to as "the project") subject to Marathon conducting operations in respect of the project in accordance with the relevant environmental statement. Consent for the well was given on 30 June 1999.

Background

Marathon Oil U.K. intend to drill a well in 1231 m of water to a target depth of 1969 m below the seabed. The site is 93 km from the Lewis coast and 71 km from the Flannan Isles. Drilling is planned to last between 57 and 80 days. The intention is to use Water Based Muds, with a contingency for SBM's if difficulties are encountered. Cuttings to be discharged to the sea: modelling shows settling in a discrete pile is not expected. All chemicals used are classified as the least harmful category.

Well testing may be carried out if indications of exploitable hydrocarbons are found. As a quality control measure, Marathon submit all well programmes to competent independent examiners to ensure safety of personnel and the environment. The maximum predicted total cuttings is 1231 tonnes.

Recommendation

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