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

Mobil North Sea Limited

Gawain

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, she has, granted a consent to Mobil to the getting of petroleum and the drilling of an exploration well in Block 16/26 (hereafter referred to as "the project") subject to Mobil conducting operations in respect of the project in accordance with the relevant environmental statement. The consent for the well was given and shall remain in force for a period of two years.

Background

The Gawain SE Development consists of a single vertical well, a wellhead and 4.5 km pipeline and umbilical joining it to the existing Gawain subsea field. Gawain is, in turn connected to the Thames platform by another pipeline. The expected hydrocarbon is gas with small quantities of condensate. The well will be drilled using water-based mud with approximately 900 tonnes of cuttings discharged to sea with associated mud residue. A 'fishing-friendly' wellhead will be installed, tied back with an 8" flexible pipe and umbilical being trenched and back-filled. There will be atmospheric emissions from well clean up and limited rock dumping is likely to be necessary on the pipeline. There will be routine chemical use and discharge, which will be the subject of full scrutiny in subsequent chemical permit applications. Incremental effects at Gawain and Thames are expected to be minimal. Field life is expected to be 3 years.

Sensitivities

No significant environmental impacts were identified. Following consultation with the JNCC we are satisfied that there will be no likely significant effect on the habitats and species afforded protection by the Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001, and in

particular do not consider it will have a likely significant effect on any possible cSAC that may be identified.

Recommendation

Overall the environmental statement is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed operation. It is recommended that consent is given to the project.

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