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

Saxon Field Development

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 granted a Consent to Petro-Canada UK Ltd to the getting of petroleum and the development of the Saxon Field in Block 21/23b (hereafter referred to as "the project") subject to Petro-Canada UK Ltd conducting operations in respect of the project in accordance with the relevant environmenta

Background

The Saxon Field is located approximately 160km east of Aberdeen in Block 21/23b in the Central North Sea. Petro-Canada intends to develop the Saxon field as a subsea tie-back to the existing Pict Field Drill Centre (DC7) manifold. The proposed development will consist of two production wells situated around a new drill centre (DC8) tied back to DC7 by a 2.35km 10" Corrosion Resistant Alloy (CRA) flexible production pipeline. Gas lift will be required from the start of production and this will be supplied from the existing Pict DC7 manifold through a new 4" flexible gas lift pipeline. A combined control, power, signal, hydraulic and chemical injection umbilical will also be installed from the DC7 manifold.

It is expected that the two new production wells will be drilled over a period of three month during January 2007 ? April 2007 with first oil and associated gas expected by September 2007. Produced oil and gas will be conducted from the DC8 at Saxon to the DC7 at Pict and from there through the existing subsea infrastructure to the Triton Floating Production, Storage and Offloading (FPSO) facility.

Sensitivities

The environmental statement identifies a range of potential environmental hazards and outlines proposed mitigation measures. Specific issues include:

Pipeline route selection; Atmospheric emissions; Produced Water Emissions

An Environmental Impact Identification (ENVID) and Life Cycle Valuation Assessment (LCVA) were carried out to determine which pipeline option would incur the least environmental risk. The tieback to DC7 was chosen as being relatively straightforward involving minimum trenching requirements while maintaining technical acceptability.

Atmospheric emissions are anticipated to rise slightly at the Triton FPSO as a result of increased compression discharge pressure, but will not constitute a substantial change under the Offshore Combustion Installations (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Regulations 2001.

The Saxon field development will result in increased produced water discharges at the Triton FPSO. To maintain emissions of oil-in-water within current and future OSPAR limits, modifications to the existing produced water treatment facilities at Triton FPSO are being undertaken involving the installation of Compact Gas Flotation Units (CFUs) to treat produced water leaving the existing degasser and hydrocyclone units. A Produced Water Re-injection Scheme (PWRI) at Triton is considered for the future, although this is considered technically challenging.

Recommendatio

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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