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

Shell UK

BRIGANTINE 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, pursuant to Licence P16 & P8, granted a consent to Shell U.K. Exploration and Production to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Brigantine field. The consent for the Brigantine field took effect from 19/07/00 and shall last until 17/09/10.

Background

The Brigantine field is made up of three separate gas reservoirs, located in Blocks 49/18 and 49/19 of the southern North Sea, and approximately 100-km north-east of Bacton on the north Norfolk coast. Shell intends developing the reservoirs through a two-wellhead platform development with both platforms (Brigantine G and Brigantine R) able to accommodate up to 6 wells each. All wells will be drilled using a slim hole casing design utilising conventional drilling techniques. Initially a total of 4 steeply angled wells will be drilled. It is intended that Water Based Mod (WBM) is used for the majority of the drilling with subsequent separation of mud and cuttings and overboard discharge of cuttings. Low Toxicity Oil Based Mud (LTOBM) used for certain problematic sections with all LTOBM cuttings totally contained and shipped to shore for processing and disposal.

Upon completion of the wells they will be cleaned up and tested. It is planned to a conventional well test package with disposal of well stream fluids by flaring. It is expected that each well will be flowing for a maximum of 12 hours. Each platform essentially acts as a means for producing, combining and exporting gas, condensate and water from the wells. The NUIs will be connected via a new pipeline to the existing Corvette platform, which provides processing, and export facility via Leman for the Brigantine gas, condensate and water. Modifications will be required to the topsides of both the Corvette and Leman A platform. Four new interfield pipelines are required 2 20" production export pipelines and 2 4" MEG line. The lines will be provided with pipeline mattresses to protect the lines. The lines will not be trenched, however they will have self-burial fins. On the basis of the information included in both the ES and drill cuttings dispersion modelling study JNCC consider it unlikely that the proposed wells will have a significant impact on shallow sandbanks identified in their proximity and therefore that any possible future SAC will not be affected.

Recommendation

No significant environmental impact was identified. Overall, the ES is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development. Recommend that consent for the development is given.