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

Shell UK

GANNET E 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 P13, granted a consent to Shell U.K. Exploration and Production Limited to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Gannet Field. The consent for the Gannet field took effect from 15/07/96 and shall last until 31/12/09.

Background

The Gannet Phase 2 project comprises:

- Drilling two wells/clean-up of the two wells

Installation and hydrotesting of two flowlines and jumpers to allow export to the existing Gannet E flowline

Laying and protection of two power cables along the route of the existing flowline between Gannet A and the intended wells

- Production operations

The gas will ultimately be exported to St Fergus via the Fulmar gas line. Oil will be exported to Teesside via the Fulmar A installation and Norpipe pipeline.

Drilling

Rig only generically specified. Horizontal wells with any OBM-contaminated cuttings will be transported back to shore.

Well One

Hole Size	Mud Type	Wgt of Cuttings (te)	Discharge Route
36”	Sea water/guar gum	154	Overboard
26”	WBM	404	Overboard
17½”	WBM/OBM*	404	Overboard/ship to shore
12¼	OBM	134	ship to shore
8½	OBM	107	ship to shore
Total		1203	

*OBM may be used instead of wbm

Well Two

Hole Size	Mud Type	Wgt of Cuttings (te)	Discharge Route
36”	Sea water/guar gum	154	Overboard
26”	WBM	404	Overboard
17½”	WBM/OBM*	444	Overboard/ship to shore
12¼	OBM	144	ship to shore
8½	OBM	79	ship to shore
Total		1225	

*OBM may be used instead of wbm

Well Testing

Commissioning will entail flaring of 28,300m^3 gas (worst case). High efficiency burners will be used (no further details). The vol. of CO_2 produced by combustion during well clean-up is predicted to be 13,856 te.

Power Generation

Diesel will be used for drilling operations and installation of sub-sea equipment; the volume of CO_2 produced by combustion during these operations is predicted to be 7680 te.

Pipelines

Two Xmas trees will be connected to existing flowlines from Gannet G by flowline and control cable jumpers; these will be 30m long and laid on the seabed and covered using concrete protection mattresses. Lay barges will have DP and so no anchor scarring is envisaged. Commissioning chemicals are not described, apart from a generic breakdown of the type of chemicals envisaged. Nor are the discharge volumes or discharge position (mid flow/surface/etc.).

Well Abandonment/Decommissioning

This will be assessed at the time.

Recommendation

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