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

Shell UK

KESTREL 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 Licences P258, 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 Kestrel Field. The consent for the Kestrel Field took effect from 11/07/01 and shall last until 31/12/10.

Background

Shell intend to develop the Kestrel field via a tie back to the existing Tern A facility. The proposed work programme will consist of the: drilling of two wells from a mobile drilling unit; a sidetrack to an existing well (P2) and a new well (P1); installation of wellheads and pipelines; and minor changes on Tern. The wells will be drilled with water based muds, however, there is a contingency to use low toxicity oil based muds (LTOBM). If LTOBM is used, contaminated cuttings will be skipped and shipped to shore for disposal at an approved site. There is no intention to conduct any extended well tests, however there will be some limited well clean-up over, approximately 12 hours per well.

The two new wellheads will be connected to the Tern platform by three 7.5km lines: an 8½" ID flexible production line; a 4" ID flexible gas lift line, and a control umbilical. Development of the Kestrel field is likely to bring about minor changes to operations on Tern. Production increase will be less than 10% and the amount of produced water discharged will have an average increase of 10%. The oil content of the produced water will be maintained within current levels. There will be no significant change in power usage nor any increase in flaring. Chemical usage will not increase significantly.

No significant impacts were identified. The ES does not identify, nor are we aware of any habitats or concentrations of species and therefore consider that the proposed activity would not affect any possible future SAC. Following the provision of additional information and discussions with consultees, the environmental statement was approved.

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.