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

Shell UK

PENGUIN CLUSTER 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 P296, granted a consent to Shell UK Exploration and Production Limited to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Penguin Field. The consent for the Penguin field took effect from 03/09/01 and shall last until 31/12/16.

Background

Shell intends to develop the Penguin field via a tie back to the existing Brent C facility. The proposed work programme will be phased and consist of the following activities:

Well engineering operations on Penguin A, C, D and E fields comprising the drilling, completion, clean-up and testing of up to 9 wells

Installation of up to 5 subsea drilling centres/manifolds and a 67 km production pipeline and umbilical from Penguin to Brent C, and a gas lift pipeline or gas injection pipeline from Brent C to Penguin

“ Minor modifications to topsides equipment.

The drilling programme is anticipated to be conducted over a period of two years. The pipelines will be trenched and natural backfill. Hydrostatic testing will be undertaken using treated seawater containing a biocide, oxygen scavenger and fluoroscein dye. The treated seawater will be discharged to sea at the Penguin end of the pipeline. The discharge of this quantity of chemical is not significant. Subsea facilities have been designed for complete removal.

No significant impacts have been identified from the proposed development and it is unlikely to affect any potential future SAC that may be identified. There were no objections to this project and no significant impacts were identified.

Following the provision of additional information, 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.