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

Shell

SCOTER 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 P12 and P264 (the latter operated by BP Exploration Operation Company Limited), granted a consent to Shell UK Exploration Production to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Scoter Field. The consent for the Scoter field took effect from 26/11/2001 and shall last until 31/08/2010.

Background

Shell intends to develop the Scoter field as a subsea satellite of the Shearwater platform. The Scoter field is a gas field located approximately 12km north of the Shearwater platform in the central North Sea.

The proposed work programme will consist of the following activities:

Drilling of three J-shaped wells from a semi-submersible mobile drilling unit: two wells will be drilled in 2002 and a third well in 2004.

Installation of Christmas trees at the wellheads, subsea flowlines and a manifold.

Installation of 11.8km of 12" diameter pipeline.

Installation of a riser and j-tube with minor modifications to the Shearwater platform.

Two initial wells will be drilled during 2002 with a further 3rd well planned for 2004. The top hole sections (36" & 17½") of all three wells will be drilled with WBM, the subsequent 12¼" section will be drilled with an LTOBM and the final 8½" with Perflow (drill in fluid) All LTOBM and contaminated cuttings will be skipped and shipped to shore for disposal. Limited well clean-up is to be conducted. A single 11.8km 12" pipeline will be trenched and a chemical control injection umbilical will be piggy backed on the gas line. The pipelines will be trenched with natural backfill. Development of the Scoter field is likely to bring about minor changes to operations on Shearwater. The amount of produced water discharged from Scoter will peak at 1080 barrels/day with a total discharge of 1.6 tonnes during that year (currently thought to be 2007). The oil content of the produced water will be maintained at less than 25ppm.

An impact assessment was undertaken and no detrimental impacts from the development were identified nor will there be any impacts on 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.