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

### **Statoil ASA**

#### **Tampen Link Gas Export Pipeline**

#### **Tampen Link Gas Export Pipeline Block 211/15 to the Far North Liquids and Gas System (FLAGS) pipeline**

#### **Background**

With the current drainage strategy, production at the Statfjord field is drawing to a close. Statfjord A, B and C will close down their own production in 2009.

By changing the drainage strategy so that less pressure is exerted on the reservoir (cessation of seawater and gas injection), it is possible to extend the life of the field to 2018 and exploit a larger proportion of the remaining gas and oil resources, including the gas that was previously injected.

To achieve this there are plans for a total of 76 wells in the Norwegian sector, of which 26 will be new wells, 38 are gas and liquid producing wells that will be recompleted for lifting gas and 12 are water zone producers with ESP pumps. There will also be a new 23.2km 32" gas pipeline installed between the Statfjord Field and the FLAGS pipeline, 1.4km south of the Brent Alpha platform. Approximately 15.5 km of the new gas export pipeline will be laid in UK waters. The pipeline will have the capacity to transport all the gas produced at the Statfjord Field to the UK.

Production from the Statfjord Late Life project is scheduled to begin in October 2007.

The pipeline installation will take place in August/September 2006 or April 2007.

The pipeline will be laid directly on the seabed in either a conventional manner or in a "snake-lay" formation in which the pipe is laid in a series of gentle curves. If the pipeline is laid conventionally, approximately 88,000 m<sup>3</sup> of rock-dumping would be required as opposed to 8,000 m<sup>3</sup> for the

"snake-lay" option.

At this stage of the planning of the project, it is not yet decided whether the pipeline will be laid from a vessel positioned using anchors or a dynamically positioned vessel.

### **Sensitivities**

The environmental statement identifies a range of potential environmental hazards and outlines proposed mitigation measures, including:

- Physical presence of pipelay vessels
- Anchoring of vessels during pipeline installation
- Pipeline installation
- Physical presence of the pipeline and subsea structures
- Pipeline chemicals
- Accidental spill of diesel

### **Recommendation**

Overall the environmental statement is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed operation. It is recommended that consent is given to the project.

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