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

### **StatoilHydro**

#### **Langeled Pipeline Project 47/11**

##### **Background**

The purpose of the Langeled transport system is to transport gas produced from the Ormen Lange Field in Norway to market delivery points in the UK and Continental Europe, in addition to transporting gas from other Norwegian sources to the UK market. To achieve this the installation of a new pipeline is proposed from the Ormen Lange gas-processing terminal at Nyhamna in Norway to the Sleipner Offshore Installation on the Norwegian Continental Shelf and then on to Easington, East Yorkshire. This development will be capable of meeting up to 20% of demand for gas in the UK by 2006.

Pipelaying operations are planned throughout 2005. The nearshore work will begin in March/April 2005 with all pipelaying to be complete by October 2005 and operations commencing on October 2006.

The pipeline will be installed by use of anchored vessels (laybarges). Pipe will be transported to the laybarges, where the lengths will be welded together and tested before being lowered onto the seabed. The barge will be held in position by a series of anchors, which will also be used to move the vessel forward. For the majority of the route, the pipeline will be laid on the seabed without the need for any significant disturbance. The exception is where the pipeline will be placed in a shallow trench to stabilise it and where, prior to laying the pipe, high points on sandwaves are removed to prevent a hazardous large span occurring.

##### **Sensitivities**

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

- Limited direct mortality of benthic species notably sessile species, habitat loss and potential small-scale changes in community structure due to construction
- The removal and disturbance of habitat is likely to cause direct and indirect short-term disturbance and may cause localised mortalities to individual crustaceans
- Noise from the installation of the pipeline close to shore and the effect on marine and coastal wildlife
- Dredging south of KP512 and potential effect on herring spawning
- Potential damage to Marine Archaeology
- Potential disturbance/damage to Annex I Habitats
- Displacement of vessels outside of the exclusion zone and potential increased fishing effort to the north and south
- The loss of a section of key lobster area due to dredging work

### **Recommendation**

EN/JNCC requested that an Environmental Screening exercise was carried out by the DTI under Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive to assess if there were likely to be significant environmental impacts, in particular relating to the Little Tern breeding habitats in the Humber Estuary potential SPA/proposed Ramsar site and the possible SAC. It has been objectively concluded that there are not likely to be significant effects and, as such, an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

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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