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

Talisman

BEATRICE DEVELOPMENT 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 P187, granted a consent to Talisman Energy (U.K.) Limited to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Beatrice Field. The consent for the Beatrice field took effect from 26/06/01 and shall last until 31/12/01.

Background

Talisman propose to replace a 59 km section of the pipeline that links the Beatrice oilfield in the Moray Firth with the Nigg oil terminal in the Cromarty Firth. All pipe lay activities will be conducted using anchored pipe lay barge and support vessels. Once the pipeline is laid an underwater plough will trench the new pipeline. The trench will be backfilled by ploughing for the second time to bury the pipeline to a depth of 0.5-0.75 m. The new line will be connected to the existing sections of pipeline by means of clamps which will be buried and protected by concrete mattresses. Once the tie-in is complete a gauging test will be conducted followed by a hydro-test.

The Beatrice pipeline replacement project was subject to an Environmental Assessment as required by the Offshore Petroleum Production and Pipelines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999. The ES and additional information required by DTI presents a detailed account of all environmental impacts associated with the development activities and they are unlikely to affect any possible future offshore SAC that may be identified in the area.

The DTI as competent authority under the Habitat Regulations 1994 has undertaken an appropriate assessment of the project's implications for the Moray Firth candidate Special Area of Conservation. The assessment concluded that the proposed project will not adversely effect the integrity of the site. Scottish Natural Heritage agree with the conclusions of the assessment.

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.