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

Talisman

BEAULY 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 P344, 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 Beaully field. The consent for the Beaully field took effect from 01/10/00 and shall last until 31/12/03.

Background

Talisman North Sea Ltd, proposes to develop the Beaully Field, located in Block 16/21c in the Central North Sea, approximately 31km from the UK/Norwegian median line. The proposed development comprises three elements:

- entering an existing plugged/ suspended well (drilled in 1998) and drilling a horizontal production well (8½ ");
- laying a 5.2km buried tie-back to the existing Balmoral Floating Production Vessel (FPV); and
- undertaking minor modifications to the Balmoral FPV itself.

Drilling will be undertaken in 2000, using an ester-based mud with cuttings discharged to sea. Creation of the trench for the 5.2km tie-in will result in minor disturbance to seabed communities, and careful route planning will minimise the need for rock-dumping. Oil from the well will be processed within the capacity of the existing train and exported via the existing Brae-Forties pipeline. The ES accepts that all offshore drilling, development and production activities carry with them some risk of hydrocarbon spillage to the sea. A number of scenarios for non-routine events/ accidents, which could result in potential spillage of oil, was considered. An approved Oil Spill Contingency Plan will be in place.

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.