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

### **Talisman**

#### **Duart Field Development 14/20**

##### **Block 14/20b to the Tartan 'A' platform in Block 15/16a**

#### **Background**

Talisman Energy intends to develop the Duart Field in Block 14/20b as a subsea tie-back to the Tartan 'A' platform in Block 15/16a. The development will initially consist of a single production well drilled approximately 9km west of Tartan 'A'. Duart will be developed as a single drill centre designed to accommodate up to two production wells.

The well will be drilled from a semi-submersible rig in January 2007. The Duart production infrastructure, comprising of an 8" production pipeline, 3" gas lift pipeline and electro-hydraulic umbilical, will connect directly to the Tartan 'A'. The subsea infrastructure installation is expected to commence in June 2007 and will take place over two months.

Both WBM and LTOBM will be used. Approximately 1106 tonnes of WBM and cuttings will be discharged into the marine environment. All LTOBM and cuttings will be contained and shipped to shore for disposal.

The Duart North reservoir is estimated to have recoverable reserves of approximately 6 million barrels of oil and 0.5 billion scf of gas. Daily production rates from Duart North are forecast to peak at 7000 bbl/day of oil and 0.5 mmscf/day gas.

First oil from the Duart development is expected in October 2007 with an expected field life of 13 years.

Flowline and umbilical line installation will include trenching and backfill operations. It is estimated that 19000 tonnes of rock could be needed for the six pipeline crossings. Approximately 60000 tonnes of rock will be applied intermittently between Tartan and Duart for upheaval buckling mitigation. A dynamic positioning (DP) reel lay

barge will be used to lay the pipelines which will minimise the requirement for seabed anchoring operations.

A survey of the proposed pipeline route was undertaken during 2006. The surveys and ground truthing found no evidence of MDAC formation in any of the pockmarks identified.

The Duart project will not add combustion equipment, or increase the load of existing combustion equipment on Tartan 'A'. There will be no significant change under the Offshore Combustion Installation (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Regulations 2001 as a result of Duart operations.

### **Sensitivities**

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

- Discharge of WBM and cuttings to the seabed
- Anchoring of the rig during drilling operations
- Operations required to install the pipeline
- Presence of pipelines, crossings and subsea structures
- Accidental hydrocarbon releases

Mitigation measures are in place to ensure that impacts are kept to a minimum.

### **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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