

## Environmental Statement (ES) Summary and Sign-Off

<b>Title:</b>	Godwin Development
<b>Operator:</b>	Talisman Energy (UK) Limited
<b>Report No:</b>	D/4092/2010
<b>Submission Date:</b>	27 July 2011
<b>Block No:</b>	22/17
<b>Development Type:</b>	Field Development
<b>Reviewers:</b>	Carol Newbigging Derek Saward
<b>Date:</b>	24 October 2011

### A) Project Description:

The Godwin Field is located in the central North Sea, 6 kilometres (km) northwest of the Arbroath platform, 184 km east of the northeast coast of Scotland and 53 km west of the UK / Norway median line.

Talisman plan to develop the field via a single extended-reach well drilled from a slot on the Arbroath platform, with the drilling operations undertaken using a heavy-duty jack-up rig cantilevered over the platform. The earliest start date for the drilling operation is Q2 2012, and it is estimated that it will take approximately 125 days to complete the well.

The 24" section of the well will be drilled with Water Based Mud (WBM), with cuttings discharged to the sea. The 17.5", 12.25" and 8.5" sections will be drilled with Organic Phase Fluid (OPF), with cuttings returned to shore for treatment, recovery of the base fluid and disposal of the residues. Prior to completion, the wellbore will be cleaned using standard industry practices, with the first 250 – 400 barrels of clean-up fluids containing visible oil routed to a designated pit and then disposed of by injection or shipped to shore for treatment and disposal. Visibly clean fluids that meet the oil discharge standard that will be included in the relevant permit for the clean-up operations will be discharged to sea. A Vertical Seismic Profile (VSP) survey will be undertaken in connection with the proposed drilling operation.

Initial processing of the Godwin production will take place on the Arbroath platform, involving comingling of the Godwin and Arbroath production streams and separation of the liquid and gas phases, with the oil and water and the gas exported via separate pipelines to the Montrose Alpha platform. Further processing to separate the oil and water and to remove gas for gas lift and fuel use, will be undertaken on the Montrose platform, prior to final export. There will be some required modification of the Arbroath platform facilities, but the development will not require modification of the Montrose or Arbroath power generation facilities.

## **B) Key Environmental Impacts:**

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) identified and discussed the following key activities as having the potential to cause an environmental impact:

- Physical presence and disturbance
- Discharges to the sea
- Noise
- Atmospheric emissions
- Wastes to shore
- Accidental spills

## **C) Key Environmental Sensitivities:**

The EIA identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- Fish stocks: The Godwin area is within spawning grounds for Mackerel, Lemon Sole, Norway Pout and *Nephrops*, and nursery grounds for Haddock, Blue Whiting, Norway Pout and *Nephrops*. Marine Scotland has indicated that May to August is therefore a period of concern for significant seismic survey operations.
- Seabirds: Seabird vulnerability to surface pollution in the Godwin area is moderate to low throughout most of the year, but increases to very high in September and is high during October and November.
- Protected habitats: The nearest identified Annex I habitats are the Scanner and Braemar pockmarks, located approximately 87 km and 163 km north of the Godwin area respectively. The potential impact of the drilling discharges is therefore negligible.
- Protected species: Minke whale, killer whale, white-beaked dolphin, white-sided dolphin and harbour porpoise have been recorded in or near the Godwin area. Grey and harbour seals are found in the coastal waters off the east coast of Scotland, Shetland and Orkney, and although both species can travel long distances when foraging, they are only likely to be present in the area in limited numbers and for fairly short periods.
- Coastal sensitivities: The nearest coastal designated site (Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA) is approximately 182 km from the Godwin area, and the potential impact of the development on this site, and other coastal sites, is negligible.
- Other users of the sea: The Godwin area is situated within ICES rectangle 43F1, and there is significant fishing effort in the area. The area has low to moderate shipping densities.

**D) Consultees:**

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Marine Scotland (MS), Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) were consulted on the proposals. The ES was also subject to public notice.

**JNCC:** JNCC confirmed that the development is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact on the nature conservation value of the marine environment, but highlighted seabird vulnerability during the September to November period, and confirmed that a number of marine mammals were found in the area. Appropriate mitigation would therefore be required for the drilling and VSP operations if they overlapped with the most sensitive period for seabirds or marine mammals.

**MS:** MS confirmed that the benthic survey information was sufficient, but it would be necessary to obtain site-specific data if there was any expansion of the Godwin Development, or further expansion of the Arbroath facilities. They also confirm that more up-to-date fisheries information had now been published, and should be used for any future submissions relating to the Godwin or Arbroath areas.

**MCA:** MCA confirmed that they would expect to be consulted on the relevant Oil Pollution Emergency Plans, and expect standard navigational notification, collision risk assessment and vessel monitoring conditions to be applied during the rig moves and drilling activity.

**MoD:** MoD confirmed that they had no objections.

**NLB:** NLB confirmed that they would expect to be consulted on proposals relating to the Aids to Navigation during the drilling and platform modification operations.

**Public Notice:** No responses were received to the public notice.

**F) Conclusion:**

Following consultation, DECC OED is content that the proposed development will not have any significant adverse effect on the marine environment or the living resources it supports, or on protected habitats or species or other users of the sea.

**G) Recommendation:**

DECC OED is content that there are no environmental or navigational objections to the approval of the Field Development Plan for the Godwin Development, and has advised DECC LED that there are objections to the grant of consent.

**Approved:** *Sarah Pritchard*

Sarah Pritchard - Head of Environmental Operations Unit

**Date:** 24 October 2011