

**Talisman Energy (UK) Limited**  
**Montrose Bridge-linked Platform Development**  
**Environmental Statement Summary**

<b>Title:</b>	Montrose Bridge-linked Platform Development
<b>Operator:</b>	Talisman Energy (UK) Limited
<b>Consultants:</b>	Genesis
<b>Report No:</b>	D/4124/2011
<b>Submission Date:</b>	January 2012
<b>Quad/Block No:</b>	22/17 and 22/22
<b>Project Type:</b>	Field development and optimisation
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Dr Sarah Dacre
<b>Date:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2012

### **Project Description**

The Montrose Bridge-linked Platform (BLP) project includes a number of proposals to optimise recovery of reserves from the Montrose and Arbroath area. These include:

- Construction of a BLP at the Montrose platform
- Drilling of 3 production wells at the Shaw field
- Drilling of 2 production wells at the Cayley field
- Tie-backs from the Shaw and Cayley Fields to the BLP, 17km and 10.5km in length respectively.
- Drilling of 2 injection wells at Shaw
- Drilling of 7 infill wells at the Montrose field

Production of oil and gas from the Shaw, Cayley and Montrose wells will increase production to a peak of 4,752 Te/d and 2,076 Msm<sup>3</sup>/d in 2017 respectively.

Oil will be exported to the Forties Pipeline System via the existing export riser on Montrose. Gas will be exported via a new riser to the existing Wood and Gas Export (WaGE) gas export line which is tied into the Central Area Transmission System (CATS) pipeline for export to the CATS terminal on Teeside.

Commencement of works is planned for Q2 2014, with Shaw first oil and Cayley first gas anticipated for Q3 2015.

### **Key Environmental Sensitivities**

The EIA identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- Fish Stocks: The area is within spawning grounds for Norway pout (January to May) and *Nephrops* (all year round). Nursery grounds for blue whiting and haddock are also located within the project area.
- Seabirds: Seabird vulnerability is very high in September and high in July and November. Overall vulnerability is considered to be moderate.
- Annex I Habitats: There was no evidence of Annex I Habitats in the vicinity of the proposed operations.

- Annex II Species: Harbour porpoise have been observed in the vicinity of the project area.
- Other Users of the Sea:
  - Moderate to low shipping traffic in the vicinity of the project.

### **Key Potential Environmental Impacts**

The EIA identified the following potential impacts and related mitigation:

- **Physical interference:** With regard to fishing and shipping activity, appropriate mitigation measures will be put in place, including a 500m exclusion zone and other measures, such as notifying the Kingfisher Bulletins, Notices to Mariners and liaison with fishermen. Impacts on fisheries and navigation are not considered to be significant.
- **Atmospheric emissions.** The highest emissions associated with the project will be those associated with the drilling operations and infrastructure installation. Given the releases are short in duration, impacts are not considered to be significant.
- **Noise: Piling operations will have** a typical source level of piling operations with respect to the bridge linked platform (BLP) is 236dB re 1mPa@1m and is considered to be the most significant noise source associated with the project. Modelling indicates that the source level will fall to 197 dB re 1mPa@1m within the first 250 m, to 187 dB re 1mPa@1m at 1km and will have decreased to 131 dB re 1mPa@1m within a 30km radius. The sound levels considered to cause injury to cetaceans is 230 dB re 1mPa@1m. The sound levels produced while piling the BLP would cause injury to cetaceans up to a radius of 4m and temporal threshold shift in hearing up to a radius of 14m from the source. Talisman have committed to not undertaking piling operations if a marine mammal is observed within 500m of the operations. With this in place and due to the localised and temporary nature of the piling operations and low cetacean density at the time of operations, noise impacts are not considered to be significant.
- **Marine discharges:** All chemicals used for the commissioning and processing operations are selected by Talisman on the basis of technical compatibility and environmental performance and the marine environment is sufficiently dynamic to facilitate rapid dispersion. A more detailed risk assessment of the proposed chemical use and discharge relating to the operations will be undertaken in the subsequent applications for chemical permits.
- **Seabed disturbance and coastal processes:** The pipeline and BLP installation operations and drilling activities will directly impact the seabed, the most significant being through the trenching and backfill operations of the pipeline laying. The species composition of the benthic communities within the area have shown to be relatively resilient to the effects of sediment mobilisation and would recover rapidly from seabed disturbance.
- **Accidental events:** A number of control measures will be in place to minimise the risk of accidental events. Talisman will be required to have an approved Oil Spill Emergency Plans (OPEP) in place before operations can commence. OSIS modelling of the worst-case hydrocarbon and diesel spills have been undertaken and included in the EIA.
- **Cumulative impacts:** The proposed operations are not considered to have any significant cumulative impacts.
- **Transboundary Impacts:** No transboundary impacts are likely as a result of this project, however results from hydrocarbon spill modeling suggests that there is a potential to affect Norwegian, Dutch and/or Danish waters. International agreements are in place to ensure a suitable emergency response.

### **Consultation**

Comments were received from the Marine Scotland (MS), the Joint Nature Conservation

Committee (JNCC), Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA), Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

There were no objections to the proposed development.

**Public Notice:** Public notice of the ES elicited no representations.

**Additional Information**

Further information was requested in relation to project option selection, including option selection for power generation and overboard discharge. In addition, Talisman were also asked to provide more detailed discussion of the benthic baseline data to satisfy DECC and its consultees that no Annex I species could be potentially impacted.

Talisman Energy (UK) Limited provided the additional information which satisfactorily addressed the clarifications raised.

**Conclusion**

On the basis of the information presented within the ES and the advice received from consultees, DECC OED is content that there are no environmental or navigational objections to approval of the ES.

**Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the ES should be approved.**

**Approved**

.....*Sarah Pritchard*.....

**Sarah Pritchard- Head of Environmental Operations**

**Date 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012**