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

Talisman

ORION 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 P73, 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 Orion Field. The consent for the Orion field took effect from 29/01/99 and shall last until 31/12/03.

Background

Situated in approx. 70-80 m of water in an area of relatively low fishing activity. Catches are primarily between April and July and comprise demersal species such as cod, haddock and whiting. A high density mackerel spawning area exists between Aug. and Oct. and a cod spawning area peaking in Feb. Norway Pout and Sprat spawning grounds are adjacent to the proposed development. Seabird vulnerabilities occur in Jan and Oct.

Drilling and Well Completion

Drilling

Two wells to be drilled, PAL-1 (30/18-6, 6Z) and TOR-1 (30/18-G). PAL 1 will be vertical and TOR 1 will be 60 m to the west of PAL 1 and will be a deviated horizontal well. GOR approx. 2000 scf/bbl

It is anticipated that the following volumes of rock will be discharged to the sea:

PAL -1

| Hole Section | Measured depth (m) | Cuttings weight (tonnes) |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 36"sw/gel | 171 | 128 |
| 26"sw/gel | 484 | 340 |
| 17.1/2"wbm + KCl | 1672 | 386 |
| 12 1/4"sbm* | 3050 | 243 |
| Kick off side track | | |
| 12 1/4" sbm* | 3171 | 110 |
| 8 1/2" sbm* | 4495 | 111 |
| Total | | 1318 |

Ester based TOR-1

| Hole Section | Measured depth (m) | Cuttings weight (tonnes) |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 36"sw/gel | 209 | 168 |
| 26"sw/gel | 636 | 341 |
| 17.1/2"wbm + KCl | 1672 | 375 |
| Kick off side track | | |
| 12 1/4" sbm* | 3303 | 289 |

| | | |
|--------------|------|-------------|
| 8 ½” sbm* | 3875 | 49 |
| Total | | 1222 |

Ester based

Abandonment

Well suspension is similar for both wells and conforms with UKOOA guidelines. The wellhead permanent guide will remain proud to the seabed to a level of about 2-3 m

Pipeline abandonment

Pipeline

The two Orion wells will be linked to the Clyde platform by an 8” or 10” multi-phase steel pipeline of 16.3 m length. Three pipeline crossings will be necessary.

The lines will be trenched and exposed sections will be rock dumped. Hydrotesting cocktail constituents detailed together with concentrations and discharge volumes. There will be minimal environmental impact due to low discharge volumes. (total 0.64 cu m of Blacksmith O-3670 plus fluorescein [OCNS cat 1 and 0 respectively]).

Environmental Sensitivities and Impacts

“Moderate negative” impacts were identified and mitigatory measures described for seabed sediments, benthic organisms, finfish/shellfish, birds, mammals and the fishing industry Potential trans-boundary effects were assessed and were described as negligible and potential cumulative impacts were described. The Environmental Management System /Co Policy described. Environmental policy implemented through the Environmental. Adviser. What about senior management involvement?

Recommendation

The ES describes the intended development adequately and potential environmental impacts/mitigatory measures are also satisfactorily described. Once the position regarding the consent to drill PAL 1 is resolved, it is recommended that the development gains consent.