

[Home](#) | [Field Index](#)

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

Texaco

GALLEY 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 P185, granted a consent to Texaco North Sea U.K. Company to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Galley Field. The consent for the Galley field took effect from 01/01/01 and shall last until 31/12/01.

Background

The Galley field is located in the Outer Moray Firth in block 15/23a. Texaco are the Concession Owners of the Licence block and are partnered with Summit UK Oil Ltd and Lasmo. Texaco now propose to undertake Phase II development of the Galley field. A PON 15 for 15/231-G5 [W/96/1998] was given a direction earlier this year. This ES also addresses well G5 and its tie-in to sub-sea facilities and the Galley Floating Production Facility (FPF).

During the period 1974-91, eleven wells were drilled in the area and OBM was used for 15/23a-8 and 15/23a-9. The area was therefore mature in terms of oil and gas exploration. Phase II is required to recover additional hydrocarbons from the Galley North area (North Extension). This will extend the field plateau production period as the production from Phase I producing wells begin to decline. This ES assesses the environmental impacts/mitigatory measures for the G5 well and the connection of the existing subsea production skid. Reservoir fluids will be produced via an existing flowline and riser to the FPF and then on to the Tartan A platform. Oil will be exported to Flotta and gas to St Fergus using existing facilities.

Drilling

Drilling is scheduled for November and will be from either the existing G1 wellhead or from Slot 4 (both are G5 North Extension). Should G1 be chosen, then the drilling operation is planned to take 71 days and completion a further 21 days. Slot 4 would take an additional 5 days.

Well clean-up

Reservoir fluids will be burned using Supergreen burners. Flow rates on the drilling rig are constrained to a maximum of 15,000 bbls/day of oil. No produced water is expected from the well during the clean up.

Decommissioning

All equipment above the seabed will be removed. The well will be plugged and abandoned.

Production Issues

Phase II production is not predicted to cause any additional flaring. Phase II provides an additional 5 million barrels of oil and 650 mmscf of gas over a 4 year field life period. Water production over this period will be 35,000 bbls.

Other Issues

Chemicals Discharges

Chemicals discharges within OCNS categories, but no quantification of impacts. A comment that [the chemicals produce a] "Local effect in area of discharge" is all that is provided.

Hydrotesting

During the start-up of the well, the contents of the jumper flowline, together with the contents of the pipeline from the subsea facility to the Floating Production Facility, will be displaced to the FPF by well fluids. This fluid will be discharged from the FPF after passage through the produced water system. The volume discharged will be 42m³.

Environmental Sensitivities and Impacts

The major issue is the poor evaluation of the toxicity of production chemicals releases. No quantitative data is given to back-up the contention that the impact of chemicals releases are of minor impact. This is unsatisfactory and should be addressed in an Addendum. The toxicity of hydrotesting chemicals releases should also be quantitatively assessed.

Cumulative effects of the project need expansion.

Recommendation

Overall, the ES is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development. Recommend that consent for the development is given.