

Glenelg Field Development ES Web Comments

ES Title: Glenelg Field Development
Operator: Total E & P UK Plc
ES Report No: D/2064/2004
ES Date: March 2004
Block Nos: 29/4d & 29/5b
Development Type: A single high departure well from the existing Elgin Well Head Platform

Synopsis:

The Glenelg field is located mainly in block 29/4d and also 29/5b in the Central North Sea, approximately 235km from the Grampian coast, approximately 4km west-south west of the existing Elgin Platform and approximately 30km from the median line with Norway. The water depth is approximately 90 to 95 meters and the seabed is mainly muddy sand.

It is proposed to develop the Glenelg Field via a single highly deviated production well, drilled from a jack up drilling rig at the existing Elgin Well Head Platform. A combination of water based muds (WBM) and oil based muds (OBM) will be used to drill the well with the 2,700 tonnes of OBM cuttings returned to the rig and will either be skipped and shipped for treatment and disposal onshore or may be treated offshore with treated cuttings being discharged to sea. It is planned to commence drilling in the 3rd Quarter of 2004.

The expected hydrocarbons are condensate and gas, with the condensate being processed on the existing Elgin Process Utilities and Quarters (PUQ) Platform and exported via the existing pipeline to Bacton, East Anglia and the condensate being exported via the existing Forties pipeline to Kinneil, Scotland. The Glenelg development strategy is to utilize spare capacity as it becomes available on the Elgin PUQ. There will be minor modifications required to the Elgin Well Head Platform.

Prior to commencement of production the well will be cleaned up with a resultant 2,700 tonnes of gas and 1,250 tonnes of condensate being flared over a 6 day period. The seabed vulnerability is generally moderate to low, only rising to high during November and January. Fish species spawning in the Glenelg Field area includes mackerel, lemon sole and Norway pout.

DTI requested further confirmation with regard to the well clean up, produced water implications, the PPC implications, OBM cuttings treatment. Further information was provided in a letter dated 11 June 2004 and we are satisfied that the ES and the additional information addresses the impacts from the proposed development and overall no significant environmental impacts have been found.

Consultees: The statutory consultees for the ES were the JNCC and FRS.

JNCC: JNCC has no objections

FRS – FRS has no objections to the proposal on the grounds that the impacts will be localized and transient.

Public Consultation - No comments were received as a result of public consultation.

Recommendation: The project should be granted consent.