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

TotalFinaElf

OTTER 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 Licences P226 & P1021, granted a consent to Total Fina Elf U.K. Plc to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Otter field. The consent for the Otter field took effect from 23/07/01 and shall last until 31/12/07.

Background

TotalFinaElf propose to develop the Otter Field, in Block 210/15a as a subsea tie back to the existing Eider facility, operated by Shell. The project comprises of drilling, the installation of subsea structures, including a pipeline to the Eider platform and the drilling of three production wells and two water injectors (one of these WI's will be achieved by re-entering an existing suspended well). Drilling operations will be from a semi-submersible drilling rig. The intended drilling operations will commence in January 2002 and last for about 231 days with production scheduled for November 2002. The wells will be tied back to the Eider platform, some 21 Km to the south-east of the field with Otter oil and gas separated and dehydrated on the Eider platform prior to export to the North Cormorant platform before onward export to the Sullom Voe oil terminal (oil) and St Fergus terminal for gas. Otter will be operated from the North Cormorant platform *via* Eider.

Fish spawning occurs across the area between January and May and nursery areas are present for a variety of commercially important fish. The highest seabird vulnerability occurs across the entire area in July and to the south west of the field in February and March. Fishing activity occurs in the area of interest and mariculture is present on the Shetland Islands.

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.