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

### TotalFinaElf

#### VESTERLED PIPELINE

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 PL 1839, granted a consent to TotalFinaElf Exploration (U.K.) Inc to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the pipeline. The consent for the Vesterled pipeline took effect from 09/05/01.

#### Background

TotalFinaElf (TFE) have requested consent to install a new 32" pipeline that will connect the Heimdal Riser Platform in the Norwegian Sector to the existing Frigg Norwegian Pipeline (FNP) which travels south west from Frigg to St Fergus. The new pipeline is 53.5 km in length of which 34.6 km will be located in the UK sector, the remaining length will be in the Norwegian sector. The pipeline is designed to carry dry gas.

Part of the line will be laid parallel to the existing FNP line over a distance of some 17 km. This, 17 km length of the old line is corroded and will be replaced by the new line; which will enable the FNP to be used at its correct design maximum operating pressure of 148.9 bar. Although the proposed pipeline does not meet the criteria for a mandatory ES, an ES was requested for the section within the UKCS. A separate ES was produced for the Norwegian sector and submitted to the Norwegian authorities. Key issues identified included the potential risk of snagging and the decommissioning of the redundant 17 km section.

This is a gas line and no significant impacts were identified. Additional information was provided by TFE on the issues raised by both the consultees and the DTI and, following consultation, the ES was approved.

#### **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.