

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

### Tullow Oil UK Ltd

#### Thurne Field Development

Pursuant to Regulation 5(8) of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry gives notice that he is content that the requirements of the above Regulations have been satisfied. Consent has been granted to Tullow Oil UK Ltd for the getting of gas and the construction of installations, in relation to the development of the Thurne field, in accordance with the proposals set out in the environmental statement. The consent for the development took effect from August 2006 and shall remain in force for a period of two years.

#### Background

Tullow Oil UK Ltd is planning to develop the Thurne Gas Field in block 49/28, approximately 65 kilometres to the north east of the nearest landfall at Great Yarmouth and approximately 47 kilometres west of the UK/Dutch median line. Development will entail sidetracking an existing well, which is currently not producing and will be partially abandoned. An existing flow line, umbilical and control system will be used to transport produced gas to the ExxonMobil Thames AR Platform.

The Thurne well is due to be drilled in September 2006. It will be drilled using WBM and LTOBM, with 156 tonnes of WBM cuttings being discharged to sea and the LTOBM cuttings being shipped to shore for disposal.

#### Sensitivities

An environmental impact assessment identified and addressed activities with the potential to impact on the environment. Of these, seabed disturbance and loss of containment were assessed as being of moderate significance, physical presence as being of minor significance and others of negligible significance. Impacts will be minimised by making maximum possible use of existing infrastructure. Mitigation and

operational control measures are identified to manage the operations and further reduce any environmental impact.

Both CEFAS and JNCC reviewed and commented on the environmental statement and both were satisfied that there is unlikely to be a significant environmental impact arising from this development. No concerns or comments were received following public consultation.

### **Recommendation**

The environmental statement was considered to be satisfactory and adequately assessed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development. It was therefore recommended that consent should be given to the project.

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