

**Venture North Sea Oil Limited [Centrica Energy]
Goosander Production Increase
Environmental Statement Summary and Sign-off**

To: Sarah Pritchard

From: Sarah Dacre

Date: 13 July 2011

ES Title:	Goosander Increase in Production
Operator:	Venture North Sea Oil Limited [Centrica Energy]
Consultants:	Genesis Oil and Gas Consultants
Field Group (DECC):	Aberdeen
ES Report No:	D/4096/2011
ES Date:	February 2011
Block Nos:	21/12 and 21/18
Development Type:	Increase in production (in-fill well)

Project Description

Further development of the Goosander Field by the drilling of an additional development well (Crestal), tied back to existing infrastructure by a 120m rigid spool. All fluids will be routed to the Kittiwake platform for processing and export. First oil is anticipated for Q3 2011, with an initial production rate of approximately 14,250bbl/day of oil and 69,000m³ of gas.

Centrica Energy applied for a revised production consent to reflect the increase in production generated by the Crestal well. No further developments are planned for the field at present.

Key Environmental Sensitivities

The EIA identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- High shipping activity;
- Fishing effort is low;
- Fish spawning area for lemon sole (August to September), *Nephrops* (all year), Norway pout (Jan-April), sandeel (January-February, November-December);
- Seabird vulnerability is very high in June, September to November;
- Low numbers of cetaceans have been recorded in the Goosander/Kittiwake area, primarily harbor porpoise, minke whale, white beaked dolphin and white sided dolphin;
- Annex I Habitats: There are no Annex I habitats within the area;
- Annex I Species: there are no Annex I species in the vicinity of the proposed development.
- Annex II Species: harbour porpoise occurs in low numbers, mainly in the summer months;
- Protected sites: *The nearest cSACs to the Goosander Field and the Kittiwake platform are the Scanner pockmark and Braemar pockmark, 95km and 180km away respectively.*

Key Potential Environmental Impacts

The following potential impacts and mitigation were addressed in the EIA:

Chemical use and discharge

There would be no significant increase in chemical use/discharge as a result of increased production from the Crestal well at the Kittiwake platform.

Produced water discharges

Modifications to the Produced Water Re-Injection (PWRI) will be completed by first oil and commissioning and therefore there will be zero produced water discharges. It is anticipated that one re-injection well will be sufficient to maintain zero discharge of fluids, however Centrica will continue to monitor the situation and assess the need for a further PWRI well.

Accidental discharges

The production phase will be covered under the OPEP for the Kittiwake area and various measures are already in place, such as the minimisation of bunkering operations (in daylight hours only), visual inspection of hoses/connections etc.

Atmospheric emissions

The increase in production from the Crestal well will have an impact on the energy demand (as a consequence of the re-instatement of the PWRI system), however it was concluded that the platform would still be able to continue with its current power generation philosophy of running 2 out of 3 generators.

Production from the Crestal well is not expected to increase atmospheric emissions at the Kittiwake platform. It is anticipated that flare levels will be managed by optimising equipment reliability by continuous servicing, maintenance and equipment upgrade, as well as well optimisation.

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

Consultee(s):

The statutory consultees for this project were JNCC and Marine Scotland. The following comments were made:

JNCC: JNCC confirmed that they are content for the ES to be approved.

Marine Scotland: Marine Scotland confirmed that they are content for the ES to be approved.

Further Information: In addition to the consultee comments a number of minor clarifications were sought by DECC and further information was requested.

Centrica Energy provided the additional information requested and where appropriate acknowledged comments and committed to incorporating them in future submissions. All issues were considered satisfactorily amended and clarified.

Conclusion(s):

Following consultation and the provision of the additional information on the 13th May, DECC and its consultees are satisfied that this project is not likely to have a significant impact on the receiving environment, including any sites or species protected under the Habitats Regulations.

Recommendation(s):

On the basis of the information presented within the ES and advice from consultees it is recommended that the ES should be approved.

Sarah Pritchard

