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Venture North Sea Gas Limited

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

The proposed development is located in Block 49/10c in the Southern North Sea, approximately 140km from the English coastline. The project comprises of the installation of a 7.5km flow line and umbilical from the Stamford field (UKCS) to Markham CT (Dutch sector). This will include the laying of 60 concrete mattresses and contingency rock dumping of 10,000 tonnes. Pipeline testing and commissioning will also be conducted.

The project is not in the vicinity of any SAC's designated for Offshore Natura 2000 habitat. Sabellaria spinulosa was identified in the area of the Stamford development however the patches identified do not constitute a reef habitat that could be considered as a potential Offshore Natura 2000 habitat.

The shortest practical pipeline installation schedule is proposed and safety zones will be in operation throughout the installation. Overall the area impacted by the flow line and umbilical is estimated to be 150,000m². The installation of the pipelines will disturb benthic fauna. However, the impact will be of a temporary nature, especially in the event of rapid re-colonisation. Pipe lay and installation vessels will produce noise during installation operations, lasting approximately 17 days, but impacts to marine mammals will be minimal and insignificant. In addition, the only foreseeable discharges are associated with the proposed commissioning of the pipeline. All chemicals used will be CEFAS registered and are not considered to be significantly harmful to the environment. There will be no produced water discharged from Stamford.

Following consultation and the provision of the additional information on the 5th and 15th August, BERR and its consultees were 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. The ES was approved on the 21st August 2008.

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