

**Barnacle Field Development
ES Web Comments**

ES Title:	Barnacle Development
Operator:	Energy Development Partners (EDP)
ES Report No:	D/3216/2006
ES Date:	October 2006
Block Nos:	211/29
Development Type:	Development of the Barnacle field

Synopsis

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, she has granted a consent to EDP to the getting of petroleum and the drilling of a development well in Block 211/29 (hereafter referred to as "the project") subject to EDP conducting operations in respect of the project in accordance with the relevant environmental statement. The consent for the well was given on 27 October 2006 and shall remain in force for a period of two years.

EDP is planning to develop the Barnacle field located in Block 211/19 in the northern North Sea, approximately 138km ENE from the Shetland Islands and 3km W of the UK/Norwegian transboundary line. The Barnacle development well will be drilled as an extended reach well from the Shell operated Brent Delta (D) platform. The scheduled spud date is January 2007, with drilling operations anticipated to last 80 days. It is proposed to drill the well as a sidetrack of the existing BD-46 well, which is currently suspended and will be abandoned by Shell prior to the commencing of the Barnacle sidetrack.

During production, the Barnacle field will be operated by EDP, with service and production operations provided by Shell as duty holder on the Brent D platform. Oil from the Barnacle field will be exported back to Sullom Voe via the existing Brent export system.

The Barnacle well will be drilled using low toxicity oil based mud (LTOBM). Full cuttings and mud containment will be carried out with the intention that all waste shall be re-injected down a Brent Delta CRI well. In the event of this system failing, a back-up bulk handling system shall be utilised to enable the drill cuttings to be transported to another Shell drill site for re-injection or to be skipped and shipped for treatment and disposal onshore.

All Barnacle reservoir fluids will be processed and stabilised to export standard through the existing Brent D production facilities. Studies have confirmed that Barnacle well fluids are compatible with the present Brent fluids and as such no platform additions or modifications will be required.

There will be no substantial change under the Offshore Combustion Installation (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Regulations 2001.

Sensitivities

The environmental statement identifies a range of potential environmental hazards and outlines proposed mitigation measures, including:

- Physical presence
- Seabed disturbance
- Noise and vibration
- Atmospheric emissions
- Marine discharges
- Loss of containment
- Solid Waste
- Transboundary impacts
- Cumulative impacts

Recommendation

Based on the information presented in the environmental statement and further information provided, it is recommended that project consent be given.