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

BP

FOINAVEN FIELD

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 P803, granted a consent to BP Exploration Operating Company Limited to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Foinaven field. The consent for the Foinaven field took effect from 01/01/01 and shall last until 31/12/01.

Background

The development involves a tie-back of three wells to the existing *Petrojarl Foinaven* FPSO through a 7km long 8" production flowline. The top three wells (2 production and 1 water injection) will be drilled with WBM except the lower sections where LTOBM will be employed. LTOBM contaminated cuttings will be contained and shipped to shore. Discharge of WBM contaminated cuttings will be minimal, with surface discharged cuttings widely dispersed, presenting minimal impact on the marine environment. Detailed studies indicate that there are no known *Lophelia* reefs in the area, with the nearest occurrence of *Lophelia* being small opportunistic colonies on a shipwreck 4km (SW) distant. Flowlines will be laid on the seabed and the wells protected by a new exclusion zone, within an existing development area, therefore any additional impact on fisheries will be low.

Produced fluids will be processed at the FPSO, as decline in the main field increases. There will be no net increase in gas production, in fact if the Magnus EOR project comes on stream, gas disposal will be reduced. Similarly, there will be no increased need for chemical usage. However, combined produced water levels may exceed current design capacity, requiring BPA to consider several options for future produced water processing needs. At peak, the increased crude oil production will add 11-14 cargo transfers and associated shuttle tanker movements. The increased risk, although small, has been assessed and incorporated in mitigation and response planning measures.

The proposed development was considered by JNCC as to its potential interaction with habitats or concentrations of species that could be considered in future as candidate Special Areas of Conservation. JNCC are unaware of any such habitats or concentrations of species and therefore consider that the proposed activity will not affect any possible future SAC.

Recommendation

Overall the environmental statement is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development. Recommend that consent be given.