

[Home](#) | [Environment](#) | [Index](#)

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

BP EXPLORATION OPERATING COMPANY LTD

FARRAGON 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, she has, granted a consent to BP Exploration Operating Company Ltd to the getting of petroleum in Block 16/28 (hereafter referred to as "the project") subject to BP Exploration Operating Company Ltd conducting operations in respect of the project in accordance with the relevant environmental statement. The consent for the field was given on 27th September 2004 and shall remain in force for a period of two years.

Background

BP Exploration Company Ltd is planning to develop the Farragon field located in block 16/28. Two new development wells (FW and FN) will be drilled and a manifold installed. This will be tied back to the Cyrus bundle which is located 6.4 km SSE of the Farragon field. The Farragon and Cyrus fluids will then be commingled and transported along the existing 6.5 km pipeline to the Andrew platform. The Farragon field is located approximately 225 km from the coastline and 12 km from the UK/Norway median line. The expected hydrocarbons are oil. The FW well is to be drilled in the first quarter of 2005 and the FN well in the second quarter of 2005.

The wells will be drilled using WBM and LTOBM, with 870 tonnes of WBM cuttings to be discharged to sea. The 323 tonnes of LTOBM will either be re-injected at a host installation or shipped to shore.

Sensitivities

An Environmental Impact Assessment presented within the ES identified and addressed activities as having the potential to impact the environment. Prevention, control and mitigation measures aimed to minimise any potential environmental

impact are presented within the impact assessment. Both FRS and the JNCC reviewed and commented on the ES and the supporting information and both are satisfied that there is unlikely to be a significant environmental impact arising from this development.

Recommendation

Overall the environmental statement is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed operation. It is recommended that consent is given to the project.

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[Top of page](#)