

**Laggan Appraisal Well 206/1a-ABC1
ES Web Comments**

ES Title: **Laggan Appraisal Well 206/1a-ABC1**
Operator: **Total E & P UK Plc.**
ES Report No: **W/2039/2004**
ES Date: **January 2004**
Block Nos: **206/1a**
Development Type: **Single Appraisal Well**

Synopsis:

The proposed Laggan Appraisal Well is situated in Block 206/1a in the Northern North Sea, approximately 80 Km west of the Shetland Islands, on the east slope of the Faroe Shetland Channel, and approximately 60Km from the UK/ Faroes Median Line. The aim of the appraisal well is to further investigate two specific geological targets AB1 & ABC1, and establish the specific composition of the gas, before a final decision is made whether and how to proceed with the Laggan development.

Drilling operations are planned to commence in the early April 2004 and last for approximately 4 months. It is proposed to drill a dual bore well rather than two vertical wells and if development proceeds, the well will be re-used as a producer. Water based mud will be used to drill the whole well, with approximately 1,600 tonnes of cuttings discharged to sea. A contingency is included to use oil based fluid for the deeper sections of the well, which if used will be skipped and shipped to shore for treatment/disposal.

The reservoir hydrocarbons are dry gas with very little condensate. The well is to be logged and cored and a maximum of two short well tests undertaken. Following drilling the well will either be temporarily suspended or permanently abandoned. Any future development will be the subject of further assessment.

The EIA identified the following impacts which were considered potentially significant and required further investigation:-

Drilling discharges
Underwater noise
Atmospheric emissions
Hydrocarbon spills

The ES considered these points in detail and included evidence from a previous appraisal well to demonstrate their predictions in relation to the impacts of drill cuttings. Total have also committed to use an ROV to survey the seabed before and after drilling in an attempt to further verify the predictions of the ES and extend the understanding of potential impacts from drilling discharges. We are satisfied that the ES addresses the impacts from the proposed development and overall no significant environmental impacts have been identified.

Consultees: The statutory consultees for the ES were the JNCC and FRS

SNH: - SNH support Total's approach to minimising noise effects.

JNCC: - JNCC is content for the well to proceed but recommended following:

The JNCC Guidelines for minimising acoustic disturbance to marine mammals from seismic survey should be followed before and after the VSP operations.

Further consultation regarding the use of explosives during well abandonment and a requirement to put in place mitigation measures.

JNCC commented on the good use by Total of evidence from a previous well to demonstrate the likely effects of the drilling operations and welcomed Total's commitment to use an ROV during the operations to survey the nature & effect of the drilling discharges.

FRS: - supports the conclusions of the ES that the environmental impacts will be transient and localised and have no objections to consent being granted for the well.

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

Recommendation: The well consent should be granted