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

Lasmo

BLOCK 49/4

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 Licences P468 & P849, granted a consent to Lasmo North Sea Plc to the getting of petroleum and the drilling of an exploration well in Block 49/4 (hereafter referred to as "the project") subject to Lasmo North Sea Plc conducting operations in respect of the project in accordance with the relevant environmental statement.

Consent for the well was given on 9 April 1999.

Background

Lasmo North Sea Plc proposed to drill a single appraisal well in late February. IS called Lasmo North Sea Plc and, due to operational constraints and delays within the DTI, this has now been postponed until March. The well is located in block 49/4a in the Southern North Sea approximately 172 km East North East of Flamborough Head in water depth of 39m.

Drilling

Drilling will be conducted by the Arch Rowan with the rig in place for 113 days to drill and test the well. The upper sections will be drilled using WBMs with LTOBMs used for the lower section. All LTOBMs will be skipped and shipped to shore.

Hole Size	Mud Type	Wgt of Cuttings	Discharge Route
36"	WBM	88.13	Sea
24"	WBM	699.34	Sea
16"	WBM	380.45	Sea
12¼"	WBM	165.96	Sea
8½"	WBM	37.29	Sea
6"	LTOBM	40.5	Skip and ship to shore
Total		1412.32	

Well Testing

An EWT will take place over 14 days with 654 te gas flared per day. Total CO₂ produced is predicted to be 24,000 te. Green burners to be used.

No modelling of this intended flaring is shown in the ES, nor any predictions as to whether potential plumes would impact The Netherlands due to the close proximity of the Median Line (15 Km).

Well Abandonment/Decommissioning

Following the EWT, the well will be suspended and shut in for 6 months. After this 6 month period, a decision will be taken by LASMO as to whether the well will be developed as a producer or be abandoned.

Ecology

Benthic details and discussion poor.

Environmental Sensitivities

Atmospheric Emissions

Power generation will produce emissions, but ES states no Trans Boundary Effects.

Oil Spill Contingency Plan

Diesel spills with a total inventory of 364m³.

OSIS modelling of potential diesel spill, but no modelling or discussion about potential condensate spill; it's fate and effects.

Environmental Management System

Company HS and E (plus security) system in place. Working towards ISO 14001 accreditation.

Comments received from statutory and non-statutory bodies:

Recommendation

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