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

STARLING DEVELOPMENT

Shell (U.K.) Limited

Shell (U.K.) Limited proposes to develop the Starling field, which lies approximately 201 km east of Aberdeen. The project involves the drilling of two development wells and exporting them via a 20" pipe in pipe production line to the Shearwater platform, 33 km away.

All wells will be drilled using a semi-submersible drilling rig and the export line will be trenched and buried. Rock dumping will be required along the pipeline route in order to avoid the risk of buckling.

Development will commence in the 1st quarter of 2007.

The location of the field is not thought to be in a particularly sensitive area and the drilling of two wells using water based mud for at least the top-hole sections and, if required oil based mud in the lower sections is not thought to have a significant environmental impact. All oil based mud and contaminated cuttings will be skipped and shipped to shore for treatment.

The laying and trenching of an export pipeline will have a short-term environmental impact, but it is predicted that the seabed will recover quickly.

A detailed impact assessment has been undertaken and where the assessment has identified any issues of potential significance, mitigation measures are in place to ensure that impacts are kept to a minimum. Details of the management systems in place are presented within the Environmental Statement.

After a period of public consultation and having taken onboard the advice from statutory consultees the Environmental Statement was approved on 20 December 2006.

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