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

Agatha Prospect Exploration, Amanda Field Appraisal, and proposals for their Development

The Amanda and Agatha Development is located in Block 49/11a in the Southern North Sea, approximately 90km north east of Bacton.

Venture plc propose to drill and test an appraisal sidetrack well 49/11a-9z through the Amanda reservoir and a directional exploration well in the Agatha Field. On completion, if the wells are successful, Venture proposes to install a 3km production tieback pipeline and umbilical and associated subsea infrastructure from the Amanda and Agatha wells to the Alison manifold.

The Amanda location will require anchors to position the rig and anchor chains will be buoyed at the mid points of the anchor chains to minimise seabed disturbance. The Agatha location does not require anchors. The wells will be drilled using WBM and discharged to sea and comprise chemicals that pose no risk to the marine environment. The pipeline will be installed using trenching (CTC Trencher 2) and jetting. No spoil heaps will be left along the trench line. Some spot rock dumping may be required.

The environmental sensitivities at the proposed location and the potential impacts arising from the proposed development have been assessed within the Environmental Statement submitted to the Department in March 2006 and additional information submitted on the 28 August 2006. A detailed impact assessment has been undertaken, including a review of all survey data provided. Where the assessment identified issues of potential significance, mitigation measures are in place to ensure that impacts are kept to a minimum. Details of environmental management systems and spill contingency were also presented.

After a period of public consultation and having taken onboard the advice from statutory consultees, the Environmental Statement was approved on 23rd October

2006.

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