



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Environmental Statement (ES) Summary and Sign-Off

Title:	Clipper South Field Production Increase Environmental Statement
Operator:	DEA UK SNS Ltd (DEA UK)
Report No:	D/4176/2015
Submission Date:	June 2015
Block No:	49/16a, 48/19c, 48/20a and 48/20b
Development Type:	Increase in Production
Reviewer:	Carrie Shaw
Date:	September 2015

A) Project Description:

The Clipper South field is located in Blocks 49/16a, 48/19c, 48/20a and 48/20b in the Southern North Sea, approximately 60 kilometres north of the nearest coastline at Sheringham, on the Norfolk coast and approximately 85 kilometres west of the UK/Netherlands median line; in a water depth of approximately 24 metres.

The Clipper South Field was originally brought on-line in August 2012 through the drilling of four production wells. The wells are controlled through the Clipper South platform, which was installed in August 2011 and is located in Block 48/19a. Reservoir fluids are routed to the Lincolnshire Offshore Gas Gathering System (LOGGS) for processing. This development was originally considered in the Clipper South Field Development ES (D/4081/2010).

Due to the well stimulation activities being more effective than anticipated and coupled with delays to the commencement of first gas, production levels at the Clipper South field are now greater than anticipated. The increase in gas production at the Clipper South field is above 500,000 m³ per day threshold and therefore an ES was required under the Offshore Pipelines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999 (as amended).

The increase in production from the Clipper South field is within the design capacity of the Clipper South Platform and the LOGGS host facility, no process plant modification is required to process the additional gas and no additional wells are to be drilled. The Clipper South field has an Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) covering its production operations.

B) Key Environmental Impacts:

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) identified and discussed additional atmospheric emissions resulting from the increase in production as having the potential to have an environmental impact. There will be no additional chemical use or discharge as a result of the increase in production and there will be no change to the existing produced water regime.

C) Key Environmental Sensitivities:

The EIA identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- **Fish:** The Clipper South field is located within the spawning grounds of lemon sole, mackerel, sandeels, sole and whiting and as a nursery area for cod, herring, lemon sole, mackerel, plaice, sandeels and whiting. The spawning and nursery areas are extensive and the increase in production is unlikely to have an impact on these species.
- **Seabirds:** Seabird vulnerability is very high in March and November, high in February, August and October and moderate to no activity for the remainder of the year. It has been assessed that there are sufficient mitigation measures in place to prevent accidental spills that could have a significant impact on seabirds and this will also be covered by the OPEP.
- **Protected habitats:** The Clipper South development is located within the boundary of the North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef cSAC/SCI. The increase in production is not expected to have any significant impact on protected habitats.
- **Protected species:** Harbour porpoise has been recorded in block 48/19 with highest numbers recorded during the period of June and July. Grey and Common Seals inhabit the east English coast and inshore waters and have occasionally been observed to travel long distances when foraging, both species are unlikely to be present in large numbers at the Clipper South field. No disturbance of marine mammals is expected as a result of the increase in production.
- **Other users of the sea:** The proposed development is situated within ICES rectangle 35F1, and relative fishing effort in the area is low. Shipping density in the vicinity of Block 48/19 is regarded as high. Appropriate navigational controls are already in place, and it is not anticipated that there will be any significant impact on other users of the sea as a result of the increase in production.

D) Consultation:

Comments were received from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Marine Management Organisation (MMO), the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD), Trinity House (TH). The ES was also subject to public notice.

JNCC: JNCC confirmed that they have no objections.

MMO: MMO have raised no concerns.

MCA: MCA confirmed that they have no objections.

MoD: MoD confirmed that they have no objections.

TH: TH confirmed that they have no objections.

Public Notice: No comments were received in response to the public notice.

E) Further Information:

Further information was requested from DEA UK, which addressed the issues raised during the internal DECC review. The information requested included clarification on whether a

consent application for increase in production had been made to the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) and if a chemical permit variation will be required to align the revised production figures. The additional information received from DEA UK on 21 August 2015 adequately addressed the issues raised.

F) Conclusion:

Following review of the ES, the response received from consultees and the additional information provided by DEA UK, DECC OGED is satisfied that this project will not have a significant adverse impact on the receiving environment or the living resources it supports, or on any protected sites or species or other users of the sea.

G) Recommendation:

On the basis of the information presented within the ES and advice received from consultees, DECC OGED is content that there are no environmental or navigational objections to approval of the proposals, and has advised the OGA that there are no objections to the grant of the relevant consents.

Approved

.....8 September 2015
Sarah Pritchard
Head of Offshore Oil & Gas Environment, DECC OGED