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

BP

ETAP DEVELOPMENT - MIRREN AND MADOES FIELDS

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 P111 and P233, granted a consent to BP Exploration Operating Company Limited to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the ETAP development. The consent for the ETAP development took effect from 03/01/02 and shall last until 31/12/11 for the Madoes field (operated by Shell UK Exploration and Production Limited) and from 07/01/02 and shall last until 31/12/12 for the Mirren field.

Background

BP intend to develop 4 satellite fields around the Eastern Trough Area Project (ETAP) facilities, located in the Central North Sea approximately 35km from the median line with Norway. The satellite development will involve the tie back of the Fiddich, Mirren, Madoes and Wood fields to the Central Processing facilities at Marnock.

The proposed project involves the drilling of up to 8 wells, which will produce oil and gas. The wells will be drilled with Water Based mud (WBM) and where required the lower sections with Oil based mud (OBM). The WBM mud contaminated cuttings will be discharged to sea and the OBM contaminated cuttings will be skipped and shipped to shore. The project requires installation of equipment and flowlines on the seabed to transport the oil and gas to the ETAP CPF and entails the processing and export of oil and gas via existing facilities. No significant increase in routine atmospheric discharges is expected as a result of this development at the CPF. The additional produced water will be re-injected. The existing Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP) will be updated to include the addition of the ETAP satellite development. No significant environmental impact was identified.

Recommendation

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