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

Statoilhydro

Gjoa to Flags Pipeline

Synopsis

- The Gjoa to FLAGS (Far North Liquids and Gas System) pipeline is a transboundary development. StatoilHydro are developing the Gjoa field in the Norwegian sector and tying it into FLAGS in the UK sector.
- The Gjoa field is 135km east of Shetland and 45km west of Norway. The pipeline will be 130 km long, of which 8.5km will be in the UK sector in blocks 211/29 and 211/30. The tie-in point will be in block 211/29 approximately 1.4km south of the Brent Alpha platform.
- It will be laid directly onto the seabed (i.e. not trenched), in a direct route between Gjoa and FLAGS. It is estimated that 76,750m³ of rock-dumping will be required to stabilise the line, of which 12,000m³ will be in UK sector.
- Work is anticipated to commence April 2009.

Key Environmental Sensitivities:

- Moderate to low fishing activity (occurs throughout the year).
- A number of species of cetaceans have been recorded within the area which include, harbour porpoises, dolphins and whales.
- Spawning area for lemon sole, sprat, sandeels, mackerel and plaice. Nursery area for sandeels, mackerel, cod, haddock, saithe and Norway pout.
- Seabird vulnerability is high in July and November moderate to low the remainder of the year.

- Shipping activity averages 2 vessels per day on shipping routes within a 10nm radius.

Habitats and Birds Directive potential issues:

- Annex 1 Habitats: None were identified
- Annex 2 Species: Low occurrence

Issues requiring further investigation:

Request that site survey data, choice of pipeline vessel and implications of delays on environmental sensitivities in the area is included and discussed within future PON 15C submissions.

Additional Information Requests:

BERR asked for additional information to clarify a number points throughout the ES including clarification that StatoilHydro EMS meets OSPAR requirements, the discharge point of the pipeline and the implications of delays in the commencement of operations.

Identification of Significant Impacts:

No significant impacts identified.

Consultees:

- JNCC
- FRS

Public Consultation: No comments were received within the 28 day period.

Conclusion:

An environmental statement was submitted to cover the proposed field development, which considered the potential implications of the development. Following consultation with the statutory consultees and the provision of additional information for clarification purposes from StatoilHydro, we are satisfied that this project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the receiving environment, including any habitats and species protected under relevant conservation legislation.

Recommendation:

Based on the information presented in the ES and further information received it was advised that project consent be given.

Approval date: 14th September 2007

Webmaster: [Danny Stocker](#)

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