

[Home](#) | [Environment](#) | [Index](#)

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

TULLOW OIL UK LTD

HORNE AND WREN FIELD DEVELOPMENT

Pursuant to Regulation 5(8) of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry gives notice that she is content that the requirements of the above Regulations have been satisfied. Consent has been granted to Tullow Oil UK Ltd for the getting of gas and the construction of installations, in relation to the development of the Horne and Wren field in accordance with the environmental statement. The consent for the Development took effect from 27th September 2004 and shall remain in force for a period of two years.

Background

Tullow Oil UK Ltd is planning to develop the Horne and Wren Fields located in blocks 53/3c and 53/4b, respectively. A Normally Unmanned Installation (NUI) will be installed between the two, in block 53/3c. Each well will be drilled from the NUI location. The NUI will be located approximately 64 km from the coastline and 38 km from the UK/Dutch median line. The expected hydrocarbons are gas. Export from the NUI facility will be via a new 20 km pipeline to the existing ExxonMobil Thames AR Platform.

The Horne is due to be drilled in October 2004 while the Wren is to be drilled in the 1st quarter of 2005. They are to be drilled using WBM and LTOBM, with 1,926 tonnes of WBM cuttings to be discharged to sea. LTOBM cuttings will be shipped to shore for disposal.

Sensitivities

The environmental statement identifies a range of potential environmental hazards and outlines proposed mitigation measures, including:

- Seabed disturbance
- Physical Presence
- Noise and Vibration

- Atmospheric Emissions
- Marine Discharges
- Solid Waste
- Loss of containment
- Transboundary impacts
- Cumulative impacts

Recommendation

Overall the environmental statement is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development. It is recommend that consent is given to the project.

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[Top of page](#)