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

Conoco

VIXEN FIELD

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 Licence P 33, granted a consent to Conoco (UK) Ltd to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the Vixen gas field. The consent for the Vixen field took effect from 10 November 1999 and shall last until 17 September 2010.

Background

The Vixen development lies in Block 49/17, 55 km northeast of the north Norfolk coast in the southern North Sea. Conoco propose to develop the Vixen gas accumulation during Spring / Summer 2000 with production expected to commence in Autumn 2000. The development will involve the re-entering of well 49/17-13 and then sidetracking into the reservoir. Water based mud will be used throughout the drilling operations with overboard discharge of drill cuttings, to a maximum of 71 tonnes. If a second well is required to accelerate production, then drill cuttings discharged will be a maximum of 1107 tonnes. It is very likely that the maximum will not be reached. There will be no well testing and the well will be cleaned up prior to production. Atmospheric emissions will be of an order in keeping with the small size of the development. After drilling, the field will be developed by a subsea installation tied back to the Viking platform via a new infield pipeline. Produced gas will be exported to the Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal via the Viking Transportation System.

Recommendation

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