

**TOTAL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION UK LIMITED
ELGIN FIELD INCREASE IN PRODUCTION**

Environmental Statement Summary

To: Jonathan Ward

From: Julie Cook

Date: 28 August 2018

ES Title:	CGA (Elgin) Field Production Increase
Operator:	TOTAL Exploration and Production UK Ltd (Total)
Consultants:	N/A
Field Group:	OGA, Central North Sea
ES Report No:	D/4210/2018
ES Date:	April 2018
Block Nos:	22/30b, 22/30c
Development Type:	Increase in Production

Project Description

TOTAL Exploration and Production UK Ltd (Total) submitted an Environmental Statement (ES) to the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED) to support an application for an increase in production from the Elgin field. Following the successful drilling of the B3 well, production is anticipated to be greater than expected and an increase in the consented level of production is therefore required.

The Elgin field is located in Blocks 22/30b and 22/30c in the Central North Sea, approximately 224 kilometres (km) east of the Scottish mainland and 33 km west of the UK / Norway median line, in a water depth of approximately 93 metres (m). The Elgin field is exploited via central processing facilities located on the Elgin Process, Utilities and Quarters (PUQ) platform, which is bridge-linked to two Well Head Platforms (WHPs), Elgin WHP A and WHP B. WHP A receives production from the Elgin and Glenelg reservoirs and WHP B receives production from the West Franklin field. All production is transferred to the PUQ for processing, which also receives production from the Franklin Normally Unattended Installation (NUI).

Production is high pressure and high temperature (HP/HT) gas and condensate. Following processing, the gas is exported via the Shearwater / Elgin Area Line (SEAL) to the Bacton Terminal, and the condensate is exported via the Graben Area Export Line (GAEL) to connect to the Forties Pipeline System, which in turn connects to the Cruden Bay terminal.

The anticipated increase in production exceeds the EIA Directive Annex I thresholds of 500,000 m³ of gas and 500 tonnes of condensate per day, and the new total production level will equate to the maximum processing capacity of the PUQ. There are no changes to the processing facilities, and only minor changes to the chemical use and discharge and the produced water discharge. The field is covered by an existing Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP).

Key Environmental Sensitivities

The Environmental Statement (ES) identified the following key environmental sensitivities:

Fish Stocks: The Elgin field is located within spawning grounds for cod, lemon sole, Norway pout, mackerel, and sandeels, and within nursery areas for blue whiting, cod, European hake, haddock, ling, Norway pout, plaice, whiting, herring, mackerel, sandeels, anglerfish and spurdog.

Seabirds: Seabird vulnerability is high in October and November and low for the remainder of the year.

Annex I Habitats: No Annex I habitats have been identified in the vicinity of the Elgin field.

Annex II Species: Atlantic white-sided dolphin, white-beaked dolphins, killer whales and long-finned pilot whales have been recorded in the general area, with most frequent observations between June and November. Grey and harbour seals are unlikely to be present in large numbers because of the distance from their haul-out sites.

Protected Sites: The nearest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is the Scanner Pockmarks located 150 km to the north. The nearest Marine Protected Area (MPA) is the East Gannet and Montrose Nature Conservation MPA which is located 14 km to the west of the Elgin field. The Fulmar recommended MCZ is located approximately 44 km to the south.

Other Users of the Sea: Fishing effort is low throughout the year. Landings are primarily demersal species, including haddock and *Nephrops*. The area is categorised as low shipping density.

Key Potential Environmental Impacts

The ES identified the following key potential environmental impacts:

Atmospheric emissions: The main sources of atmospheric emissions will be the existing platform power generation and flaring activities, and from periodic supply vessel and helicopter traffic, and no significant increases in impacts are anticipated.

Marine discharges: Changes to production chemical use and discharge are expected to be limited. Produced water volumes are expected to increase in proportion to the increase in production. In both cases, no increased impact is anticipated.

Physical presence: No impacts have been identified as there are no changes to the existing facilities.

Physical disturbance: No impacts have been identified as no new infrastructure is being installed.

Noise: No significant sound impacts have been identified.

Cumulative effects: There are no anticipated cumulative impacts that are determined to be significant in a regional context.

Accidental events: Control measures will be in place to minimise the risk of accidental events, and the procedures to respond to any hydrocarbon spills are detailed in the existing OPEP.

Transboundary effects: The increases in emissions and discharges are not anticipated to result in any significant transboundary effects. In the event that a significant spill crosses the median line, Total would liaise with the Norwegian authorities and the UK Government, who would decide whether the NORBRIT Agreement should be implemented.

Consultation

Consultees: The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Marine Scotland (MS), the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) were consulted on the proposals, and no objections were received.

Public Notice: The ES was subject to Public Notice, but no representations were received.

Further Information

Issues identified by consultees and during the OPRED review were communicated to Total, and a response was received on 8th August 2018 that adequately addressed the issues.

Conclusions

Following the review of the ES, the responses received from consultees and the additional information provided by Total, BEIS OPRED is satisfied that the proposed increase in production will not have a significant adverse impact on the receiving environment or the living resources it supports, or on any protected habitats or species or other users of the sea.

Recommendation

On the basis of the information presented within the ES, the advice received from consultees and the provision of further information by Total, BEIS OPRED is content that there are no objections to the proposals, and agrees to the OGA issuing the necessary consent for the proposals. BEIS OPRED is also content that there are no specific mitigation or environmental conditions directly related to the proposals that need to be attached to the OGA consent.

Jonathan Ward.....

Jonathan Ward
Director, Offshore Environmental Operations
BEIS Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning

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Date 28/08/2018