



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

The Offshore Petroleum Production and Pipe-lines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020

Due to restrictions on public movement and distancing in response to the coronavirus outbreak, it has come to light that specific aspects of the Offshore Petroleum Production and Pipelines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999 (as amended) (“the EIA Regulations”) regarding public participation cannot be effectively complied with, notably the ability for the public to inspect Environmental Statement (ES) documentation made available for inspection by the applicant at a UK address.

To rectify the issue during times where coronavirus restrictions on movement exist (in legislation or Government guidance), a new statutory instrument has come into force today that introduces a temporary exemption to the requirement to make documentation available to inspect. The exemption disapplies the provision for the operator to make documentation available for inspection where it is required under regulation 9 and 10, and introduces the ability for the public to obtain a hard copy of the application for consent by post, in addition to obtaining by post a hard copy of the ES and the further information (where regulation 10 is concerned). The amendments also clarify that copies of documents do not need to be made available to be obtained in person in these circumstances.

Should you have any queries on the above in relation to a relevant project for which an environmental statement has already been, or is pending submission to the Department please contact BST@beis.gov.uk.

Kind regards
Business Support Team