

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-4544U
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Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

REPSOL SINOPEC RESOURCES UK LIMITED
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Registered No.: 00825828

Date: 4th March 2021

Department for Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Crimon Place
Aberdeen
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www.gov.uk/beis
bst@beis.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020**

Scapa South Bundle Stabilisation Works - PIPELINE PL387

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PL/2082/0 (Version 1), dated 1st March 2021 has been issued under regulation 6 of the above Regulations. The screening direction notice, and any relevant conditions and comments are attached. A copy of this screening direction will be forwarded to the application consultees, the Oil and Gas Authority and published on the gov.uk website.

If you have any queries in relation to this screening direction or the attachments, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] or email the Environmental Management Team at bst@beis.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020**

**SCREENING DIRECTION CONFIRMING THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT IS NOT REQUIRED**

Scapa South Bundle Stabilisation Works - PIPELINE PL387

PL/2082/0 (Version 1)

Whereas REPSOL SINOPEC RESOURCES UK LIMITED has made an application dated 1st March 2021, under The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020, and whereas the Secretary of State has considered the application and is satisfied that the project is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment; in exercise of the powers available under regulation 6, the Secretary of State hereby directs that the application for consent in respect of the project need not be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment, provided that the project is carried out as described in the application for the screening direction and in accordance with the conditions specified in the attached schedule.

In giving a screening direction under regulation 6 of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State accordingly gives his agreement to the Oil and Gas Authority to the grant of consent for the project as detailed in the application.

Effective Date: 4th March 2021



THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2020

SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION CONDITIONS

The grant of this screening direction is conditional upon the screening direction holder complying with the following conditions.

1 Screening direction validity

The screening direction shall be valid from 5 March 2021 until 31 August 2021.

2 Commencement and completion of the project

The holder of the screening direction must confirm the dates of commencement and completion of the project covered by the screening direction. Notification should be sent by email to the Environmental Management Team Mailbox: bst@beis.gov.uk

3 Nature of stabilisation or protection materials

Concrete mattress deposits

150 concrete mattresses, each measuring 6 metres x 3 metres x 30 centimetres. (The number of mattresses deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus mattresses must be returned to land).

300 concrete mattresses, each measuring 6 metres x 3 metres x 15 centimetres. (The number of mattresses deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus mattresses must be returned to land).

4 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials

As detailed in the application.

5 Prevention of pollution

The holder of the screening direction must ensure that appropriate measures are taken to minimise discharges, emissions and waste, in particular through the appropriate use of technology; and to ensure that necessary measures are taken to prevent incidents affecting the environment or, where they occur, to limit their consequences in relation to the environment.

6 Inspections

Should the Department consider it necessary or expedient for an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State to investigate whether the conditions of the screening



direction are being complied with, the holder of the screening direction shall afford the inspector with such facilities and assistance as the inspector considers necessary to exercise the powers conferred by the regulations. The holder of the screening direction shall additionally ensure that copies (electronic or paper) of the screening direction and any other relevant documents are available for inspection by the inspector at:

- a) the premises of the holder of the screening direction; and
- b) the facilities undertaking the project covered by the screening direction.

7 Monitoring

The results of any pre or post-placement surveys carried out to confirm the necessity for the deposits covered by the screening direction and/or to confirm the accurate positioning of the stabilisation or protection materials, should be forwarded to the Department following completion of the surveys

8 Check monitoring

Should the Department consider it necessary or expedient to undertake an independent monitoring programme to assess the impact of the project covered by the screening direction, the screening direction holder shall afford the Department with such facilities and assistance as the Department considers necessary to undertake the work.

9 Deposit returns

The holder of the screening direction shall submit a report to the Department following completion of the deposit covered by the screening direction, confirming the quantity of materials deposited and the estimated area of impact, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting form. Where no deposits are made, a 'nil' return is required.

10 Unauthorised deposits

Following completion of the project covered by the screening direction, the holder of the screening direction shall recover any materials accidentally or temporarily deposited on the seabed, such as debris, temporary containers, structures or deposits, or scientific instruments, and shall return the materials to land. If it is not possible to recover any of these deposits, full details of the materials remaining on the seabed must be reported to the Department in accordance with the requirements of Petroleum Operations Notice No.2 (PON2).

11 Screening direction variation

In the event that the holder of the screening direction proposes changes to any of the particulars detailed in the application for a screening direction, the holder must notify the Department immediately and submit an application for a post screening direction

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amendment. The post screening direction must be in place prior to the amended proposals taking effect.

COMMENTS ON THE APPLICATION FOR SCREENING DIRECTION

Section 1

The attention of screening direction holders is drawn to the following provisions regarding The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020.

1) You are deemed to have satisfied yourself that there are no barriers, legal or otherwise, to the carrying out of the project covered by the screening direction. The issue of a screening direction does not absolve the screening direction holder from obtaining such authorisations, consents etc that may be required under any other legislation.

2) The Department would draw your attention to the following comments:

The Department has no further comments.

3) All communications relating to the screening direction should be addressed to:

Out-of-hours emergency screening direction variations:

Telephone Met Office out-of-hours service (0330 135 0010) and ask to be connected to the Department's On-call Response Officer (Offshore Environmental Inspectorate).

Routine communications

bst@beis.gov.uk

or

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]

Fax [REDACTED]



SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION DECISION REASONS

The Secretary of State has decided that, based on the information provided, the project is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The main reasons for this decision are:

1) Decision reasons

Characteristics of Project

Having regard, in particular, to the matters identified at paragraphs 1(a) to (g) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the characteristics of the project include the following:

The installation of 450 mattresses on the Scapa South Bundle (PL2082)

Description of project

The Scapa field is a subsea tieback connected to the Claymore platform by two subsea bundles approximately 4.4 km in length. A situation has occurred that one of the 3" pipelines within the carrier pipe (Scapa South) is ruptured, which has caused the carrier pipe to float, approximately 30 m (at the highest point) over a length of approximately 625 m of the bundle near to the Scapa template. The works involve the venting of gas from the carrier pipe via one of the vent valves and the instalment of concrete mattresses to stabilise the Scapa South bundle. The deployment of the concrete mattresses to cover and re-instate the position of the Scapa South Bundle will be carried out using a crane from the Dive Support Vessel (DSV) Boka Atlantis and placed by divers once positioned at the correct locations. Provision has been made for different types of mattresses. The quantities requested are to ensure flexibility with the available stock of mattresses and the weight requirements from and engineering assessment. The maximum area of impact from laying the mattresses along the free span on the Scapa South Bundle will be 2,703 m². The installation campaign will be carried out partially within the 500 m safety zone around Scapa template with approximately 400 m of the Scapa South Bundle overlain with mattresses out with this zone. The campaign will take up to 5 days.

No cumulative interactions are foreseen with any other existing or approved projects. There is no risk to human health from the works to deposit protective and support materials on the seabed.

Location of Project

Having regard, in particular, to the matters identified at paragraphs 2(a) to (c) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the project has been considered as follows.

The Claymore and Scapa fields are in licence Block 14/19 in the central North Sea. The Claymore field is situated 130 km east of the UK coastline and approximately



102 km from the UK/Norwegian median line. The Scapa field is located 120 km east of the UK coastline and 108 km from the median line. The Claymore and Scapa fields both produce through topside facilities at the Claymore Platform. The Scapa field is a subsea tieback connected to the Claymore platform by two subsea bundles approximately 4.4 km in length. Water depths range from between 110 m and 116 m along the Scapa South Bundle. The predominant regional currents in the region are the vertically well-mixed coastal and Atlantic water inflow of the Fair Isle/Dooley Current. The project location is not within any protected areas, with the closest being 75 km away.

The seabed habitat in the South Scapa Bundle location comprises sand, gravel and muds in various proportions. The sediment type is described as deep circalittoral mud. The Claymore and Scapa fields are located on the north-western edge of the Witch Ground Basin which is strongly correlated with the distribution of pockmarks in the UK North Sea, however, evidence of such features containing Methane Derived Authigenic Carbonate (MDAC) have not been identified during site surveys. Benthic communities in the Claymore and Scapa fields are characteristic of the "offshore northern" ecological subdivision of the North Sea found over much of this area.

The project works and timing will take place at a time when several fish species may be found to be spawning or using the area as juveniles or nursery locations. Sightings of cetaceans are most common during the months of July and August. Seals are not expected to be seen at the remote location. Seabirds are most common in the area during the summer months of May and June, the Scapa facilities are located 120 km from the nearest land and are remote from the more sensitive breeding areas on the coast. Fishing activity within the area represents approximately 1.1% of the overall fishing effort across all ICES rectangles in the North Sea. A proportion of the work is scheduled to be carried out within the Scapa template 500 m exclusion zone and commercial fisheries would therefore not be impacted significantly. Shipping intensity at the project location is also low. The surrounding area comprises other oil and gas infrastructure within 10 km. The closest offshore wind farm is located approximately 18 km away and is currently in the planning stage. There are no military exercise or practice areas within the blocks of interest or any active dredging or dredge disposal sites.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) or (viii) of Schedule 5 have not been given particular regard with respect to the project.

Type and characteristics of the potential impact

In accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the likely significant effects of the project on the environment have been considered. Potential impacts on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, with particular focus on the predominant impacts resulting from physical presence of the installed deposits and seabed disturbance resulting from the deposit of those materials.



Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

The physical presence of the vessels involved with the work programme will not have an exclusion area attributed to them and would be able to move away from location in an emergency. The presence from the installation of support and protection materials (partly within exclusion zones) does have the potential to interact with users of the sea and for the duration of the planned 5-day work programme temporarily exclude other users including fishermen. The installation of the concrete mattresses is deemed essential to the safety of the pipeline infrastructure and will not pose a hazard to fishing gear. The presence of the vessel involved with the 5-day project taking place within the South Scapa Bundle area is within a low-level fishing area and is not expected to have a significant impact of other users of the sea. The installation of mattresses on the bundle pipeline will be carried out in a way that does not preclude removal at the time of decommissioning.

The total area of seabed permanently impacted by the introduction of support and protective materials will be 2,703 m². The main impacts expected are from smothering of organisms and change of habitat. However, the introduction of such support and protective materials will enhance biodiversity by variation and abundance of species that are found on hard substrate. Some natural sediment movement is expected in this area of sea, and so there will be an expectation of recovery of the site with more natural seabed material. Recovery of faunal communities is expected over time. The ecological impact from the project is not expected to be identifiable given the wider area of similar natural seabed environment available. The impact to the seabed environment at the location has therefore been assessed as not significant. The interaction with fish spawning and nursery locations is assessed as not significant given that the species release eggs to the water column. Juvenile fish will be able to avoid interaction with any deposits installed on the seabed. The impact to fish species is therefore not significant. The quantity of deposits to the seabed is inclusive of a contingency allowance, which may not be used, thus reducing the insignificant impact further.

There are no expected transboundary impacts as a result of the planned works, and no cumulative impacts have been identified given the other known existing and approved projects in the wider area.

Taking all the above determinations into account, the Secretary of State has concluded that the project is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment, and so an EIA is not required.

2) Mitigation of significant effects

The following are features of the project or measures envisaged that the developer has proposed to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment:

Not applicable