

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-4498U
UKOP Doc Ref:1127378



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

APACHE BERYL I LIMITED
PO BOX 1111
PAGET-BROWN TRUST COMPANY LTD
BOUNDARY HALL
CRICKET SQUARE
GEORGE TOWN
GRAND CAYMAN
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Registered No.: FC005975

Date: 12th March 2021

Department for Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]

Fax [REDACTED]

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**

BERYL, Beryl A Platform, DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 9/13-A52

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2067/0 (Version 2), dated 4th 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**

BERYL, Beryl A Platform, DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 9/13-A52

DR/2067/0 (Version 2)

Whereas APACHE BERYL I LIMITED has made an application dated 4th 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: 12th 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 12 March 2021 until 31 October 2021.

2 Commencement and completion of the project

The holder of the screening direction must notify the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (hereinafter called the 'Department') of commencement and completion of the project within two days:

- a) of commencement of the project and
- b) of completion of the project.

Notification should be sent by email to the Environmental Management Team Mailbox: bst@beis.gov.uk

3 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.

4 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.



5 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.

6 Atmospheric emissions returns

Following completion of the project covered by the screening direction, the holder of the screening direction shall report all relevant atmospheric emissions, such as combustion emissions, extended well test emissions or flaring and venting emissions relating to a well test, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms. In the case of atmospheric emissions relating to drilling projects undertaken from a fixed installation, they should be included in the annual EEMS reporting forms for the fixed installation.

7 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).

8 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 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 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



SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION DECISION REASONS

1) Decision reasons

The following provides a summary of the assessments undertaken by OPRED to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for this project, summarises the information considered, the potential impacts and sets out the main reasons for the decision made. In considering whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required or not, the following have been taken into account:

- a) the information provided by the developer;
- b) the matters listed in Schedule 5 of The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Regulations 2020) (the Regulations);
- c) the results of any preliminary verifications or assessments of the effects on the environment of the project; and
- d) any conditions that the Secretary of State may attach to the agreement to the grant of consent.

Characteristics of the Project

Having regard, in the 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:-

Summary of the Project

Re-entry of the well using seawater and sweeps.
Drilling of 8.5" and 6.5" sections using Low Toxicity Oil Based Mud (LTOBM).
Well Clean up and Completion

Description of the Project

This project consists of the drilling of a sidetrack to the existing well 9/13a-A52 in order to target TP9 from the existing Beryl Alpha Platform. Operations are expected to take 69 days. The well will be completed as a Development (Producer) well. The well will be re-entered using inhibited seawater and sweeps with the remaining sections drilled using LTOBM. There will no discharge of cuttings or LTOBM to the sea, with all cuttings being skipped and shipped onshore for subsequent treatment and disposal. On completion of the drilling operations the well will be cleaned up and displaced to brine prior to running the gas lift completion.

No cumulative impacts are expected to occur with any other existing or approved projects.



It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters. The risk of a major accident such as a well blowout has been assessed. The Developer has control measures in place to reduce the risk of a major accident occurring and the probability of such an event occurring is very low.

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

Location of the 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 project is in the Northern North Sea, mainly in UKCS Block 9/13, approximately 158 km from the Shetland Isles coastline, and 18 km from the UK/Norway Median Line, in an area which is classed as offshore circalittoral sand in a water depth of approximately 119 metres (m).

Site specific surveys identified the seabed in the project area to be relatively homogeneous, comprising sand with shells and shell fragments, and patches of easily disturbed fine sediment. The annual mean significant wave height ranges from 1.81 to 2.1 m. Site surveys identified juvenile individuals of *Arctica islandica* and Sea pens, however these were in low abundance. There were no Annex I habitats or habitats of conservation importance observed in the survey area. There are no protected sites within 40km from the Beryl Alpha field. The project is located in the Scottish Marine plan area.

Fish spawning and nursery activity will occur in the area, which may coincide with the drilling operations. Low numbers of Harbour porpoise, which are an Annex II species are present in the area. Seabird vulnerability in Block 9/13 is ranked as 'low' all year round. The project area is primarily used for demersal fishing and the fishing effort in the area is rated low to moderate.

There are several oil and gas fields nearby. The nearest marine cable lies approximately 8km to the north. There are no nearby Military or Defence practice areas. There are no planned renewable energy developments in the vicinity. Shipping density in the area is low to very low. There are no protected wrecks located in the vicinity and no sites or objects of archaeological importance have been identified in the area.

Given the location of the project, it is not likely that the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) or (viii) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations will be affected by 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 effects on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, including impacts arising from atmospheric emissions, seabed disturbance, physical presence, planned discharges and accidental spills.

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

There is a 500 m radius safety zone around the Beryl Alpha Installation, excluding unauthorised access of vessels and prohibiting access to fishing vessels. The drilling project is a sidetrack of an existing well from the Beryl Alpha Installation and as such there will be no impact on the seabed. There will be no cuttings produced from the re-entry section. The cuttings generated from the sections drilled with LTOBM will be returned to shore for treatment and disposal and there will be no discharge of any cuttings to sea.

Discharge of offshore chemicals associated with the re-entry of the well, cementing and completion operations have been assessed as not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Offshore chemicals associated with LTOBM will be returned to shore for treatment and disposal.

The wellbore clean-up operations may result in the discharge of wastewater containing residual base oil from the LTOBM. This discharge has been assessed and is not considered to have a likely significant effect on the environment.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the drilling operations at the Beryl Alpha. The nearest boundary (UK/Norway Median Line) is located approximately 18 km north west of the operations. It is not considered likely that any planned operational discharge (chemicals) will be detectable at this distance from the well location.

Although not a planned activity, a worst-case major accident scenario resulting from a potential well blow-out was modelled and assessed. The probability of a large oil spill from the proposed operations is low. Therefore, it is considered that the control measures in place to prevent loss of well control minimise the risk of an oil spill which could have a significant impact and the proposed operations carried out as planned are not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The emissions associated with the project result from power demand for the proposed operations. Drilling facilities are integrated on the platform and use the electricity generated by the offshore combustion installations. It is expected the emissions will be rapidly dispersed and are not likely to have a significant impact.

Drilling operations will be conducted from the existing Beryl Alpha Installation such that there is no increase in the infrastructure footprint. The Field has been developed for 40 years and the locations of the Beryl platforms are well known to other marine users and marked on the appropriate navigational charts. There are no aggregate extraction, dredging, or dumping activity or planned, consented or operational wind



farms within Block 9/13. The drilling operations do not contradict any of the Scottish marine plan objectives and policies. It is considered that the drilling of the well from the platform is not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea and no cumulative impacts are expected to occur.

Decision

Taking the above considerations into account, the Secretary of State has concluded that the project is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment and that an environmental impact assessment 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.