

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-4462U  
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Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

PERENCO UK LIMITED  
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Registered No.: 04653066

Date: 19th March 2021

Department for Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

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Dear Sir / Madam

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

**LEMAN [PERENCO][pt. of LEMAN], Leman 27 BC Platform [PERENCO]**

I refer to your amended application dated 19th March 2021, reference PR/2057/1 (Version 2).

It has been determined that the proposed changes to the project is not likely to result in a significant effect on the environment, and therefore an environmental impact assessment is not required.

A screening direction is therefore issued for the changes to the project. An amended schedule of conditions, comments, and main reasons for the decision on the amended application, 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](mailto: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**

**LEMAN [PERENCO][pt. of LEMAN], Leman 27 BC Platform [PERENCO]**

**PR/2057/1 (Version 2)**

Whereas PERENCO UK LIMITED has made an application dated 19th 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: 19th 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 24 February 2021 until 31 May 2021.

#### **2 Surface Installation**

Addition of the new Lemman 27BC jacket (a modified jack-up rig) for compression and processing at Lemman 27B, which will interface with the existing Lemman 27 BT jacket via a single bridge link.

#### **3 Nature of stabilisation or protection materials**

Rock deposits

14,600 tonnes of clean, inert rock material, containing minimal fines, (The quantity of rock deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary stabilisation or protection, and any surplus rock must be returned to land).

#### **4 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.

#### **5 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.

## **6 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.

## **7 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.

## **8 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, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms.

## **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 amendment. The post screening direction must be in place prior to the amended

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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 at this time.

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  
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AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]



## **SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION DECISION REASONS**

### **Increased stabilisation material for Lemman 27BC surface installation for the extraction of oil and/or gas**

This provides a summary of the assessments undertaken by OPRED to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for this project. It 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) Information provided by the developer;
- b) Matters listed in Schedule 5 of The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Regulations 2020) (the Regulations);
- c) Results of any developer 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 particular, to the matters identified in Schedule 5 1(a) to (g) of the Regulations, the characteristics of the project include the following.

The Southern Hub Asset Rationalisation Project (SHARP) project intends to extend the operating life of the Lemman and Inde fields. A new jacket (BC) is being added, interfacing with the existing BT jacket, to the Lemman 27B platform for compression and processing.

Prior to the Lemman 27BC jacket arriving in the field rock / gravel stabilisation deposits will be made to create scour protection pads to support the Lemman 27BC spud can penetration. The rock / gravel stabilisation deposits will be undertaken by a rock depositing vessel using a fall pipe and Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) equipped with a mass flow excavation tool. The vessel will be working within the existing Lemman 27B 500 m safety exclusion zone. Due to the identification of further seabed depressions, there is a requirement to increase the rock deposits from 4,600 tonnes (as previously assessed under PR/2057/0) to 14,600 tonnes, which is the subject to this screening direction (PR/2057/1). The operation is due to take place on the 20th March 21. The additional rock deposit allowance is required to back fill the remnant ERDA Jack-up rig spud-can footprint depressions. The rock / gravel pad deposits will cover circular areas of 594 m<sup>2</sup> centred at each spud can. In total, the rock / gravel deposit will cover an area of 1,782 m<sup>2</sup>. The deposit height above the seabed level



will be 1 m with a one in four gradient around the edges. In total, up to 14,600 tonnes of rock / gravel may be deposited.

No significant cumulative impacts are expected to occur between this project and other existing projects.

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters, or unplanned major accident scenarios and there is no risk to human health.

### **Location of the project**

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

The project is located 50 km east from the Norfolk coastline in England and 55 km west of the UK/Netherlands median line. The project is within the already developed Lemn Field. The water depth is approximately 40 m and the seabed sediments are sand and sandy gravels. The faunal communities found are typical of the biotope 'infralittoral mobile clean sand with sparse fauna' and are characterised by common epifaunal species widely found in the shallow sandy sediments of the southern North Sea including polychaetes such as *N. cirrosa*, isopods (*Eurydice pulchra*), hermit crabs (*Pagurus bernhardus*), swimming crab (*Liocarcinus depurator*), common shore crab (*Carcinus maenas*) and the starfish (*Asterias rubens*).

The location is within two marine protected areas; North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef (NNS) Special Area of Conservation (SAC), with sub-tidal sandbank and reef features, and the Southern North Sea (SNS) SAC, with harbour porpoise features.

Geophysical survey data centred at the Lemn 27B platform from 2020 was reviewed to determine if *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef habitat was present. Survey data from 2012 was also used in comparison. Across the majority of the area there was no evidence of any textures that could be identified as rough ground that may be associated with accumulations of potential biogenic reef, however some texture believed to be linked to the debris from the platforms was seen directly surrounding the structures. Comparing the 2020 and 2012 data around the platform, both the extent and the texture were comparable, with no change in distribution. Where the 2020 data showed clear detail, the texture was shown to comprise individual linear items (clearly identifiable in the 2012 data), confirming the texture as anthropogenic debris. In summary, no textures were identified within the data that were indicative of rough ground associated with potential biogenic reef, and *Sabellaria spinulosa* accumulations.

Harbour porpoise and white-beaked dolphin have been sighted in the area and the SCANS III survey has indicated that in June there is an increased potential of cetacean presence.





Peak spawning for cod, plaice and sole may coincide with the project works. The project area is not within a commonly fished ground and fishing effort is historically very low.

Oil and gas activity in the vicinity of the project is high and the Leman area of the SNS has extensive oil and gas infrastructure. The closest offshore wind farm, North Vanguard West, is located approximately 9km to the southeast and is currently in the planning stage. Due to the proximity of key ports around the Norfolk and Lincolnshire coasts, the density of shipping traffic is high.

There are no military exercise or practice areas within the blocks of interest or any active dredging or dredge disposal sites. There is one charted wreck located 5 km east of the Leman Field. It is not considered to be likely that this will be affected by the project.

Given the location of the project, it is not likely that the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations will be affected by the project.

### **Type and characteristics of the potential impact**

In accordance with Schedule 5 paragraph 3 of 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 and seabed disturbance.

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 vessel involved with the deposits work programme will be working within the exclusion area, however the vessel will be subject to navigational provisions and able to move away in an emergency. The project is in a very low-level fishing area and so the impact to other users of the sea is not expected to be significant. Noise emissions from the vessel were scoped out of the assessment, due to no potential for significant effects. Atmospheric emissions resulting from the operations are considered to have no significant impact on the environment.

The Leman BC jacket will 'jack-up' onto the seabed with each of its three legs terminating in a spud can with an area 95 m<sup>2</sup> that will be placed on the seabed. In total, the three spud cans will disturb an area of 285 m<sup>2</sup>. In addition, each spud can will require rock/gravel deposits covering an area of 594 m<sup>2</sup> per spud can. In total the three spud cans and total deposit materials will disturb a combined area of 1,782 m<sup>2</sup>. The additional rock deposits are required to backfill the existing spud can depressions and therefore the area impacted will not increase.

The new Leman BC jacket will be located within the North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef SAC and Southern North Sea SAC. The North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef SAC occupies an area of 3,603 km<sup>2</sup>, therefore the installation of the



Leman 27BC, including the stabilisation deposits will disturb <0.0000495 % of the total SAC seabed area. Up to 0.0000048 % of the total Southern North Sea SAC area may be impacted by the project.

The placement of the rock pad deposits for the Leman 27BC installation will have a permanent impact on the local sediment faunal communities, potentially smothering any flora and fauna directly beneath it. However, recoverability is high in the short term and therefore the effects on seabed communities and fish spawning grounds from seabed disturbance are considered to have no significant impact. No notable species of conservation importance (i.e., areas of *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs) were identified during the recent surveys. In addition, the siting of the new Leman BC jacket and the deposits will occur within the already existing 500 m zone adjacent to the Leman BT jacket. It is therefore unlikely that the siting of the Leman BC jacket and the associated deposits will significantly reduce the extent and distribution of subtidal sandbank communities across the North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef SAC's. The structure and function of the sandbanks will therefore not be significantly adversely impacted by the project.

The population of harbour porpoise using the SAC are likely linked to the availability (and density) of prey within the site. However, the area of impact and the effects on the SAC conservation objectives from seabed disturbance because of siting the new Leman 27BC jacket and stabilisation deposits are not considered to be significant.

There are no expected transboundary impacts because of the project, and no cumulative impacts have been identified given the other known approved projects in the wider area.

## **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.