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Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

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Registered No.: 01021338

Date: 5th May 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
BREGH production increase**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2101/0 (Version 2), dated 28th April 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**

BREAGH production increase

PR/2101/0 (Version 2)

Whereas INEOS UK SNS LIMITED has made an application dated 28th April 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: 5th May 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

This screening direction shall be valid from 5 May 2021.

2 Change to production level(s)

The holder of the screening direction shall ensure that the change in the level(s) of production do not exceed the amended level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction, and in the application for consent relating to the approval for the getting of petroleum issued under the relevant production licence Model Clause.

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

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

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

Project Name

Gas Production Increase for the Breagh field

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 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 :

Increase in Gas Production from the Breagh field.

Description of project :

This project consists of an increase in Gas production of less than 500,000 cubic



metres per day at the Breagh field, due to the installation of onshore compression to improve production and the drilling of a further well which will be covered in an associated drilling application (DRA/765). The increase in production is proposed to be in the years 2023 and 2024, although production consent has been applied for from 2021 - 2030.

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

There is no change to the assessment of a major accident. 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.

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters.

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 area is in Block 42/13a in the southern North Sea (SNS) approximately 62 kilometres (km) from the south east coast of the UK and 178 km from the UK/Netherlands median line, in an approximate water depth of 62 metres (m). The predominant direction of the currents within the Breagh area is south to south easterly. Surface tidal currents are between 0.5ms⁻¹ and 1.3ms⁻¹ with surface tidal speeds of at least 0.5ms⁻¹.

The sediments around the site are comprised of fine sand, with areas to the west of exposed underlying chalk and areas of clay to the east. A survey at the platform location found fairly uniform sediment distribution, characterised by fine sand with gravelly patches.

Surveys around the Breagh platform location demonstrated that overall, the faunal community was largely uniform, with low numbers of both taxa and individuals spread largely evenly across the samples. A platform survey did not identify the presence of biogenic reefs or other sensitive habitats protected under the EC Habitats Directive.

The closest protected areas are the Southern North Sea Special area of Conservation (SAC) designated for the protection of harbour porpoise, located 2.1 km from the Breagh field and the Dogger Bank (SAC) located 35 km from the Breagh field. There are no reefs or Annex I habitats in the area.

Four cetacean species can be found in the vicinity of the Breach field, White sided dolphin, white beaked dolphin, minke whale and harbour porpoise. These are found



in high to low densities throughout the year.

Block 42/13 falls within International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 38F0, and fishing in this area concentrates on demersal species. Fishing activity is at its lowest from January to March. The period of greatest fishing activity in the vicinity of the Breagh is in May/August, September and October.

Fish spawning and nursery activity will occur in the area, which will coincide with the operations. The area has been considered as 'unsuitable' for herring spawning habitat.

Seabird vulnerability is very high in June, high in September and low in July and August. The surrounding areas include very high and extremely high sensitivity to the south of the Block in March, May, June and September and high to the west in December.

Shipping density in the area is moderate. The project location is not within a military activity zone, aggregate extraction location, or any renewable energy infrastructure projects and there is limited other oil and gas activity within 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 of the atmospheric emissions on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed. Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

Production from A11 will require some additional work by offshore personnel, annual tree and wellhead maintenance, integrity inspections etc. Consideration of the hours needed to undertake this indicates that one additional day on the platform per year will be required for an 8-10 person crew. As there is no accommodation on the platform this will require two extra helicopter trips (to Breagh and back again). Additional fuel consumption will therefore be approximately 0.3 tonnes of diesel per year, increasing emissions by around 1 tonne of CO₂ per year. These emissions are expected to disperse rapidly and are not likely to have a significant impact. There are no additional power requirements as a result of the increase in production.

The proposed increase in production will result in an increase in produced water. However, there is no separation or processing of produced water at the Breagh NUI. Produced water is transferred and processed onshore. There are no additional chemicals required.



The increase in production will require changes to the manifold and flow lines in order to allow flow from the new line into the production system, however there will be no modifications to the production system as a whole and therefore any changes will not have a significant impact on the environment.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the operations.

It is considered that the increase in gas production from the Breagh field is not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea, the seabed, marine life or cetacean species 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:

N/A