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Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

ONE-DYAS NORTH SEA LIMITED  
6TH FLOOR  
UNION PLAZA  
1 UNION WYND  
ABERDEEN  
AB10 1DQ

Registered No.: SC282771

Date: 27th May 2021

Department for Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

AB1 Building  
Crimon Place  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1BJ

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[www.gov.uk/beis](http://www.gov.uk/beis)  
[bst@beis.gov.uk](mailto:bst@beis.gov.uk)

Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING  
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS  
2020  
PIPELINE PL311**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PL/2105/0 (Version 3), dated 25th May 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](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**

**PIPELINE PL311**

**PL/2105/0 (Version 3)**

Whereas ONE-DYAS NORTH SEA LIMITED has made an application dated 25th May 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: 27th 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**

The screening direction shall be valid from 31 May 2021 until 30 October 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](mailto:bst@beis.gov.uk)

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

Rock deposits

A total of 7680 tonnes of clean, inert rock material, containing minimal fines at 20 locations as per Condition 4. (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 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials**

**Span number**

**Span location (WGS84)**

**Rock Required (tonnes)**

1

52 56' 36.99" N

02 12' 26.54" E

52 56' 36.68" N

02 12' 25.66" E

360



2

52 49' 23.66" N

01 51' 0.19" E

52 49' 23.73" N

01 50' 59.37" E

240

3

52 49' 23.75" N

01 50' 59.15" E

52 49 ' 23.81" N

01 50' 58.42" E

240

4

52 49' 23.82" N

01 50' 58.34" E

52 49' 23.88" N

01 50' 57.73" E

240

5

52 49' 23.91" N

01 50' 57.38" E

52 49' 23,9" N

01 50' 56.73" E

240



6

52 49' 44.42" N

01 47' 14.59" E

52 49' 44.56" N

01 47' 13.12" E

360

7

52 50' 12.4" N

01 42' 29.00" E

52 50' 12.67" N

01 42' 27.04" E

840

8

52 50' 12.83" N

01 42' 25.25" E

52 50' 12.91" N

01 42' 24.42" E

360

9

52 50' 12.92" N

01 42' 24.20" E

52 50' 13.02" N

01 42' 23.21" E

600



10

52 50' 13.05" N

01 42' 22.98" E

52 50' 13.11" N

01 42' 22.49" E

240

11

52 50' 13.16" N

01 42' 22.03" E

52 50' 13.24" N

01 42' 21.35" E

240

12

52 50' 13.27" N

01 42' 21.05" E

52 50' 13.32" N

01 42' 20.60" E

240

13

52 50' 19.08" N

01 41' 24.91" E

52 50' 19.32" N

01 41' 22.77" E

840



14

52 50' 26.37" N

01 40' 15.20" E

52 50' 26.49" N

01 40' 14.09" E

480

15

52 50' 26.56" N

01 40' 13.44" E

52 50' 26.59" N

01 40' 13.12" E

120

16

52 50' 26.62" N

01 40' 12.80" E

52 50' 26.69" N

01 40' 12.06" E

240

17

52 50' 27.03" N

01 40' 07.80" E

52 50' 27.13" N

01 40' 06.68" E

480



18

52 50' 29.26" N

01 39' 46.12" E

52 50' 29.38" N

01 39' 44.98" E

480

19

52 50' 33.12" N

01 39' 09.30" E

52 50' 33.26" N

01 39' 07.97" E

480

20

52 50' 33.53" N

01 39' 05.41" E

52 50' 33.64" N

01 39' 04.35" E

360

## **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 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.

## **10 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.

## **11 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).

## **12 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:

The Department has no comments.

### **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**

### **Sean P to Bacton PL311 Pipeline Remediation Deposits**

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) 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 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:

#### Summary of project

The deposit of 7680 tonnes of graded rock (2"-8") in 20 locations:

#### **Span number**

#### **Span location (WGS84)**

#### **Rock Required (tonnes)**

1

52 56' 36.99" N

02 12' 26.54" E

52 56' 36.68" N

02 12' 25.66" E



360

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52 49' 23.66" N

01 51' 0.19" E

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20

52 50' 33.53" N

01 39' 05.41" E

52 50' 33.64" N

01 39' 04.35" E

360

#### Description of project

The Inspection Repair and Maintenance (IRM) pipeline surveys in 2020 identified 20 freespans along PL311 which require remediation. The freespans are located between KP 51.8 and KP 93.4 ((Note: KP 0 is near the Sean Platform and KP 106 is near the shore approach at Bacton). The cause of the freespans is expected to be scour caused by high seabed currents and the mobile nature of the sediment. Graded rock (2 - 8 ) will be accurately deposited from a fall-pipe vessel to fill in the spans and create rock berms up to the pipeline centreline that will support the



pipeline and discourage future scour. Operations will be carried out by a single vessel. The proposed operations are planned to begin on the 31st May 2021 with an estimated duration of 3 days.

Freespan correction and the prevention of pipeline buoyancy are essential to ensure pipeline integrity (and prevent pipeline failure) and protect the safety of other users of the sea. Fishing vessels are particularly vulnerable to snagging hazards such as these and remediation works will minimise the risk considerably by reducing the height and length of the identified spans to within acceptable limits (no longer than 10 metres in length and no higher than 0.8 metres). Six of these freespans (the base case) require rectification to stabilise the pipeline and prevent excessive fatigue (and possible rupture), and to mitigate the snagging hazard caused to fishing gear. Six of the freespans that are either deeper than 0.8 m or longer than 10 m and are therefore required to be notified to Fishsafe as snagging hazards. The heights of the freespans range from 0.1 m to 1.3 m and the lengths range from 6 m to 40 m. The maximum safe limit for freespans on the Sean pipeline is 42 m. The majority are located within Block 52/4.

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 Sean pipeline (PL311) is a 107km long, 30" diameter rigid gas export line. The pipeline is currently operational and carries gas and condensate from the Sean Papa complex in UKCS Block 49/25 to the Bacton gas terminal on the Norfolk coast as shown. The Sean Papa complex is located approximately 15 km west of the UK/Netherlands median line. The pipeline runs through UKCS Blocks 49/25, 49/24, 49/29, 49/28, 49/27, 53/2, 53/1, 52/5, 52/10, 52/9, 52/4 and 52/3. The water depth in the vicinity of the deposit areas is less than 50m. Sediments are characteristic of the Southern North Sea (SNS) and comprise sand and muddy sand with significant areas of coarse sediment. Sediments are highly mobile and sediment transportation is high. At the end of the pipeline closest to the Sean platform, there was evidence of sand waves.

Sessile epifauna observed along the pipeline route included branching bryozoans (including *Flustra foliacea*), possibly encrusting bryozoans, sponges, *Alcyonium digitatum*, anemones (including colonial plumose anemones), and suspected *S. spinulosa* in one small area. Mobile epifauna included lobsters (*Homarus gammarus*), crabs (including *Cancer pagarus*), starfish and fish.

The most dense and complex epifauna observed was on an area of coarse sediment (mostly cobble-sized) interpreted as colonised rock armour starting approximately 20 m East of Span 6 and extending for approximately 80 m. The visible epifauna is this



area comprised large examples of *F. foliacea* , crabs including frequent large *C. pagarus* and frequent large lobsters.

The pipeline is within the marine protected areas; North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef (NNS) Special Area of Conservation (SAC), with sub-tidal sandbank and reef features and within the Haisborough Hammond and Winterton (HHW) SAC which is designated for the protection of Annex 1 habitat (reef features), the Greater Wash Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Southern North Sea SAC, designated for harbour porpoise. However, the section of the pipeline where the freespans have been identified is the Haisborough Hammond and Winterton (HHW) SAC, the SNS SAC and the Greater Wash SPA. The water depth measured by ROV at and in the vicinity of all span locations exceeds 20 m indicating the ' *Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time* ' habitat is not present on the pipeline route. The proposed operations fall within the winter area of the SNS SAC, which experience greater densities of harbour porpoise from October to March.

PL311 also runs through the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), which has been designated for the protection of seabed features, such as chalk beds. No deposit locations are within the MCZ.

Harbour porpoise and white-beaked dolphin have been sighted in the area. Harbour porpoise has been spotted in moderate densities in February to May, September and December. White-beaked dolphin has been spotted in high densities in January, March and April with moderate in May.

Grey and harbour seals are present off the east coast of England, particularly around The Wash where harbour seals forage over a wide area. Since the pipeline freespans are located close to shore (approximately 10 km offshore), grey and harbour seals may be encountered from time to time.

The pipeline runs through the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Rectangles 34F1 and 34F2 in an area of spawning and nursery grounds for several commercially important species, including plaice which has a high intensity of spawning in the area (between January and March).

The following species of seabirds have been recorded within the Sean area during the proposed period of operations; northern fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* , northern gannet *Morus bassanus* , pomarine skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* , Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* , great skua *Stercorarius skua* , black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* , great black-backed gull *Larus marinus* , common gull *Larus canus* , lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus* , herring gull *Larus argentatus* , Sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicensis* , common guillemot *Uria aalge* , razorbill *Alca torda* , little auk *Alle alle* and Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica* . The pipeline also overlaps with the Greater Wash SPA designated for the protection of the following species: red-throated diver *Gavia stellata* , common scoter *Melanitta nigra* , little gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* , sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicensis* , common tern *Sterna hirundo* , and little tern *Sternula albifrons* .



PL311 is within ICES rectangles 34F1 and 34F2. The associated landings tonnages and values for 34F1 and 34F2 and fishing data indicates that demersal species are the predominant target except for 34F1 where shellfish is the predominant fisheries. Overall, average annual fishing effort is low across the project area.

Shipping activity is considered high to very high in the vicinity of the pipeline route.

There are several oil and gas installations located within the vicinity of the Sean Pipeline, as well as subsea infrastructure. The nearest windfarm lease areas to the Sean pipeline freespans are the Scroby Sands 18 km south-west, the Sheringham Shoal Extension 31 38 km north-west and Dudgeon 38.5 36 km north-west. The Norfolk Vanguard West windfarm is located approximately 4 7 km from Span 1 the pipeline route (closest point). This windfarm has not yet been built but has been granted development consent in 2020.

The nearest active cable to the Sean pipeline is the NORSEA COM 1 Active TAMPNET cable which is 13 km north-east of Span 1 overlaps with the Sean pipeline at three locations (KIS-ORCA, 2021).

There is no known military activity or aggregate activity in the area. There are several wrecks recorded along the Sean pipeline, with closest being 1.2km from span 6.

Given the location of the project, it is not likely that the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) and (viii) of Schedule 5 are not likely 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 physical presence of a vessel on location 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 physical presence of the single vessel involved will not have an 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 and atmospheric emissions impacts are not considered to be significant.

The worst-case seabed footprint from the proposed operations is 0.003321 km<sup>2</sup>. The placement of the deposits on the seabed will result in direct physical impact to benthic habitats and species within the immediate footprint of the operation. The seabed is inhabited by numerous organisms, including sessile species and animals that are unable to move rapidly or over large distances. The area of seabed directly



affected is very small and represents a minute fraction of the similar habitat available in this region of the North Sea and therefore the impacts are not considered to be significant.

Rock remediation of the pipeline spans has the potential to impact the protected features and associated benthic habitat of marine protected areas. All the freespan locations are within the SNS SAC. The total area of this site is 36,951 km<sup>2</sup> of which 0.003321 km<sup>2</sup>, or 0.000009% is expected to be affected by the proposed operations. The presence of suitable sandeel and herring habitat could be important to harbour porpoise, but operations are small scale and outside the expected spawning period and therefore any direct disturbance of spawning grounds or indirect impacts on harbour is not considered significant.

Spans 2 to 6 are located within the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC. This site has a total area of 1467.59 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 0.00072 km<sup>2</sup>, or 0.00005% is expected to be affected. It is not expected that sandbank features will be affected by proposed operations. As such, it is not expected that the proposed operations will have a significant effect on sandbanks in the area or on the conservation objectives of the HHW SAC. Spans 7 to 17 are also located within an area identified as "*Potential biogenic reef habitat*", albeit outside the nearby Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC. It is unlikely that the proposed operations will significantly impact the identified aggregations of biogenic reef.

Spans 7 to 20 are located within the Greater Wash SPA. The total area of this site is 3,536 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 0.00243 km<sup>2</sup>, or 0.00007% is expected to be affected. The operations are not considered to have a significant impact on the site, or the seabirds protected either directly or indirectly.

There are no expected transboundary impacts because of the project and no significant 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.

## **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:

There are no significant effects.