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Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

CNR INTERNATIONAL (U.K.) LIMITED  
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Registered No.: 00813187

Date: 3rd June 2021

Department for Business, Energy  
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[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  
STRATHSPEY FIELD - 2021**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2120/0 (Version 1), dated 6th 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**

**STRATHSPEY FIELD - 2021**

**PR/2120/0 (Version 1)**

Whereas CNR INTERNATIONAL (U.K.) LIMITED has made an application dated 6th 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: 3rd June 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 4 June 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 [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**

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 of 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 Oil Production from the Strathspey field for the year 2021.

### **Description of the Project**

This project consists of an increase in Oil production of less than 500 tonnes per day at the Strathspey field, due to higher than forecast production and uptime from the M1 well. The increase in production is proposed to be in the year 2021.

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 Strathspey field development is located in Block 3/4a in the Northern North Sea (NNS) approximately 135 kilometers (km) northeast of Shetland and 9 km from the UK/Norway median line, in an approximated water depth of 136.5 metres (m). The field has been developed as a subsea tie-back to the Ninian Central Platform (NCP) located 15 km southwest of the Strathspey field. The predominant direction of the currents within the Strathspey area is to the south or east. Surface tidal currents are between 0.01 ms<sup>-1</sup> and 2.5 ms<sup>-1</sup> with surface tidal speeds of at least 0.12 ms<sup>-1</sup>.

Recent surveys indicate that sediments in the area consist predominantly of offshore circalittoral sand. Seabed photography showed that visible fauna has remained relatively unchanged since the pre-decommissioning survey carried out in 2011 and that epifaunal and mobile megafauna are generally sparse across the area.

Site surveys identified taxa including hermit crabs, starfish, and sea urchins. No evidence of sub tidal reefs, submarine structures or any potential Annex I Habitats have been found in the vicinity of the NCP. Pockmarks were also recorded in the area, which can indicate the presence of the Annex I Habitat.

There are no marine protected areas within 40 km from the NCP and therefore it is unlikely that the project will have any effect on protected sites.

Minke whale, killer whale, harbour porpoise and Atlantic white-sided dolphin have been recorded in the vicinity of the project area. These are found in high to low densities throughout the year. Seals are not expected to be seen at the remote location.

Block 3/4a falls within International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 50F1, and fishing in this area concentrates on demersal species. Fish spawning and nursery activity will occur in the area, which will coincide with the operations.

Seabird vulnerability in Block 3/4a is predominantly low all year round except for September and October when sensitivity is medium. The project area is primarily used for demersal fishing and the fishing effort is rated low to moderate.

The Strathspey field is an area of major oil and gas developments and infrastructure



and there are several oil and gas fields nearby. Block 3/4a features a Ministry of Defence restriction as it lies within military training grounds, but there is no known concurrent activity. There are no war graves, Historic Marine Protected Areas or wrecks located within the vicinity of the project area. There are no known cables in the vicinity of the Strathspey hielf and no planned renewable energy developments. Shipping density in the area is low.

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.

The increase in oil production from the Strathspey field for 2021 is within the capacity of the existing facilities and no hardware modifications of alteration to support vessel requirements will be required. Atmospheric emissions from the change in production will therefore not have a significant impact on the environment.

Strathspey produced fluids require a corrosion inhibitor to maintain subsea flowline integrity, scale inhibitor to prevent scale deposition and a wax inhibitor to prevent wax deposition. Chemical allowance is sufficient for 2021 on the existing chemical permit and no alterations in the existing production chemical use and discharge associated with the increase in oil production from the Strathspey field are anticipated. No significant impact from chemical use and discharge is expected. The Strathspey field is a minor contributor to the overall produce water discharged from the NCP and no changes to the method of topside produce water separation and treatment are expected. The NCP is gas deficient and any associated gas resulting from the increase in oil production will be used as fuel gas. Flaring and venting operations will remain unchanged as a result of the increase in oil production and therefore no significant change in the atmospheric emissions or environmental impacts are expected.

The existing accidental event spill modelling is applicable and in such an unplanned event there is no significant impact likely to occur. The asset is included in an emergency response plan, and this would be enacted in the event of a major accident/spill scenario. The receptors outlined in the location of the project section, will not be affected by the increase in oil production from the field.

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





It is considered that the increase in oil production from the Strathspey field is not likely to have a significant impact on the 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:

Not applicable.