

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

## **Rhum Production Increase**

As advised in a public notice posted Friday 11 June 2021, Serica Energy (UK) Limited has made an application for consent to the Oil and Gas Authority (“the OGA”) in relation to the above project. Since publication of the original notice, a number of corrections have been implemented in the associated environmental impact assessment (“EIA”) which is now available for review. Those corrections are: Abbreviations – EEMS added, Section A2 and A5 – licensee name clarification, A4 – top row of table reformatted, B2 – WIA number updated and Bruce quadrant/block numbers corrected, Introduction – unit of measure changed to millions m<sup>3</sup>, Section 4 - pipeline descriptors amended, Section 6 – location clarified as existing, 7.4.3 - block names corrected, Table 8-2 - titles amended, Table 8-3 – title amended, correction of numerical values and footnote added, and Section 8.2 – text update in final paragraph - diesel added.

### **Summary of Project**

The project involves a workover of the R3 well to increase production levels from the Rhum Field. The R3 well will produce condensate and gas to the Rhum central manifold that is tied back to the Bruce platform (59° 44’ 34” North; 01° 40’ 22” East). Located in the NNS in block 3/29, the associated subsea infrastructure includes the Rhum manifold, 16” Production Pipeline (PL2091), IMS Line (PL2092) and umbilical (PLU2099).

### **Environmental Impact Assessment and Consent Process**

In accordance with the above-mentioned Regulations, the project is subject to an environmental impact assessment (“EIA”)

The OGA is responsible for deciding whether or not to grant consent for the project, but agreement to the grant of consent must be obtained from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“the Secretary of State”) prior to consent being granted. The Secretary of State’s decision on whether to agree to the grant of consent is based on the environmental impact assessment for the project.

The range of possible decisions in response to the application of consent is:

- (a) the Secretary of State agrees to the OGA’s grant of consent following the Secretary of State’s conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, and the OGA grants consent, so the project may proceed;
- (b) the Secretary of State refuses to agree to the OGA’s grant of consent following the Secretary of State’s conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, so the project may not proceed; or

- (c) the Secretary of State agrees to the OGA's grant of consent following the Secretary of State's conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, but the OGA does not grant consent, so the project may not proceed.

Where the Secretary of State agrees to the grant of consent, conditions that Serica Energy (UK) Limited must comply with may be attached to the agreement, including environmental conditions to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment, and measure to monitor such conditions.

Notice of the decisions of the Secretary of State and OGA decisions for the project will be published at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-2020-eia-regulations#environmental-impact-assessments-eia> where information on the Secretary of State's decision to agree to or refuse to agree to the grant of consent will also be made available.

### **Access to Further Information**

Copies of this notice, the summary of the project and the Environmental Statement can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.serica-energy.com/environmental-statement-R3> and at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-2020-eia-regulations#environmental-impact-assessments-eia>. Access shall remain at least three months after the date on which the Secretary of State publishes the notice under Regulation 16(1) (publication of consent decisions).

A copy of the Environmental Statement and summary of the project may also be obtained by post or email. Requests should be made to Serica Energy PLC, H1, Hill of Rubislaw, Anderson Drive, Aberdeen, AB16 6BL, by email to [info@serica-energy.com](mailto:info@serica-energy.com) or by telephone 01224 978400 by 01/08/2021.

### **Public Consultation**

Representations, comments or questions relating to the project may be made to the Secretary of State by 01/08/2021. All representations should quote reference number D/4267/2021 and may be made by letter or by email to:

Business Support Team  
Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
AB1 Building  
Crimon Place  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1BJ

[BST@beis.gov.uk](mailto:BST@beis.gov.uk)

### **Judicial Review**

A person aggrieved by the grant of consent for a project may use the procedure to apply for judicial review regarding the decisions made in respect of this project. A court may allow proceedings to challenge a decision made in respect of the Regulations.