

Our Ref: 01.08.06.15/346C  
UKOP Doc Ref:1161126



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

TOTALENERGIES E&P UK LIMITED  
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Registered No.: 00811900

Date: 22nd September 2021

Department for Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

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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  
ELGIN FIELD - INCREASE IN PRODUCTION**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2160/0 (Version 2), dated 16th September 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**

**ELGIN FIELD - INCREASE IN PRODUCTION**

**PR/2160/0 (Version 2)**

Whereas TOTALENERGIES E&P UK LIMITED has made an application dated 16th September 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 28-21.

Effective Date: 22nd September 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 31 October 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.

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## 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 further 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]



## 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 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 Assessment 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 Elgin field for 2021 - 2022.

### Description of the Project

The Elgin field is located in the Central North Sea and produces through the Elgin installation which consists of two bridge-linked platforms, a Well Head Platform (WHP) and a Process, Utilities and Quarters platform (PUQ).

The project consists of an increase in gas production of less than 500,000 cubic metres per day from the Elgin field. This is due to the start-up of a new well, Elgin 22/30c-B5 (EIG), which is currently being drilled and is expected to start production in September 2021. The increase in gas production is therefore expected in the years 2021 and 2022. This is a predominantly gas producing well and there is no anticipated increase in oil production.



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

Pollution and nuisances are restricted to an increase in emissions and marine discharges following increased gas throughput.

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.

The project is not at risk from natural disasters given its location in UK offshore waters.

There is not considered to be any significant risk to 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 Elgin field is located in Block 22/30 of the Central North Sea, approximately 200 km from the Scottish coastline and approximately 22 km from the UK / Norway boundary line, in a water depth of approximately 93 metres.

The surface current speed in the area is approximately 0.1 m/s and the wave height ranges from 1.8 - 2.1 m. Site-specific surveys identified the seabed as predominantly flat and sandy with occasional coarser patches. The seabed in the surrounding area contains evidence of previous oil and gas or other industries' activity with cuttings piles, spud can depressions and anchor scars visible. The sediments in the area also indicate historic activity by elevated hydrocarbon and metal concentrations across the site. This is typical of the wider area which has been heavily developed for oil and gas. The faunal composition identified by the site surveys was typical for areas of organic enrichment from hydrocarbons and included high numbers of highly tolerant species. Ocean quahog adult specimens were present during sampling.

The project is not located in any protected areas. The closest protected area is the East of Gannet and Montrose Fields 14 km to the west. The project is located in an area of considerable oil and gas development. There are no wrecks or telecommunication cables in the area and the project is not located within an area of military activity.

The project relates to the years 2021 - 2022 and will overlap with spawning seasons for mackerel, Norway pout, lemon sole, cod and Nephrops and is located within the nursery area of several fish species. Several cetacean species have been recorded in the vicinity of the project location. Seabird abundance is low for the majority of the year although is high in one month of the year (October). The area is described as a





low intensity fishing area.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) and (viii) of Schedule 5 are not likely to 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 atmospheric emissions and marine discharges 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.

There are no additional power requirements anticipated at the Elgin platform as a result of the increase in production of gas. There may be a small increase in vented gas required as a result of the EIG well being brought online. Atmospheric emissions are expected to result in a short-term deterioration in air quality in the immediate area. This localised effect is expected to be temporary given the meteorological conditions at the offshore location. The impacts arising from atmospheric emissions on local air quality and climate are not considered to be significant.

An increase in produced water from the Elgin platform is expected as a result of the increase in gas production but the minor increase in volume is not expected to be significant and will be comfortably within the Elgin platform's produced water handling capacity. It is anticipated that the minor increase in produced water volume may require associated alterations to chemical (scale inhibitor) injection rates required, although these changes are expected to be minor and will not change the existing discharge fate modelling, therefore chemical use and discharge is not expected to have a significant impact. The marine environment is expected to rapidly disperse and dilute chemical discharges. No changes are expected to current discharges associated with drainage or sand from the Elgin platform. The increase in production relates to gas only and therefore there are no changes anticipated to oil in water concentration of current discharges.

The project does not involve any physical interaction with the sea or seabed at the Elgin location and as such no physical impacts on receptors are anticipated.

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, including an emergency response plan, and the probability of such an event occurring is very low. The existing accidental event spill modelling is applicable and no significant impact would be likely to occur from any such event.

There are no expected transboundary impacts as a result of the project and no cumulative impacts have been identified.

#### 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.