

Our Ref: 01.08.06.15/587C
UKOP Doc Ref:1163903



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

SHELL U.K. LIMITED
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Registered No.: 00140141

Date: 7th October 2021

Department for Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

AB1 Building
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Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]

Fax

www.gov.uk/beis
bst@beis.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020
INCREASE IN PRODUCTION - BRIGANTINE A FIELD**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2197/0 (Version 1), dated 1st October 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

[REDACTED]

**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**

INCREASE IN PRODUCTION - BRIGANTINE A FIELD

PR/2197/0 (Version 1)

Whereas SHELL U.K. LIMITED has made an application dated 1st October 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 69-21.

Effective Date: 7th October 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 7 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 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

The following 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.

Characteristics of the Project

Having regard to the matters identified at paragraphs 1(a) to (g) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the characteristics of the project are as follows.

Summary of the Project

Decrease of gas production from the Brigantine A field. Note: although the project is considered to have an overall decrease in production from the 2021 baseline year, there are increases in production over the existing consent for the years 2023 to 2024 as a result of an enabling activity.

Description of project

This project consists of an increase in gas production of less than 500,000 cubic metres per day from the Brigantine A field due to the future availability of PWRI at the Lemna Alpha installation where Brigantine A gas is produced to (the project area). The availability of PWRI will allow wells that have a high water and salinity, and which have been shut in for many years to be produced because the water can be directly re-injected offshore instead of being sent onshore for treatment in a plant with limited capacity before returning offshore for injection.

The production consent is proposed for the years 2021 to 2024.

Location of the Project

Having regard 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 Lemna Alpha installation is located within Block 49/26 of the southern North Sea (SNS), approximately 48km from the UK coastline and 65km from the UK/Netherlands median line. Water depth at the project location is approximately 39m. The prevailing current is to the southeast.

Site specific surveys of the seabed in the vicinity of the project area identified ripples, sand waves and sand banks. A shallow ridge is present in the immediate vicinity of the project area.

The project location is within the Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation (SAC), designated for the protection of harbour porpoise, and within the North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef SAC designated for reefs and sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time. The project is within 10km of the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton Marine Protected Area, also designated for the protection of sandbanks and reefs.

Sabellaria spinulosa aggregations were identified in the vicinity of the project location however, the project will not interact with this species.

Fish spawning and nursery activity will occur in the area, which will coincide with the operations.

Seabird distribution and abundance in the area is predominantly high to extremely high from October through to April and medium to low the remainder of the year.

Harbour porpoise, White-sided dolphin and Minke whale are typically found in the area, but no significant impact is expected upon these species. Seals are not expected in any significant number around the area of the project due to the distance from shore.

The density of other oil and gas facilities within the project area is low but the wider area is well developed.

There are no existing offshore wind developments in the vicinity of the project, with the closest in operation located 8km from the project area. There are no other industries located in the vicinity of the project.

Shipping density in the area is classed as high.

There are no military restrictions or designated military areas within the immediate vicinity of the project.

The Tampnet submarine telecommunication cable is approximately 10km from the project area.

There are no protected wrecks within 500m of the project area.

Fishing activity within the vicinity of the project location within ICES rectangle 35F2 is very low.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c) (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) or (viii) of Schedule 5 have not been given regard with respect to 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 impacts on the environment from the atmospheric emissions activities associated with the project were assessed. Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact arising from the project on population and human health.

There are no additional power requirements at the Leman Alpha platform because of the increase in production.

The increase in production is due to the future availability of PWRI which will allow wells that have a high water and salinity, and which have been shut in for many years to be produced because the water can be re-injected offshore. There will be no discharge of produced water to sea. There may be increases in chemical usage but there is no discharge of chemicals to sea, and these will either be re-injected offshore or sent onshore with produced water for treatment.

There is no credible potential for a major accident or disaster to affect this project.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the increase in production. It is considered that the increase in gas production from the Brigantine A field is not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea, the seabed, marine life including cetacean species and no cumulative impacts are expected to occur.

Taking all the above determinations into account, the Secretary of State has concluded that the project is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment.

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