



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

D/4267/2021

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27 October 2021

Department for Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for  
Environment & Decommissioning  
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████████████████████  
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Dear ██████████

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

**NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 12(1)**

**RHUM PRODUCTION INCREASE**

The Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (“OPRED”) acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“the Secretary of State”) is currently considering the Environmental Statement (“ES”) and the representations received from the public consultation process in relation to the above project. Serica Energy (UK) Limited (Serica) is hereby required to provide further information in relation to the following:

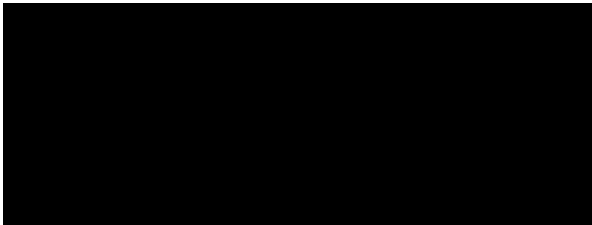
1. Please address the following comments on the potential impact of the project on climate.
  - In the letter dated the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Serica state in response to Question 2 that the project ‘is not expected to have a discernible impact of climate’. However, Serica have not provided any clarity on how this has been concluded or what the increase in atmospheric emissions associated project means in terms of the objectives of the UK Energy White paper and the North Sea Transition Deal. Please clarify what the project means in terms of the objectives of the above and in relation to the reduction in emissions targets as set out in the North Sea Transition Deal targets.
  - In the letter dated the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Serica assessed the increase in emissions against 2019, due to the installation being shutdown for 42 days in 2020. Serica are reminded that they should also be assessing the worst-case scenario i.e. assessing the larger increase in atmospheric emissions. Please provide further analysis of the worst-case increase in atmospheric emissions associated with the project.
  - Section 8.2 of the ES states, ‘As a result of this increased production fuel consumption levels are forecast to rise beyond previous estimates as a result of increased production from the Rhum field. This increase can be

largely attributed to fuel gas consumption,' please clarify what else will contribute to a rise in emissions other than fuel gas consumption.

Your response will be reviewed, and consideration given as to whether the information provided ought to be made public because the information is directly relevant to reaching a conclusion on whether the project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. If so, OPRED will notify Serica under Regulation 12(3), and Serica will have to take further steps to publish information and make provision for further public consultation under Regulations 12(5) to 12(9).

OPRED looks forward to receiving your response so that we can progress our consideration of the ES.

Yours sincerely



The Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning  
For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial  
Strategy