

Our Ref: 12.03.02.06/106C  
UKOP Doc Ref:1171625



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

REPSOL SINOPEC RESOURCES UK LIMITED  
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LONDON  
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Registered No.: 00825828

Date: 16th November 2021

Department for Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

AB1 Building  
Crimon Place  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1BJ

  
**Tel Fax**

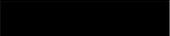
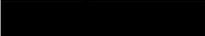
[www.gov.uk/beis](http://www.gov.uk/beis)

[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 BLANE**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2200/0 (Version 2), dated 9th November 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  on  or email the Environmental Management Team at [bst@beis.gov.uk](mailto:bst@beis.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

**Signature valid**

  
Digitally signed by Environmental Section  
Date: 2021.11.16 11:56:50 GMT  
Reason: On behalf of the Department for Business  
Energy and Industrial Strategy  
Location: The Department for Business Energy  
and Industrial Strategy

Our Ref: 12.03.02.06/106C  
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**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**

**BLANE**

**PR/2200/0 (Version 2)**

Whereas REPSOL SINOPEC RESOURCES UK LIMITED has made an application dated 9th November 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: 16th November 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 1 January 2022.

#### **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 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:

n/a

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 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 and Gas Production from the Blane field.

### Description of project :

This project consists of an increase in oil production of less than 500 tonnes/day and gas production of less than 500,000 cubic metres per day from the Blane field, due to an enabling project which involved the removal of the Gas Lift choke control jumper and fitting of a retrofit choke valve / jumper within the Blane manifold. The increase in production is proposed to be in the year 2022 with oil production increasing by 2 m<sup>3</sup> / day and gas production increasing by 77 m<sup>3</sup> / day. 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 Blane field is in Block 30/03a in the central North Sea (CNS) approximately 260 kilometres (km) from the east coast of Scotland and less than 500 metres (m) from the UK/Norway median line and is tied back to the Ula platform where all processing and production takes place. The Blane field is in a water depth of approximately 74 m. The predominant direction of the currents within the area is south to south westerly. The tidal conditions in the region are relatively weak between 0.50 - 0.75 m/s.

The sediment around Blane comprises mainly fine, slightly shelly, silty sand with some having dispersed shelly communities. Data from benthic surveys in the area indicate it to be characteristic of the Central North Sea and dominated by polychaeta.

The closest protected area in UK waters is Fulmar Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) designated for the following four features, subtidal mud, subtidal sand, subtidal mixed sediments and ocean quahog ( *Arctica islandica* ). It is situated 32 km from the Blane Field. There are no biogenic reefs or other sensitive habitats protected under the EC Habitats Directive in the project area.

Five cetacean species can be found in the vicinity of the Blane field, common dolphin, white-sided dolphin, harbour porpoise, minke whale and white-beaked dolphin. These are found in low to moderate densities throughout the year.

The Blane Field is located within International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 42F2, and fishing in this area concentrates on demersal species. Data indicates that 10 days fishing effort was recorded during 2020, although there is no further breakdown regarding days effort on a monthly basis. Seabird vulnerability is low to moderate throughout the year.

The project location is not within a military activity zone, aggregate extraction location, or any renewable energy infrastructure projects and there is some other oil and gas activity within the area.

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

The increase in production is due to the installation of a retro fit choke which has been be fitted within the production manifold.



In accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the likely significant effects of the project on the environment have been considered. There will be no direct atmospheric emissions arising from routine production at the Blane location. Emissions are managed at the Ula platform in the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS). There is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

There will be no produced water discharge to the marine environment in the UKCS resulting from the production operations as these discharges will occur from the Ula platform in the NCS. No significant changes in impact are predicted. There are no additional chemicals required.

It is considered that the increase in oil and gas production from the Blane field is not likely to have a significant impact on 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**

Not applicable.