

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-2994U
UKOP Doc Ref:1178438



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

TAILWIND ENERGY CHINOOK LTD
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Registered No.: SC335305

Date: 7th December 2021

Department for Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]
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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
ORLANDO**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2206/0 (Version 2), dated 25th 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 [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] or email the Environmental Management Team at 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**

ORLANDO

PR/2206/0 (Version 2)

Whereas TAILWIND ENERGY CHINOOK LTD has made an application dated 25th 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 consent application PCON/4154/3 and FCON/6092/0.

Effective Date: 7th December 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 December 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 [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:

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 gas production from the Orlando Field for 2023 to 2028 based on current consent figures. Increase in oil production for years 2023 and 2024.

Description of project :

This project consists of an increase in oil and gas production of less than 500 tonnes/day and 500,000 cubic metres per day respectively. This projected increase is due to an updated ESP design with a lower minimum producing pressure subsequently resulting in higher gas production overall. The ESP workover is scheduled to commence in 2022.

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 project area is in Block 3/3b-13 in the Northern North Sea (NNS) approximately 127 kilometres (km) east of Shetland and 17 km from the UK/Norway Median Line, in a depth of approximately 141 metres (m).

Surveys of the project location indicate that surface sediments are predominantly loose to medium dense silty, gravelly sand with numerous areas of shell, gravel, cobbles and occasional boulders. The survey also found the three most abundant species were small burrowing *thyasirid* bivalves (*Axinulus croulinensis* , *Adontorhina similis*) and the polychaete *P. jeffreysii* . Other abundant polychaetes were *Spiophanes bombyx* , *A. catherinae* and *Chone duneri* . Survey results also suggested that the infaunal community in the areas of fine sand is compatible with the biotope associated with offshore circalittoral sandy mud.

The closest site of conservation interest is the Pobie Bank Reef SAC, located 81 km west of the area and is an area of stony and bedrock reef. The project is in the National Marine Plan Area for Scotland.

From the SCANS-III survey data, Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) are by far the most abundant species recorded, followed by minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) and a very low density of Atlantic white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*). A single Sowerby's beaked whale (*Mesoplodon bidens*) was also recorded. Grey and harbour seals are rarely present in area.

Seabird vulnerability in the vicinity of the Garten field is low throughout the year.

The area is known to be a peak spawning ground at certain times of the year for cod, haddock, saithe and Norway pout.

Fishing effort in the area is low to moderate, although there are a significant number of foreign vessels utilising the area targeting demersal species. Most fishing effort in the area is carried out by demersal trawling, with occasional pelagic trawls resulting in sporadic and seasonal landings of pelagic species.



Shipping density is moderate, with the area predominately used by vessels associated with the oil and gas industry and low usage by cargo, tanker and ferry traffic. The project is within an MOD training area, but the MOD confirmed no safeguarding objections. No additional vessels or infrastructure will be associated with this project.

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

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 the atmospheric emissions 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.

The workover of the Orlando well to replace the ESPs is required to ensure flow from the well. The change in Orlando field production values will lead to an increase in emissions of gases which contribute both to localised and short-term increases in atmospheric pollutants, and to global atmospheric GHG concentrations. However, in the context of wider UK emissions these effects are negligible.

In addition, the project will not change the expected chemical use and discharge and produced water/oil in water permits at the NCP.

The project will result in an increase on the average quantity of gas being flared, but measures are in place to maximise the use of gas from Orlando as fuel gas on the NCP as far as reasonably practicable and as such any increase is considered to have a negligible impact.

Tailwind has assessed the potential environmental effects from this work scope and concluded that the planned activity is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment

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:

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It has been concluded there are not significant adverse effects on the environment from this project.