

Our Ref: 01.08.06.15/362C
UKOP Doc Ref:1179739



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

APACHE BERYL I LIMITED
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PAGET-BROWN TRUST COMPANY LTD
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Registered No.: FC005975

Date: 13th December 2021

Department for Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Dear Sir / Madam

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

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2181/0 (Version 3), dated 10th December 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**

BUCKLAND field production increase

PR/2181/0 (Version 3)

Whereas APACHE BERYL I LIMITED has made an application dated 10th December 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 agreement to the Oil and Gas Authority to grant of consent for the project as detailed in the application (42-21).

Effective Date: 13th 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 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 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 reason

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 Buckland field for 2022 and extension of consent to 2023.

Description of project :

This project consists of an increase in oil and gas production of less than 500,000 cubic metres per day for 2022 and an extension of consent for oil and gas production to 2023 at the Buckland field. This projected increase is due to well that will be drilled and brought online 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 Buckland Field (UKCS Block 9/18a) ties back to the Beryl Alpha platform (UKCS Block 9/13a) where the produced fluids are processed. The platform is located in the Beryl Field, which lies 22 kilometres (km) from the UK/Norway transboundary line, 155km from the Shetland Islands and in a water depth of approximately 119 metres (m). The mean residual current surrounding the Beryl Alpha field is approximately 0.23 m/s. The predominant direction of the currents within the area is northwest to southeast. The annual mean significant wave height varies from 2.41 - 2.7m. The annual mean wave power varies from 30.1 - 36 kW/m.

Specific site surveys confirmed the seabed was found to be relatively homogeneous around the Beryl Alpha platform, comprising sand with shells and shell fragments, and patches of easily disturbed fine sediment. Juvenile individuals of the bivalve mollusc *Arctica islandica* (ocean quahog) were recorded in several survey samples. *Arctica islandica* is listed on the OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining species and habitats, however this is commonly found within this area of the North Sea. Additionally, the sea pen *Pennatula phosphorea*, a constituent of the sea pen and burrowing megafauna community was recorded in both the faunal samples and seabed footage. However, due their low abundances, the resemblance to this habitat type is considered tenuous. There were no Annex I habitats protected under the Habitats Directive (1992) or any other species or habitats of conservation importance observed within the survey area. There was also no indication of any species on the Scottish Biodiversity List (2012) or on the IUCN Global List (2014).

The closest site of conservation interest is the Braemar Pockmarks SAC, located over 50 km south of the area, that protects the Annex I habitat 'submarine structures made by leaking gases'. The project is in the National Marine Plan Area for Scotland.

Low densities of harbour porpoise, white-beaked dolphin and killer whale have been recorded in the area. Grey and harbour seals are also present in low numbers in the Beryl Alpha area.



Seabird vulnerability in the vicinity of the Beryl Alpha field is low throughout the year or shows no data.

Both spawning and/or nursery grounds for a number of commercially important fish are present and the area is known to be a peak spawning ground at certain times of the year for Norway pout, Nephrops, cod, haddock, saithe, blue whiting and mackerel.

The project area lies in ICES rectangle 48F1 and is primarily used for demersal fishing and the fishing effort in the area is rated low.

There are several oil and gas fields nearby. The nearest marine cable is 8 km away. There are no operational renewable energy sites, nor any under construction and there are no known wrecks of historical importance or military activity, or shellfish water protected areas or active aquaculture sites within the vicinity of the proposed operations. Shipping density in the area is low.

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 change in production will not require any modifications to the platform.

Apart from the base flare required for the safe and efficient operation of the process and flare systems under normal operating conditions, gas is flared only during emergency pressure relief, periods of process instability typically after start-up and shut down. The frequency of these events would not be expected to increase as a result of the change in production. No significant changes in flaring will occur and flaring levels will remain less than those attained during peak production. There will be no change to permitted emissions levels.

Vessel presence at the platform will not increase as a result of an increase in production. There will be no additional personnel required on the platform as a result of the changes in production.

The overall volume of produced water discharged will not significantly increase as a result of the changes in production. Due to the efficiency of the separation system, the oil-in-water concentration of the produced water discharged is low (less than



30mg/l). No increase of discharged produced water volumes and discharged oil weight is expected and there are no requirements for increase in tonnage or dosage of process or utility chemicals due to the increase of production.

The probability of an accidental event leading to a release from the platform or loss of the inventory will not increase as a result of the revised production. As the potential hydrocarbon volumes and probability of a spill occurring are unchangeable, the overall spill risk is not influenced by changes in production consent.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the operations.

It is considered that the increase in gas production from the Buckland 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

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:

N/A