

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-4877U
UKOP Doc Ref:1182276



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

CHRYSAOR LIMITED
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Registered No.: 06418649

Date: 21st December 2021

Department for Business, Energy
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Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020
LAD FLOWLINE PL4856 AND UMBILICAL PLU4857 INSTALLATION**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PL/2184/2 (Version 2), dated 21st 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**

LAD FLOWLINE PL4856 AND UMBILICAL PLU4857 INSTALLATION

PL/2184/2 (Version 2)

Whereas CHRYSAOR LIMITED has made an application dated 21st 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 his agreement to the Oil and Gas Authority to the grant of consent for the project as detailed in the application PA/3635.

Effective Date: 21st 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

The screening direction shall be valid from 13 October 2021 until 28 February 2022.

2 Commencement and completion of the project

The holder of the screening direction must confirm the dates of commencement and completion of the project covered by the screening direction. Notification should be sent by email to the Environmental Management Team Mailbox: bst@beis.gov.uk

3 Nature of stabilisation or protection materials

PL4856

Rock deposits

36,000 tonnes of clean, inert rock material, containing minimal fines, (The quantity of rock deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary stabilisation or protection, and any surplus rock must be returned to land).

Grout bags deposits

36 tonnes of grout contained within [1,440 of] 25 kilogramme capacity biodegradable bags. (The number of bags deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus bags must be returned to land).

Concrete mattress deposits

130 [one hundred and thirty] concrete mattresses, each measuring 6 metres x 3 metres x 15 centimetres. (The number of mattresses deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus mattresses must be returned to land).

Valve skid assembly protection block deposits

2 [two] valve skid assembly protection blocks, each measuring 1.5 metres x 4.5 metres x 1.5 metres. (The number of valve skid assembly protection blocks deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus



valve skid assembly protection blocks must be returned to land).

PLU4857

Rock deposits

4,000 tonnes of clean, inert rock material, containing minimal fines, (The quantity of rock deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary stabilisation or protection, and any surplus rock must be returned to land).

Grout bags deposits

32 tonnes of grout contained within [1,280 of] 25 kilogramme capacity biodegradable bags. (The number of bags deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus bags must be returned to land).

Concrete mattress deposits

96 [ninety six] concrete mattresses, each measuring 6 metres x 3 metres x 15 centimetres. (The number of mattresses deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus mattresses must be returned to land).

Methanol blowdown line EEE North Manifold - LAA

Grout bags deposits

10 tonnes of grout contained within [400 of] 25 kilogramme capacity biodegradable bags. (The number of bags deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus bags must be returned to land).

Methanol blowdown line EEE North Manifold - LAF

Grout bags deposits

10 tonnes of grout contained within [400 of] 25 kilogramme capacity biodegradable bags. (The number of bags deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus bags must be returned to land).

4 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials

As per coordinates detailed within PL/2184.

5 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.

6 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.

7 Monitoring

The results of any pre or post-placement surveys carried out to confirm the necessity for the deposits covered by the screening direction and/or to confirm the accurate positioning of the stabilisation or protection materials, should be forwarded to the Department following completion of the surveys

8 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.

9 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.

10 Deposit returns

The holder of the screening direction shall submit a report to the Department following completion of the deposit covered by the screening direction, confirming the quantity of materials deposited and the estimated area of impact, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting form. Where no deposits are made, a 'nil' return is required.

11 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).

12 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, 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 Assessment 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

Addition of potential operation to replace two methanol blowdown lines from EEE North Manifold to LAA and LAF drill centres.

Description of the Project

The change to the project constitutes the addition of a potential operation to install two new methanol blowdown lines and associated deposits for stabilisation / protection. The deposits will comprise of a maximum of 800 grout bags.

The installation of a pipeline system (3.3 km flexible flowline, 3.3 km umbilical, spools, jumpers, associated permanent and temporary deposits) at the East Everest Expansion (EEE) field will be undertaken by five vessels and is expected to take up to 62 days to complete between October 2021 and February 2022. This is in order to connect the LAD subsea well to the EEE North Manifold such that production from



the LAD well can be tied-back to produce through the North Everest installation. To install the flexible flowline and umbilical, they will each be laid on the seabed before being trenched into the seabed using a jet trencher from a Trenching Support Vessel. The two trenches will be approximately 20 m apart to provide sufficient separation to mitigate against heat transfer between the two lines. The flowline will then also be backfilled to mitigate any risk of upheaval buckling. The umbilical trench is expected to naturally backfill over time, although a level of cover will already have been provided through fluidisation of sediment from the trenching process. Rock deposits may be required on areas of the flowline in the southern section where the backfill soil cover is insufficient to mitigate the risk of upheaval buckling (8,000 tonnes maximum required). Further rock deposits may be required on areas of the flowline in the northern section which has predominantly clay soils that are not expected to provide adequate cover to mitigate for upheaval buckling (28,000 tonnes maximum required). Rock deposits may also be required on any sections of the umbilical where the minimum depth of lowering has not been achieved by the jet trencher (4,000 tonnes maximum required). In addition, deposits (concrete mattresses and grout bags) are required at the exposed ends of the flowline and umbilical, as well as the exposed spools and jumpers, to provide protection and stabilisation. Two valve skid protection blocks are also required. Temporary deposit of concrete mattresses is required for up to two months prior to their final installation at the flowline, umbilical, spools and jumpers, which will occur during the project. The operations will be carried out by a maximum of five vessels. The pipeline system requires flushing and testing once installed, which will involve chemical use and discharge. No associated flaring is required. Pollution and nuisances are restricted to power generation equipment onboard the vessels and chemicals.

No significant cumulative impacts are expected to occur with any other existing or approved projects. The closest installation is the North Everest installation, approximately 6 km to the southwest.

The project is not at risk from natural disasters given its location in UK offshore waters, or unplanned major accident scenarios leading to an environmental incident. There is not considered to be any significant risk to 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 is located approximately 219 km east of Aberdeen and 9 km west of the UK/Norwegian median line, in an area of the Central North Sea (CNS) where the water depth is approximately 88 metres (m). The surface current speed in the area is approximately 0.1 m/s and the wave height ranges from 2.1 - 2.4 m, which is typical of this area of the CNS. Site-specific surveys identified the sediment as comprising clayey sand with shells and shell fragments. Patches of coarser material (gravel pebbles, boulders) were also observed. Seabed depressions were present within the area and were interpreted to be anchor pull-out pits; no depressions or other features



associated with methane-derived authigenic carbonate formations were observed. Benthic fauna identified by the site surveys was generally sparse. Seapens and faunal burrows were observed, indicating the likely presence of the OSPAR habitat 'Seapens and burrowing megafauna communities'. Ocean quahog individuals were also identified during sampling.

The project is not located in any protected areas. The closest protected area is the Norwegian Boundary Sediment Plain 18 km to the northeast. The project is located in an area of considerable oil and gas development. There are no wrecks in the area and the nearest telecommunication cable is 4 km away. The project is not located within an area of military activity.

The project will take place during spawning seasons for cod, Norway pout, Norway lobster and sandeel and within the nursery area of several fish species. Killer whale and white-beaked dolphin have been recorded during the period in which the project works are planned. Seabird abundance is low for the period in which the project works are planned. The area is described as a low intensity fishing area and fishing effort is predominantly focussed on demersal and shellfish species.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) and (viii) of Schedule 5 are not likely to 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 on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, including impacts arising from atmospheric emissions, seabed disturbance, physical presence and planned discharges. 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 to the project constitutes a minor increase in seabed footprint from the additional deposits. The new methanol blowdown lines will be installed under existing mattresses and then protected by the new grout bag deposits so no additional footprint is expected from installation of the lines. Seabed disturbance from the change to the project is not considered likely to have a significant impact.

Power generation on board the vessels will generate atmospheric emissions which are expected to result in a short-term deterioration in air quality in the immediate area. This localised effect is expected to be temporary given the meteorological conditions at the offshore location, which are expected to result in rapid dispersion of emissions. The installation activities are expected to take up to 62 days which represents a contribution of <0.05% to the total mass of CO₂ generated from UK offshore activities in 2018. The impacts arising from atmospheric emissions on local air quality and climate are not considered to be significant.

Seabed disturbance from the installation activities is estimated to impact a total area



of 155,199 m². This is likely to result in displacement or mortality of sedentary organisms along with resuspension of sediment. The infrastructure and associated deposits will also result in the introduction of a new hard substrata not normally present in the area. The new stable hard substrata is expected to be colonised over time by epifauna species. Seapens, burrowing megafauna and ocean quahog are sensitive to seabed disturbance; however, although there is the potential for individuals to be impacted there are not expected to be any effects at the population level. The proposed operations could potentially impact sandeel spawning areas; however, any impact is expected to be localised and minimal. The laying and trenching of the flowline and umbilical, which is the main source of seabed disturbance, is planned to take place at the beginning of the project (anticipated to be October - November) and therefore any potential overlap with the sandeel spawning season (November - February) is expected to be brief. The trenching methodology selected requires significantly less rock deposits than if the flowline and umbilical were to be surface laid on the seabed. Rock deposits will be minimised as far as possible. The potential impacts will not extend to any protected sites. The ecological impact from the project is not expected to be identifiable given the wider area of similar natural seabed environment available. Seabed disturbance from the installation activities are not considered likely to have a significant impact.

The majority of installation activities will take place within two existing 500 m radius safety zones, which exclude the unauthorised access of vessels. This prohibits access to fishing and shipping vessels. The rest of the laying, trenching and rock deposits will extend beyond these existing safety zones, although the wider area is described as a low intensity fishing area and the Developer will undertake notification of and communications with other marine users of the vessels' presence. The physical presence of the vessels are not considered likely to have a significant impact.

Discharge of chemicals associated with the installation activities have been assessed and found not to have a significant impact on the environment. The marine environment is expected to rapidly disperse and dilute chemical discharges.

The installation activities will generate underwater noise through vessel engine use, which is anticipated to have a negligible impact.

There are no expected transboundary impacts as a result of the project and no additional cumulative impacts have been identified given the other known approved projects in the wider area.

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

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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.