

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-4906U
UKOP Doc Ref:1190063



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 February 2022

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**

**BLAKE, COSLPioneer DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 13/24a-B2Z (B8) AND B8z
PILOT WELL**

I refer to your amended application dated 15th February 2022, reference DR/2203/1 (Version 2).

It has been determined that the proposed changes to the project is not likely to result in a significant effect on the environment, and therefore an environmental impact assessment is not required.

A screening direction is therefore issued for the changes to the project. An amended schedule of conditions, comments, and main reasons for the decision on the amended application, 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**

**BLAKE, COSLPioneer DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 13/24a-B2Z (B8) AND B8z
PILOT WELL**

DR/2203/1 (Version 2)

Whereas REPSOL SINOPEC RESOURCES UK LIMITED has made an application dated 15th February 2022, 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 the grant of consent for the project as detailed in the application WONS/13532/0/IDA/1 Version 3.

Effective Date: 16th February 2022



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 17 December 2021 until 31 May 2022.

2 Commencement and completion of the project

The holder of the screening direction must notify the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (hereinafter called the 'Department') of commencement and completion of the project within two days:

- a) of commencement of the project and
- b) of completion of the project.

Notification should be sent by email to the Environmental Management Team Mailbox: bst@beis.gov.uk

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, extended well test emissions or flaring and venting emissions relating to a well test, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms. In the case of atmospheric emissions relating to drilling projects undertaken from a fixed installation, they should be included in the annual EEMS reporting forms for the fixed installation.

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:

(1) It is advised that for impacts on aquaculture and Shellfish Water Protected Areas the following information sources would be useful in demonstrating this:

The National Marine Plan interactive
(<https://marinescotland.atkinsgeospatial.com/nmpi/>);

Shellfish Water Protected Areas
(<https://www.gov.scot/policies/water/protected-waters/>);

Scotland's Aquaculture website (<http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk/map/map.aspx>);

The Scottish Shellfish Farm Production survey 2020
(<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-shellfish-farm-production-survey-2020/>)
(These statistics are usually published in May each year);

The Scottish Finfish Farm Production survey 2020
(<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-fish-farm-production-survey-2020/>) (These statistics are usually published in September each year).

(2) MSS would like to request copies of the following survey reports cited in this submission for our archive. Please note that survey reports held by Marine Scotland may be made publicly available and published on the Marine Scotland website:

ERT (2002). Ross Field Area (UKCS Blocks 13/28a and 29a) Seabed Environmental Survey, September 2002. Final Report ERTSL 880/3, issued January 2003.

Gardline Environmental Ltd (2006). Floyd & Associates Ltd for BG Group. Hermes Site Survey UKCS 13/22c. December 2005 to January 2006. Environmental Baseline Report. Gardline Report Reference 6604.

Gardline Environmental Ltd (2007). Floyd & Associates Ltd for Oilexco North Sea Ltd.



UKCS 13/30 'Oddjob' Rig Site and Habitat Assessment Survey. February 2007. Environmental Baseline Report. Gardline Report Reference 7151.

Gardline Environmental Ltd (2008). Floyd & Associates Ltd for BG Group. Blake B6 Site Survey and Habitat Assessment Survey Block 13/24. September and October 2006. Environmental Baseline Report. Gardline Report Reference 7025.1.

Gardline Environmental Ltd (2009). UKCS 13/24 Blake FBA; Environmental Baseline Report; 8241 Issue Date: 9th August 2010

Gardline (2013). Dana Petroleum Ltd. UKCS 13/23d Liberator site survey June 2013. Environmental baseline report. Gardline report Ref 9603.2 (final). Client reference 2169-0143-DANA. Revision 2, 29th November 2013. Gardline Environmental Ltd., Great Yarmouth, UK.

MG3 (2017). North Sea Survey Blocks 13/23c, 13/23d, 13/24a, 13/28b and 13/29b Liberator and Blake: Environmental and Habitat Assessment Survey Report 2017 (within Blake Infill Project ES; D/4244/2019).

(3) Reference to the 'Gonz lez-Irusta and Wright (2016)' report is welcomed. This report also highlights that cod show a preference for coarse sand as a spawning substrate compared with mud or sand. This information could be compared to the site specific sediment analysis to further determine the likelihood of cod spawning in the area.

(4) Further information on sandeel spawning is available in the following reports: Lancaster, J. (Ed.), McCallum, S., Lowe A.C., Taylor, E., Chapman A. & Pomfret, J. (2014). Development of detailed ecological guidance to support the application of the Scottish MPA selection guidelines in Scotland's seas. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No.491. Sandeels - supplementary document (Available from Scottish Natural Heritage) and Mazik, K., Strong, J., Little, S., Bhatia, N., Mander, L., Barnard, S. & Elliott, M. (2015). A review of the recovery potential and influencing factors of relevance to the management of habitats and species within Marine Protected Areas around Scotland. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 771. Available online at <https://www.nature.scot/snh-commissioned-report-771-review-recovery-potential-and-influencing-fa>

(5) Reference to The Marine Life Information Network (MarLIN) which contains a sensitivity review showing that Nephrops are tolerant to pressures such as smothering (by 5 cm of sediment) maybe useful. It would be useful to compare this information to the expected deposits associated with the drilling of this well. More information can be obtained here: <https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/1672>.

(6) MSS has recently added new spatial layers to the Marine Scotland MAPS National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi) showing predicted seabed habitats and sediment types, which are advised, to provide additional regional context. These spatial layers may be viewed on the Marine Scotland MAPS National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi) web site:



<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/seamanagement/nmpihome>

(7) Finalised Scottish Government fisheries statistics for 2020 were published in October 2021. These are now available through the Marine Scotland Data page: <https://data.marine.gov.scot/group/fisheries>. Operators are advised to refer to the combined Excel spreadsheets which include statistics for 2016 - 2020. These are available on the following web page (doi: 10.7489/12378-1).

<https://data.marine.gov.scot/dataset/2020-scottish-sea-fisheries-statistics-fishing-effort-and-quantity>

(8) MSS advise that the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy 2020 is taken into account. Further information may be obtained here: <http://marine.gov.scot/information/sectoral-marine-plan-offshore-wind-energy-plan-options>.

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]
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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 assessment 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 has 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 the 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

Drilling of the 13/24a-B2Z (post spud name B8) attic subsea well
Drilling of a 38", 26", 17.5", 12.25" and 8.5" sections using water-based mud.
All cuttings and drilling fluid will be directly discharged to sea.
Installation of Blow Out Preventor (BOP)
Run and cement a 30" conductor. Run and cement 20", 13-3/8", 10-3/4
"x9-5/8" casings and perform Formation Integrity Tests.
After 8.5" section, the well will be displaced to new Water Based Mud (WBM),
pulling out of hole at target depth prior to cleaning and running completion.
Drilling of two 12.25" and 8.5" sections with riser using WBM.
Well bore clean up, clean up for flow, well testing and completion in the
success case.
In the dry hole case, abandonment of 8.5" section with cement barrier.
Still in B2z (B8) wellbore, to cut and pull 10 3/4"x 9 5/8" casing and set
cement barrier at the 13 3/8" casing.
Initiate geological side track at 13 3/8" cement, a 8.5" section pilot hole.



Section to be logged while drilling to appraise same reservoir in new attic area.

No casing, completion, clean-up to flow and test for B8z pilot hole.

Section appraised then abandoned with a cement barrier.

Description of the Project

This project was the drilling of a new subsea production well Blake 13/24a B2z (B8) attic well using the COSL Pioneer semi-submersible rig which will be positioned using 8 anchors. This project has been foreshortened as the well was found to be dry hole and a geological side-track 8.5" pilot section is proposed to be drilled as part of a revised drilling programme.

The Blake 13/24a B2z (B8 attic production well) was drilled as a single horizontal well targeting attic oil at 5 reservoir locations (T1, T2, T3a, T4 and T5) to enable development of a Blake B2z (B8) infill producer. The well was dry hole with no commercially viable hydrocarbons. The proposal is therefore to abandoned B2z (B8) well by setting a cement barrier, then to cut and pull the 10 3/4" x 9 5/8" casing to surface, placing a further cement barrier at the 13 3/8" casing shoe to enable the drilling of a geological side-track targeting another attic area of the same reservoir via a new pilot hole in the course of drilling operations. This pilot hole, to be known as B8z will be appraised and then abandoned with a cement barrier.

Cuttings from the 38 x 20 and 26 sections were discharged directly to the seabed whilst drilling these sections riserless along with WBM. Cuttings from the lower-hole sections were discharged overboard to the sea surface from the drilling rig along with WBM. Cuttings and WBM from the proposed 8.5" pilot hole will also be discharged overboard from the rig. There is no significant change to overall cuttings volumes as a result of the additional side-track as they are offset to a degree by early abandonment of B2z (B8) and a slightly higher cuttings forecast for B2z (B8) than was actually the case.

As part of the B2z (B8) project a trial of the cement system was undertaken using a simple test mix. Overboard discharge of the cement mix is both the Best Practicable Environmental Option and Best Environmental Practice.

Casings were run and cemented into place to provide structural strength for B2z (B8) production well. No casings will be required for the B8z geological side-track 8.5" section. An 800-foot cement barrier will be placed in the B2z (B8) above any potential hydrocarbon flow zones. In order to undertake the geological, side-track, the B8 10 3/4" and 9 5/8" casing will be cut at 4150 feet and pulled out of hole and an 800-foot cement barrier placed with top of cement in the 13 3/8" casing. A geological side-track will be initiated from this cement, logging while drilling and this pilot hole will be subsequently abandoned with another 800-foot cement barrier. During normal cementing operations any discharges of cement mixture are limited.

Once drilling and cementing operations were complete for 13/24a-B2Z (B8) a wellbore clean-out and completion operation was conducted. Clean-up was carried



out using FLOTHRU SRF WBM and filtered treated NaCl brine. A wellbore clean-up string was run to clean up the wellbore above the isolated lower screen completion. The Roemex RX-03 Well Cleaner clean-up pill and hi-vis pills was pumped and the well displaced to brine. The WBM used for running the screens was displaced from the wellbore and discharged to sea with the WBM stored in the mud pits. The well was dry and therefore not cleaned-up to flow and no well test carried out as described in OGA well application reference WONS/13532/0/IDA/1), superseded by WONS/13974/0 and it was not fully completed.

The 13/24a B8 pilot well have a packer set but will not be fully completed being an appraisal pilot hole and will be abandoned as described see OGA well application reference WONS/13974/0/GS/1 Version 1.

The B2z well had an over trawl structure proposed for deployment at the well location to provide protection from snagging hazards e.g., fisheries, this is no longer required.

There is not likely to be any significant impact from the project on population or human health. It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters. No pollution or nuisances are foreseen from the project.

Drill cuttings from the hydrocarbon bearing zone of B8z has not significantly changed from those assessed for B2z (B8) producer which was not hydrocarbon bearing and contain minimal reservoir hydrocarbon (treated and analysed prior to discharge). Well-bore clean up fluids used for B2z (B8) were discharged.

No cumulative impacts are expected to occur with any other existing or approved projects.

The risk of a major accident such as a well blowout has been assessed. 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.

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:

Well 13/24a-B2Z (B8) attic and its geological side-track B8z are located approximately 65 m from the Blake manifold (Blake Field) located approximately 64 km east of the Scottish coastline and approximately 170 km west of the UK/ Norwegian median line. Water depth at the drilling location is 101 metres. Tidal currents in the vicinity of Block 13/24 are typical of the offshore central North Sea, with relatively weak surface current speeds for mean spring tides of ca. 0.39 m/s. The annual mean significant wave height around the Blake field ranges from 2.03 to 2.11 m, with a mean spring tidal range of 2.07 to 2.25 m.

Surveys of the area indicated a homogenous seabed where sediments generally



consisted of medium to fine sands with shell fragments, with coarse sediment (sandy gravel with cobbles) in some areas. Environmental baseline surveys of the area found that the benthic community of the area was polychaete-dominated which is typical of this region of the North Sea. Faunal analysis found the Annelida (polychaeta) group dominated in terms of number of individuals, with the Mollusca and Crustacea the second and third largest contributors respectively. Epifauna was found to be scarce, which mostly consisted of mobile echinoderms (Asteroidea and Ophiuroidea). Benthic infauna observed mainly consisted of polychaete tubes, notably of *serpulinid* polychaetes and of *Lanice conchilega*. There was no evidence of any Annex I habitats, or UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority marine species and habitats. Although the sea pen *P. phosphorea* was abundant in some areas, only a few burrows were noted and mobile epifauna were sparse. It was therefore considered that there was little evidence of the potential sea pen and burrowing megafauna communities, which is a threatened and / or declining habitat under OSPAR (2008).

The proposed operations will coincide with the spawning periods of cod, whiting, plaice, Norway pout, sprat, lemon sole, sandeel and *Nephrops*. There is a low-medium probability of blue whiting, hake, haddock, sole, sprat and whiting aggregations and a high probability of anglerfish and Norway pout aggregations.

The period of operations will coincide with periods of low to high seabird sensitivity for Block 13/24, with most months coinciding with periods of low vulnerability except for December and January where vulnerability is high.

During the proposed period of operations low to very high numbers of cetaceans have been sighted in the area of the project, especially white-beaked dolphin and harbour porpoise. However, based on available data Block 13/24 is not considered to be significant for feeding, breeding, juvenile or migrating marine mammals.

There are no Offshore Marine Protected Area's in the vicinity of the project. The project is in the National Marine Plan Area for Scotland.

Data indicates that fishing effort in ICES rectangle 45E8 during 2019 recorded an annual total of 797 days, where the most heavily fished month was May. Fishing effort in ICES rectangle 45E8 is dominated by trawling gears. A vessel traffic survey was undertaken which concluded that 33 routes with an estimated 2,024 vessels per annum were identified within 10nm radius of the project location, which equates to 5-6 vessels per day, where offshore support vessels dominate. A collision risk assessment was undertaken which concluded a below historical average vessel collision frequency. The project is within an existing 500m safety zone and further risk management measures will be put in place.

Given the location of the project, it is not likely that the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) 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 on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, including impacts arising from atmospheric emissions, seabed disturbance, physical presence, planned discharges and accidental spills.

The discharge of chemicals used to drill the well and pilot side track, including cementing, completion and well clean-up operations have been assessed and are not considered to have a likely significant environmental impact. In addition, wellbore clean up using filtered seawater contained minimal reservoir hydrocarbon being a dry hole. This discharge was assessed and is not considered to have a likely significant effect on the environment. The drilling of the geological side track does not alter the original conclusion.

The discharge of drill cuttings will form a pile around the wellbore (1.2m height) but will quickly reduce with distance. The area where deposition is predicted to be above 6.5 mm is contained within around 60 m of the well. Impacts on the seabed and associated benthic fauna is expected within a few hundred metres of the well, but recovery over a short period of time is also expected due to dispersion, dilution of the cuttings and through bioturbation and therefore the impacts of the drill cuttings are not considered to have a significant effect on the environment. In addition, although the proposed drilling activities coincide with fish spawning, the pelagic spawning species, which release their eggs into the water column are therefore unlikely to be affected by disturbance to the seabed. *Nephrops* and sandeels are demersal species recorded as spawning in the vicinity of Blake during the proposed drilling period. The sediment type in this area is primarily sandy and therefore *Nephrops* are less likely to be present. It can be concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on fish populations.

Operations covered by this permit will coincide with periods of low to high seabird sensitivity for Block 13/24. There are no marine protected areas in the vicinity of the project. Mitigation is in place to ensure the risk of any release or discharge that could be harmful to seabirds is minimised. The project is not considered to have a significant impact on seabirds.

Fin whale, humpback whale, common dolphin, harbour porpoise, killer whale, minke whale, white-beaked dolphin, white-sided dolphin, bottlenose dolphin and pilot whale have been sighted during the proposed period of operations within the project area. Given the natural avoidance behaviour of cetaceans, it is not expected that these species would be significantly impacted by the project.

The project will be using the COSL Pioneer semi-submersible drilling rig. The maximum disturbance area of the anchors has been calculated to be 198m² with the depth of penetration being 1m. The mooring chains have a worse case disturbance of 47,680m². Anchoring the COSL Pioneer has the potential to cause disturbance to the seabed and marine communities, including direct loss of habitat and sessile seabed organisms. The anchors will remain submerged in the sediment during



operations and the disturbance will be greatest during the laying and retrieval of the anchors. Further seabed disturbance will be from the over trawl structure, which is estimated to have a disturbance area of 27 m². Seabed disturbance impacts are temporary and not considered to be significant.

There is a 500 m radius safety zone around the location of the proposed project, excluding unauthorised access by vessels and prohibiting access to fishing vessels. Probability of collision risk is exceptionally low and effects on shipping navigation are considered not to be significant. Appropriate measures will also be in place to manage any risk to other users of the sea.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the drilling operations from the project location. The nearest boundary (UK/Norway Median Line) is located approximately 170 km away. It is not considered likely that any planned operational discharge (chemicals, hydrocarbon) will be detectable at this distance from the drilling site.

Although not a planned activity, a worst-case major accident scenario resulting from a potential well blow-out was modelled and assessed. The probability of a large oil spill from the proposed operations is low and remains the same for B8z side track. Therefore, it is considered that the control measures in place to prevent loss of well control minimise the risk of an oil spill which could have a significant impact and the proposed operations carried out as planned are not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The largest component related to emissions is expected to be from the drilling rig, the well clean-up, flare and well testing for B2z (B8) well, but assessment indicates that the project will generate emissions that are a relatively small proportion of emissions arising from UKCS oil and gas production, no well testing was carried out or will be for the B8z side track. Several control and mitigation measures will also be in place to minimise impacts. It can therefore be concluded that any impacts from emissions from the project are not considered to be significant.

The drilling operations do not contradict any of the Scottish Marine Plan objectives and policies. It is considered that the drilling of the well is not likely to have a significant impact with other offshore activities or other users of the sea 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

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adverse effects on the environment:

There are no significant adverse effects on the environment.