

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5071U
UKOP Doc Ref:1191312



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

CHRYSAOR PETROLEUM COMPANY U.K. LIMITED
BRETENHAM HOUSE
LANCASTER PLACE
LONDON
WC2E 7EN

Registered No.: 00792712

Date: 22nd February 2022

Department for Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]
Fax [REDACTED]

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
NORPIPE PREPARATORY WORKS - JUDY EXPORT LINE PL998**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PL/2237/0 (Version 4), dated 22nd February 2022 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**

NORPIPE PREPARATORY WORKS - JUDY EXPORT LINE PL998

PL/2237/0 (Version 4)

Whereas CHRYSAOR PETROLEUM COMPANY U.K. LIMITED has made an application dated 22nd 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 his agreement to the Oil and Gas Authority to the grant of consent for the project as detailed in the application PA/3965.

Effective Date: 22nd 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 23 February 2022 until 30 June 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

Concrete mattress deposits

4 [four] 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).

4 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials

Within an area bounded by the coordinates:

Latitude: 56 degrees 17 minutes 30.61 seconds North

Longitude: 02 degrees 33 minutes 47.01 seconds East

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:

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

Relocation of 150 m³ of rock to allow access to Judy/Norpipe tie-in junction;
Deposit of up to four mattresses to provide temporary protection.

Description of the Project

Produced fluids from the Judy platform in the Central North Sea are transported via the Judy main export pipeline (PL998) to connect with the Norpipe pipeline, which then carries the fluids to the Teesside terminal onshore. The project is located at the intersection of PL998 and the Norpipe pipeline, approximately 47 km SSE of the Judy platform itself.

The project relates to a pipeline for the transport of oil, combustible gas or chemicals. It consists of moving the protective rock deposits currently over part of the PL998 pipeline and the wye junction connecting to the Norpipe pipeline to allow access for



valve replacement works (not part of this project), plus the deposit of mattresses to provide temporary protection until these are lifted for the valve replacement works to take place. Four is the maximum number of mattresses that will be used; only two mattresses are required but a further two have been requested as a contingency in case of any breakages. The rock movement will be achieved by dredging using a subsea excavator, remotely controlled from a vessel, to lift the rock from its current location and deposit it in an adjacent relocation area. Mattresses will be placed by crane from the vessel. Operations are expected to take a maximum of three days.

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

Pollution and nuisances are restricted to atmospheric emissions from the vessel. There is no associated chemical use or discharge.

The project does not involve breaking of pipeline containment and therefore there is no anticipated risk of a major accident. The potential for a spill is limited to a diesel or chemical spill from the vessel. The Developer has control measures in place to reduce the risk of such an event occurring and the probability of such an event occurring is low.

The project is not at risk from natural disasters given its location in UK offshore waters.

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 at the intersection of PL998 and the Norpipe pipeline, approximately 273 km from shore (Northeast England) and 22 km from the UK/Norway median line. Water depth is approximately 74 metres.

The surface current speed in the area is approximately 0.01 m/s and the wave height ranges from 1.26 - 3 m. Site-specific surveys found the area to consist of a uniform sandy seabed with sediments of mainly fine, slightly shelly, silty sand. The sediments underlying this at depths >0.5 m were found to be medium to very dense fine sand overlying sandy clay with occasional gravel. Levels of hydrocarbons within the sediments were considered representative of background levels for the CNS. The faunal composition identified by the site surveys was characteristic of the sediment type and reasonably diverse. Low densities of ocean quahog were present during sampling. The horse mussel *Modiolus modiolus* was identified in the wider area, the biogenic reefs formed by which are classified as an OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitat; however, the criteria for positive identification of the biogenic reef was not fulfilled in the site surveys.



The project is not located in any protected areas. The closest protected area is the Fulmar Marine Conservation Zone 2.5 km to the west. The project is located in an area of extensive oil and gas development. There are no wrecks or telecommunication cables in the area and the project is not located within an area of military activity.

The project will overlap with spawning seasons for cod, lemon sole, mackerel, Norway pout, plaice and sandeel and is located within the nursery area of several fish species. Several cetacean species have been recorded in the vicinity of the project location. Seabird abundance is low throughout the year, except April and October - December for which there was no data. The area is described as a low intensity fishing area.

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 of atmospheric emissions and disturbance to the seabed 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 project does not involve chemical use or discharge.

Noise generated will primarily be from vessel engines/power generation and is as typically expected for vessel use. The subsea excavator is electrically powered and generates very low levels of noise.

The temporarily relocated rock and mattresses are not expected to cause a significant navigational risk to other users of the sea given their temporary nature and the small scale of the works. The mattresses will be positioned to minimise snagging risk. Four mattresses is the maximum number that will be used; only two mattresses are required but a further two have been requested as a contingency in case of any breakages.

Atmospheric emissions will be generated by the vessel. Transit to/from the project location is expected to take 1 day and the project is expected to take a maximum of 3 days to complete. The atmospheric emissions generated during the 4 day period will inevitably contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions, but total CO₂ equivalent emissions generated from this project are extremely low. There are therefore no significant impacts expected on local air quality and climate.

The project involves the relocation of approximately 150 m³ of rock, which will involve interaction with the seabed and may cause physical impacts to receptors.



Very little disturbance is expected beyond the immediate impact area, as rock placement by the subsea excavator has been found to be relatively accurate with rock only dropping a small distance from the excavator chute, thereby minimising seabed agitation. The total area of seabed impacted (from the excavation operations and subsequent laydown of rock in the adjacent relocation area) is expected to be maximum 1,100 m². This is a very small area in relation to the wider seabed available and is very unlikely to impact benthic population levels or any protected species. The mattresses will not be in contact with the seabed as they will be laid on the remaining rock (i.e. that has not been relocated) and the pipeline.

The project does not involve breaking of pipeline containment and therefore there is no anticipated risk of a major accident. The potential for a spill is limited to a diesel or chemical spill from the vessel. The Developer has control measures in place to reduce the risk of such an event occurring, including an emergency response plan, and the probability of such an event occurring is low. Accidental event spill modelling shows no significant impact would be likely to occur from any such event.

There are no expected transboundary impacts as a result of the project and no cumulative impacts have been identified.

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:

Not applicable.