

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5093U
UKOP Doc Ref:1199779



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

ENQUEST HEATHER LIMITED
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Registered No.: 02748866

Date: 8th April 2022

Department for Business, Energy
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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
MAGNUS, Magnus Platform, DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 211/12a-NWM
planned well**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2241/0 (Version 3), dated 8th April 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**

**MAGNUS, Magnus Platform, DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 211/12a-NWM
planned well**

DR/2241/0 (Version 3)

Whereas ENQUEST HEATHER LIMITED has made an application dated 8th April 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 WONS/14012/0/RC/1.

Effective Date: 8th April 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 8 April 2022 until 31 December 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:

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 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:

- Drilling of a Magnus platform well (211/12a -NWM). This new well will be sidetracked from an existing donor well (M57z) and will be abandoned by bullheading the cement through the tubing, and cutting and retrieving the upper completion. A whipstock will be set inside the 9 3/8" casing.
- The NWM well be drilled using Oil Based Mud (OBM), with the OBM and cuttings reinjected into a donor well, with zero discharge. If the donor well is unavailable during the drilling operations, the OBM and cuttings will be skipped and shipped to shore.



- The new well will be drilled in a single 8 " section, however as a contingency, the NWM may be drilled as 2 sections (an 8 " and 6 "section). These sections are included within the application. A 4" cemented liner will be installed, and a wellbore clean up will be undertaken. No well test operations are planned.

Description of the Project

Operations are expected to last 52 days. The M57z well will be abandoned by bullheading the cement through the tubing, and cutting and retrieving the upper completion, to allow new drilling to be undertaken. Drilling of a 8 " section will be undertaken, which will be drilled with OBM, and routed to the CRI unit (cuttings reinjection unit) for treatment, and reinjection down a donor well.

If the well to be drilled is unsuccessful, the well will be fully abandoned in accordance with the UGUK Well Decommissioning Guidelines. All drilling and casing running operations will be undertaken using OBM, which will be disposed of via the CRU, therefore there will be no marine discharge. The NWM well, which will be drilled within the installations' 500m safety zone, is within a well-developed area of the Northern North Sea and cumulative impacts from drilling discharges, atmospheric release and oil and chemical releases have been assessed.

It has been concluded that there will be no cumulative impacts expected to occur with this project due to the reinjection of the OBM and cuttings, the proposed mitigation and the short duration of the project.

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters and 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.

Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact from 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 Magnus platform is located within the east of Shetland basin, approximately 17 km from the UK/Norwegian median line and 142 km from the Scottish mainland. Survey data shows the sediments within the area represented by homogenous fine material (silt and clay). Sediments within the region are classified as 'deep circalittoral sand'.

Mean water depth is approximately 185 m at the platform area and the wave height ranges from 2.71 - 3 m. Given the sand and slightly gravelly sand present within the area, the habitat is unlikely to support Annex I submarine structures and stony reefs.



A survey of the area showed that polychaetes were the most abundant species, with horseshoe worm and molluscs also frequently recorded. Priority Marine Features (PMF) such as offshore deep sea muds and offshore subtidal sands and gravels are not known to occur within the vicinity of the Magnus platform, however offshore subtidal sands and gravels have been recorded within the Magnus area. The ocean quahog's preferred habitat is subtidal sands and gravels, and they have been recorded within the area, but in very low numbers. The Magnus platform is not within a known area of ocean quahogs. Sea pens and burrowing megafauna communities have also been observed during surveys, however their presence using the SACFOR scale has been classed as 'occasional' (density of sea pens) and 'rare' (burrows). The densities are therefore insufficient to constitute a 'sea pen and burrowing megafauna communities' Annex I habitat.

Minke whale, long finned pilot whale, killer whale, bottlenose dolphin, Atlantic white-sided dolphin and harbour porpoise have all been recorded in the vicinity of the Magnus area. Densities of the species are categorised as low to moderate, with the exception of the killer whale which is observed in high density in June. Grey and harbour seals may be encountered but due to the distance from shore, it is unlikely that the area is visited regularly or in high numbers. Density maps show the presence of grey and harbour seals in the area of the platform as 0-1 individuals per 25km².

Seabird oil sensitivity in the vicinity of the Magnus field is low throughout the year and high in November, December, January, and February and very high in March.

The Magnus platform is not situated within any conservation areas, with the nearest area of conservation interest being the NCMPA North East Faroe Shetland Channel which lies 80km to the northwest. This site is designated mainly for deep sponge aggregations, offshore deep sea muds and offshore subtidal sands and gravels. The closest SAC is Pobie Bank Reef SAC, which is located 117km to the southwest of the platform and is designated due to the presence of Annex I habitats bedrock and stony reefs.

The Magnus field lies within fishing designated ICES rectangle 52F1, however the drilling of well NWM does not extend outwith the 500m safety zone, where fishing vessels are already excluded. The proposed operations will coincide with fish spawning and/or nursery activity for a number of species. The proposed project is primarily used for demersal fishing and the fishing effort in the area accounts for only 0.04% of both UK landings and value. It is not anticipated that the drilling of well NWM will have a significant impact on the fishing industry in the area.

There are two wrecks within the Magnus platform area. Neither are wrecks designated under the Protection of Military Remains or are of Historical Importance. There are no wind farms close to the area, with the closest being the Bluemull Sound, which is located 160 km from the platform. The closest telecommunications cable (CANTAT) is located 55km to the north east of the platform, and the nearest aquaculture site is 136km along the east coast of Shetland. There are no military restrictions within the block. It is not anticipated that the operations at Magnus will



have a significant impact on either the aquaculture sites, wrecks, cables or windfarms.

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 change to 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 change to 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. Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact from the change to the project on population and human health.

There is in place a 500 m radius safety zone around the Magnus platform, which excludes unauthorised access of vessels and prohibits access to fishing vessels. No additional impacts to other marine users are identified as part of the drilling of well NWM. The well is being drilled from the platform and therefore no significant effects are likely in terms of physical presence from the project.

Cuttings from the OBM sections will be treated on the platform in the cuttings reinjection unit (CRI) and there will be no discharge to the marine environment. In the event that the CRI is not available, the OBM and cuttings will be shipped to the shore.

Any noise will not be significant, and it is concluded that activity is not expected to have a likely significant effect on the site in relation to harbour porpoise and the supporting habitats and prey.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the proposal to drill NWM well. The nearest boundary (UK/Norwegian median) is located approximately 17 km from the proposed well location, however the operator has in place procedures and measures to take in the event of an oil release.

A worst-case major accident scenario resulting from a potential well blow-out was modelled and assessed and the probability of a large oil spill from the proposed drilling is low. The Developer has a number of mitigation and control measures in place to reduce the risk of a major accident occurring and the probability of such an event occurring (including the worst-case scenario identified above) is very low. Therefore, the risk of an oil spill event that could have a significant impact on the environment is minimised.

The proposed drilling operation will utilise the existing Magnus power generation equipment. Atmospheric emissions are permitted by a PPC (Pollution Prevention and Control) Permit, and are regulated separately.



2) 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.

3) 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