

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5050U
UKOP Doc Ref:1209368



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: 10th June 2022

Department for Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

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bst@beis.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020
GARTEN WELL 9/18a- 9/18a-GTN4**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2232/0 (Version 3), dated 7th June 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**

GARTEN WELL 9/18a- 9/18a-GTN4

DR/2232/0 (Version 3)

Whereas APACHE BERYL I LIMITED has made an application dated 7th June 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/13918/0/IDA/1.

Effective Date: 10th June 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 9 June 2022 until 31 August 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.

The Department has no comments.

2) 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. This document 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:

The information provided by the developer.

The matters listed in Schedule 5 of The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Regulations 2020) (the Regulations).

The results of any preliminary verifications or assessments of the effects on the environment of the project; and

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 36" and 26" sections using Water Based Mud (WBM) and seawater.

Description of the Project

This project is for the drilling of the top hole and surface sections of the Garten 09/18a-GTN4 well using the semi-submersible rig Ocean Patriot. Operations are expected to take 11 days.

The 36" and 26" section will be drilled vertically, riserless with seawater and WBM. Cuttings will be discharged at the seabed. A 30" conductor will be set and cemented in place, as will 20" casing resulting in small amounts of cement discharged to the



seabed.

A wellhead will be installed to allow for the potential for future drilling. The well will be suspended with seawater.

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

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters. The risk of a major accident such as a well blowout has not been assessed as the 36" x 26" hole section will not reach a hydrocarbon formation, hence there is no risk for a hydrocarbon blow-out scenario.

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 proposed drilling project is located in the Garten field in the Northern North Sea, in UKCS Block 9/18a, approximately 166 kilometres (km) from the Aberdeenshire coastline, and 16 km from the UK/Norway Median Line, in a depth of approximately 113 metres (m). The well will be located within 120 m north-north-west of the existing Buckland towhead manifold (which is part of the Buckland pipeline bundle), and will tie-in the existing Buckland towhead manifold.

Specific site surveys confirmed the EUNIS biotope complexes 'Deep circalittoral sand' (A5.27) and 'Deep circalittoral coarse sediments' (A5.15) were designated within the survey area. The fauna observed across the survey area are regularly observed within this area of the North Sea. Sea pens (*P. phosphorea*) and/or burrows were recorded across the survey area, with frequent or common SACFOR abundance on sandy sections of two transects. However, these areas may have low potential to qualify as the OSPAR designated 'Sea pens and burrowing megafauna communities' threatened and/or declining habitat due to the sand dominated nature of the sediments. Subtidal sands and gravels were present throughout the survey area but are widely represented in the MPA network. Areas of coarse sediment with cobbles and/or boulders on sections of some transects met the criteria for 'low' Annex I 'Stony reef'.

Demosponges satisfy the density criteria for the OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitat 'Deep-sea sponge aggregations' on a section of some transects. However, there was low confidence as no other qualifying criteria are met. The surveys conducted did not provide any evidence for the presence of ocean quahog. Habitats and species observed in the current survey were consistent with previous survey results and are considered to be typical of the area.



No other potentially sensitive habitats or species were recorded in the survey area.

The closest site of conservation interest is the Braemar Pockmarks SAC, located 54 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 to moderate densities of Atlantic white-sided dolphin, harbour porpoise, white-beaked dolphin, killer whale, and minke whale have been recorded in the area, and high for Harbour Porpoise, Minke whale and White-beaked dolphin in July. Grey and harbour seals are also present in low numbers in the Garten area.

Seabird vulnerability in the vicinity of the Garten field is low throughout the proposed period of operations.

The proposed operations will coincide with fish spawning and/or nursery activity for a number of species. In particular, the area is known to be a peak spawning ground at certain times of the year for cod, haddock, mackerel, Norway pout, Norway lobster and saithe.

The project area is primarily used for demersal fishing and the fishing effort in the area is rated low to moderate.

There are several oil and gas fields nearby. The nearest marine cable is 17 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) 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.

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

There is already a temporary 500 m safety exclusion zone around the Ocean Patriot rig, excluding unauthorised access of vessels and prohibiting access to fishing vessels. In addition, there is already a 500 m zone around the existing Buckland towhead manifold. The presence of the Ocean Patriot rig is not likely to have a



significant impact on other users of the sea.

Atmospheric emissions directly attributable to the drilling of the well are expected to be short lived and will not be detectable within a short distance of the rig due to the dispersive nature of the exposed offshore environment. These are expected to rapidly disperse and are not likely to have a significant impact.

The anchors for the MoDU are already in place and will not be moved, as the rig will skid to the surface of the well location within the current anchor spread (the impacts associated with this were considered under application DRA/868). Therefore, there will be no additional disturbance of the seabed on the benthic fauna.

WBM cuttings will be discharged to the seabed and water column from the drilling of the Garten well, however, it can be expected that these will disperse and over time the recovery of seabed sediments should occur. Drilling of the top hole sections (36" and 26") will be undertaken between May and August, which will avoid WBM discharges (seawater and sweeps) during the peak cod spawning period in February-March, and therefore not likely to cause any significant impacts.

Discharge of offshore chemicals associated with the drilling of the well, and cementing have been assessed as not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the drilling operations. The nearest boundary (UK/Norway Median Line) is located approximately 15km of the operations. It is not considered likely that any planned operational discharge (chemicals) will be detectable at this distance from the well location and emissions associated with the operations are expected to be localised and to represent a very small increase in the baseline for the area.

The hydrocarbon formation of the Garten reservoir or any other reservoir will not be reached. Due to the zero probability of a blow-out scenario, there will be no Major Environmental Incident (MEI).

The drilling operations are in accordance with the National Marine Plan for Scotland's objectives and policies. It is considered that the drilling of the Garten well is not likely to have a significant impact on 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:

Not applicable.