

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01/24U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1213976



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

CNOOC PETROLEUM EUROPE LIMITED  
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Registered No.: 01051137

Date: 8th July 2022

Department for Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

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[www.gov.uk/beis](http://www.gov.uk/beis)  
[bst@beis.gov.uk](mailto:bst@beis.gov.uk)

Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING  
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS  
2020  
GOLDEN EAGLE**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2268/0 (Version 3), dated 7th July 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](mailto: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**

**GOLDEN EAGLE**

**PR/2268/0 (Version 3)**

Whereas CNOOC PETROLEUM EUROPE LIMITED has made an application dated 7th July 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, PCON/3668/3.

Effective Date: 8th July 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**

This screening direction shall be valid from 1 January 2023.

#### **2 Change to production level(s)**

The holder of the screening direction shall ensure that the change in the level(s) of production do not exceed the amended level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction, and in the application for consent relating to the approval for the getting of petroleum issued under the relevant production licence Model Clause.

#### **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, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms.

## **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:

#### **Summary of the project:**

Increase in oil and gas production from the Golden Eagle field.

#### **Description of project**

This project consists of an increase in oil production of less than 500 tonnes per day and gas production of less than 500,000 cubic meters per day at the Golden Eagle, Peregrine and Solitaire fields, due to the proposed drilling of wells DPF and DPG in the Golden Eagle field in 2023.

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

There is no change to the assessment of a major accident. 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.



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

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 fields are located in Blocks 20/1, 20/1N and 14/26a with the processing facility, the Golden Eagle platform located in the Central North Sea (CNS) approximately 68 kilometres (km) from the Scottish coast of the UK and 151 km from the UK/Norway median line, in an approximate water depth of 104 metres (m).

The sediment in the area is composed of fine silty to medium sand. Surveys in the area have shown the sediments in the area consist of 'deep circalittoral sand'.

Seabed photography and video footage showed that visible fauna was low but with frequent evidence of burrowing animals. Observed fauna included sea stars, hermit crabs, sea anemone and seapens. Polychaete were the most abundance infauna. Although seapens were recorded during the survey, their densities were low and it is unlikely that the OSPAR listed habitat of 'seapens and burrowing megafauna communities' were present. Pockmarks found in the area shows no evidence of MDAC features and no annex I submarine structures made by leaking gases were found.

The closest areas protected for Annex I habitat are the Southern Trench Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA), which is protected for minke whale, burrowed muds and subglacial tunnels and valleys.

The closest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is 117km to the northeast of the field is the Scanner Pockmark, designated for Annex I habitat 'submarine structures made by leaking gases'.

Fish spawning for a number of species occurs in ICES rectangle 44E9, and it is also a nursery area for a number of fish species throughout the year. Several species are Scottish Priority Marine Features.

Seabird vulnerability in the area is extremely high in October and November and low to medium for the remaining months.

Harbour porpoise, minke whale, common dolphin, white-beaked dolphin, atlantic white-sided dolphin and Risso's dolphin have all been sighted in the area throughout the year. All of these species are found in low to moderate densities, with the exception of minke whale which is found in high densities in May and June, and high densities of white beaked dolphin in June. Grey and harbour seals are not frequently





sighted within the area with individual densities of grey seals ranging from 5-10 individuals pre 25km<sup>2</sup>. Harbour seals are not expected within the area.

The field falls within International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 44E9, and fishing effort is dominated by demersal and shellfish species. This area contributes to 0.76% of UK landings and 0.94% of value when compared to overall UKCS fishing.

The project location is not within a military activity zone, with the nearest telecommunications cable located 44km to the south of the Golden Eagle platform. The North Connect Cable is due to begin construction and is routed 22km to the south of the Golden Eagle field. The closest windfarm is the Hywind floating offshore windfarm located 57km southeast of the platform. In addition, NE7 wind farm is located 2.5km northeast of Block 20/01. There are 4 wrecks in the vicinity of the platform, 3 are unknown and one is named 'Fisher Boys'. None are dangerous and there are no known wrecks of historical importance. The closest aquaculture site is 100km to the southeast of the platform.

Given the location of the project, it is not likely that the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) or (viii) 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 of the atmospheric emissions on the environment 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 increase in production at the Golden Eagle platform will not result in any plant modifications to existing equipment. There will be no change to the combustion plant or fuel consumption, with no changes to atmospheric emissions.

There will be no increase in the amount of produced water (PW) as a result of the increase to production. PW is constrained by the production process capacity on the platform and will remain at current levels. 98% of PW is reinjected to the reservoir with the remaining PW discharged to sea.

There will be no new chemical applications required as a result of the increase to production.

There will be no increase in routine flaring and the base flare rate will remain constant.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the operations.

It is considered that the increase in oil and gas production from the Golden Eagle



field is not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea, the seabed, marine life or cetacean species 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 adverse effects on the environment:

Not applicable.