

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-4919U
UKOP Doc Ref:1221213



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

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

Registered No.: 00792712

Date: 19th August 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
JUDY 30/07a-RD DEVELOPMENT WELL**

I refer to your amended application dated 17th August 2022, reference DR/2208/1 (Version 1).

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**

JUDY 30/07a-RD DEVELOPMENT WELL

DR/2208/1 (Version 1)

Whereas CHRYSOOR PETROLEUM COMPANY U.K. LIMITED has made an application dated 17th August 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/13835/1/WT/1 Version 1.

Effective Date: 19th August 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 14 January 2022 until 31 March 2023.

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 Nature of stabilisation or protection materials

Rock deposits

3,000 tonnes of clean, inert rock material, containing minimal fines, (The quantity of rock deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary stabilisation or protection, and any surplus rock must be returned to land).

4 Location of stabilisation or protection materials

MoDU

1,000 tonnes for each leg of the jack-up mobile drilling unit located at:

56 degrees 41 minutes 55.776 seconds North

02 degrees 20 minutes 13.028 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, 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.

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.

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-4919U
UKOP Doc Ref:1221213



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning



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]



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

Drilling of the Judy 30/07a-RD (Judy RD) high temperature (HT) development well;

Increase in duration and volumes associated with well clean-up involving flaring of hydrocarbons;

Completion of the Judy RD well.

Description of the Project

Drilling, well clean-up and completion of the Judy RD well will be undertaken from a mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) and are expected to take a total of 185 days between January 2022 and October 2022. The MODU will be jacked-up on three legs at the Judy Riser Platform and may require rock deposits at the feet of the spud cans



(at the bottom of each of the three legs) to stabilise the MODU for drilling. This has been included as a contingency and is thought unlikely to be required. The well is planned to be drilled in four sections (36 x 26", 16.5", 12.25", 8.5"), with a contingency fifth section (6.5"). The 36 x 26" section will be drilled with Water Based Mud (WBM) where the drilling mud and cuttings will be discharged to the marine environment. The remaining sections (16.5", 12.25", 8.5" and 6.5" contingency section) will all be drilled using Low Toxicity Oil Based Mud (LTOBM). LTOBM cuttings will be contained in skips and shipped to shore for disposal. Contingency options to sidetrack any of the five well sections are included in the event that difficulties (e.g. with the hole conditions) are encountered while drilling. Completion and wellbore clean-up operations will be carried out which will involve chemical use and discharge. Well clean-up will take place involving flaring an estimated 1,800 tonnes of hydrocarbons (360 tonnes of condensate and 1,440 tonnes of gas). This will take an estimated 72 hours. This increase in duration and volumes from the original screening direction is required due to perforating guns currently being stuck in the well, which is thought to be due to downhole conditions. Barite sag/compaction is a potential cause of the stuck perforating guns and the well test is therefore expected to take slightly longer than originally anticipated (to successfully clean the reservoir section of LTOBM). Pollution and nuisances are restricted to use of combustion equipment, flaring following well clean-up and chemicals.

No significant cumulative impacts are expected to occur with any other existing or approved projects. The next nearest installation is the Jasmine installation, approximately 8 km to the northwest.

The project is not at risk from natural disasters given its location in UK offshore waters, or unplanned major accident scenarios leading to an environmental incident. 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 approximately 263 km southeast of the Scottish coastline and 14 km west of the UK/Norwegian median line, in an area of the Central North Sea (CNS) where the water depth is approximately 76 metres (m). The surface current speed in the area is approximately 0.01 m/s and the wave height ranges from 2.1 - 2.4 m. Sediments in the wider project area were found to comprise silty sand with occasional shell fragments. Based on nearby surveys carried out, along with the known distribution of gas seeps in the CNS, no features associated with methane-derived authigenic carbonate formations are expected to be present. Levels of sediment hydrocarbon contamination were found to be elevated at the Judy Riser Platform beyond the average levels found across the wider CNS. This was due to the presence of oil-based drilling mud from historic drilling activity at Judy. Burrows in the seabed were identified across the wider project area, but their density was confirmed to be lower than that required to confirm the presence of the OSPAR threatened



and/or declining habitat 'Sea pens and burrowing megafauna communities'. Sponges were also identified during the site surveys but their percentage cover was <0.01% and therefore is not expected to qualify as the OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitat 'Deep sea sponge aggregations'. Ocean quahog individuals were identified during sampling in the wider area. It is possible that the Scottish Priority Marine Feature 'Offshore subtidal sands and gravels' occurs in the project area, which is the preferred habitat of the ocean quahog. Given the low numbers expected to be present, the area is not expected to be of particular importance to the species. Horse mussels were identified in the wider site surveys, but the seabed in the project area specifically is not considered likely to contain horse mussel aggregations that would constitute the Annex I habitat 'biogenic reef'.

The project is not located in any protected areas. The closest protected area is the Fulmar Marine Conservation Zone, located 10 km to the south. The project is located in an area of considerable oil and gas development. The nearest wreck is 1.6 km away and there are two telecommunications cables that pass within 1 km of the project. The project is not located within an area of military activity.

The project will take place during spawning seasons for cod, lemon sole, mackerel, Norway pout, plaice and sandeel, as well as within the nursery area of several fish species. Atlantic white-sided dolphin, common dolphin, harbour porpoise, minke whale and white-beaked dolphin have been sighted in the project area. Seabird abundance is low across the year in the project area, except for the months of April and October - December for which there is no data. The area is described as a low intensity fishing area and fishing effort is predominantly focussed on demersal and shellfish species.

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 on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, including impacts arising from atmospheric emissions, physical presence, seabed disturbance and planned discharges. Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

Power generation on the MODU, support vessels and helicopters will generate atmospheric emissions which are expected to result in a short-term deterioration in air quality in the immediate area. This localised effect is expected to be temporary given the meteorological conditions at the offshore location, which are expected to result in rapid dispersion of emissions. The drilling activities are expected to take up to 185 days which represents a contribution of 0.076% to the total mass of CO₂ generated from UK offshore activities in a year. The impacts arising from atmospheric emissions on local air quality and climate are not considered to be significant.



The MODU will locate alongside the Judy Riser Platform which has an existing 500 m radius safety zone, excluding the unauthorised access of vessels. This prohibits access to fishing and shipping vessels, although the wider area is described as a low intensity fishing area and therefore the physical presence of the MODU is not considered likely to have a significant impact.

The project involves spud can placement and the contingency deposit of 3,000 tonnes of rock if required to stabilise the MODU legs. The area of seabed impacted by this disturbance is very small and the potential environmental impacts are not significant. The rock deposit is a contingency option and would only be used if necessary for the safety of the MODU.

Discharge of chemicals associated with the drilling, well clean-up and completion activities have been assessed and found not likely to have a significant impact on the environment. The high energy marine environment is expected to result in rapid dispersion of chemical discharges.

A worst-case major accident scenario resulting from a potential well blow-out was modelled and assessed. The modelling indicates that hydrocarbons from such an event could potentially beach on Norwegian, Danish, Swedish and UK coastlines; however, the likelihood is low (<10%). The potential environmental impacts resulting from a worst-case event are therefore not considered likely to be significant. The Developer has measures in place to prevent and respond to an accidental event.

There are no expected transboundary impacts as a result of the project and no additional cumulative impacts have been identified given the other known approved projects in the wider area.

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.