

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

Affleck Field Re-development

NEO Energy Production UK Limited (“NEO”) has made an application for consent to the Oil and Gas Authority (“OGA”) in relation to the above project. The OGA now operates under the business name of the North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA).

Summary of Project

The Affleck field is situated in the UK sector of the North Sea within block 30/19a, approximately 287 kilometres (km) east-southeast of Aberdeen, in a water depth of approximately 70 metres. The field lies approximately 5km from the UK/Norway transboundary line.

Historically, the field was developed as a two well subsea tie-back, originally to the Janice platform hub via a 28km subsea flowline. Janice ceased production in May 2016 and the Affleck wells have remained suspended since then.

The proposed Affleck Field Re-development project, for which an environmental statement has been submitted under the Regulations above, involves reconnecting the existing Affleck wells, A1 and A2 and the Affleck Manifold, to the Judy Platform (operated by Harbour Energy) via the proposed Talbot manifold (operated by Harbour Energy), where production fluids will be commingled.

New infrastructure is expected to include: a tie-in structure; a 21km pipeline; an umbilical between the Affleck manifold and a direct tie-in at the Judy Platform; and associated crossings/trenching and protection.

Re-development activity is expected to take place in 2023, with first oil expected in 2024.

Environmental Impact Assessment and Consent Process

In accordance with the above-mentioned Regulations, the project is subject to an environmental impact assessment procedure and Regulation 13 applies as the project could have a significant effect on the environment of Norway and Denmark.

The OGA is responsible for deciding whether or not to grant consent for the project, but agreement to the grant of consent must be obtained from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“the Secretary of State”) prior to consent being granted. The Secretary of State’s decision on whether to agree to the grant of consent is based on the environmental impact assessment for the project.

The range of possible decisions in response to the application of consent is:

- a. the Secretary of State agrees to the OGA’s grant of consent following the Secretary of State’s conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, and the OGA grants consent, so the project may proceed;
- b. the Secretary of State refuses to agree to the OGA’s grant of consent following the Secretary of State’s conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, so the project may not proceed; or
- c. the Secretary of State agrees to the OGA’s grant of consent following the Secretary of State’s conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, but the OGA does not grant consent, so the project may not proceed.

Where the Secretary of State agrees to the grant of consent, conditions that NEO must comply with may be attached to the agreement, including environmental conditions to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment, and measures to monitor such conditions.

Notice of the decisions of the Secretary of State and OGA decisions for the project will be published at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-2020-eia-regulations#environmental-impact-assessments-eia> where information on the Secretary of State's decision to agree to or refuse to agree to the grant of consent will also be made available.

Access to Further Information

Copies of this notice, the summary of the project and the Environmental Statement can be viewed and downloaded at www.neweuropeanoffshore.com/operations and at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-2020-eia-regulations#environmental-impact-assessments-eia>. Access to these documents shall remain for at least three months after the date on which the Secretary of State publishes the notice under Regulation 16(1) (publication of consent decisions). A copy of the Environmental Statement and summary of the project may also be obtained by post or email. Requests should be made by **26th September 2022** to:

FAO Affleck Project

NEO Energy

The Silver Fin Building (9th Floor)

455 Union Street

Aberdeen

AB11 6DB

By email: AffleckProject@neweuropeanoffshore.com

By phone: 01224 659120

Public Consultation

Representations, comments or questions relating to the project may be made to the Secretary of State by **26th September 2022**. All representations should quote reference number D/4272/2021 and may be made by letter or by email to:

Business Support Team

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

AB1 Building

Crimon Place

Aberdeen

AB10 1BJ

BST@beis.gov.uk

Judicial Review

A person aggrieved by the grant of consent for a project may apply to the Court for leave / permission to apply for judicial review of the relevant decision or decisions. The United Kingdom has three separate legal systems; one each for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The rules for any application for leave / permission to apply for judicial review may vary depending on where that application is made, but it is important to note that there are time limits for making any application and judicial review may only be available if the applicant has standing / a sufficient interest in the subject matter of the application. Further information about the process for seeking judicial review can be obtained from the Administrative Court (for England and Wales), the Court of Session (for Scotland) or the Judicial Review Office (Northern Ireland).