

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE

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

Captain Field Enhanced Oil Recovery Stage 2 Phase II

Ithaca Energy (UK) Limited has made an application for consent to the Oil and Gas Authority (“the 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

Ithaca Energy (UK) Limited are progressing the Captain field Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) strategy which was detailed in the original Field Development Plan. The Project involves the injection of a polymer into the reservoir to enhance recover of hydrocarbons. The EOR project has been split over a number of stages (including an initial pilot study and two further stages: Stage 1 and Stage 2). Stage 2 has been further split into two phases and this Environmental Statement covers the second of these phases. As part of the proposed Captain EOR Stage 2 Phase II Project, six new subsea polymer injection wells will be drilled across two new drill centres. Polymer injection flowlines and control umbilicals will be installed (jet trenched and buried) between the existing Captain Bridge Linked Platform (BLP) and the new wells. An additional production well will also be drilled.

The proposed Captain EOR Stage 2 Phase II Project can be summarised as follows:

- Drilling of six new polymer injection wells across two new drill centres;
- Drilling of one new production well at an existing drill centre;
- The installation and commissioning of the required subsea infrastructure;
- Ongoing modifications to the three Captain installations; and
- Increased production rates.

Location:

- The project location is (quadrant/block number) 13/22c
- Water depth across proposed development location is 105m
- Distance to Aberdeen, Scotland, is 145km, and
- Distance to nearest international median line (UK/Norway) is 188km

Timeline:

- Estimated duration of offshore activities is from Q1 2023 until the end of Q2 2024
- First injection from the wells is Q1 2024
- First production from the new well Q2 2024

Environmental Impact Assessment and Consent Process

In accordance with the above-mentioned Regulations, the project is subject to an environmental impact assessment procedure.

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 Ithaca Energy (UK) Limited 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 measure 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 <https://www.ithacaenergy.com/responsible-business/environmental-statements> and at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-2020-eia-regulations#environmental-impact-assessments-eia>. Access shall remain 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 to Paul Shearer, Ithaca Energy, Hill of Rubislaw, Aberdeen AB15 6XL, by email to pshearer@ithacaenergy.com or by telephone 01224 236008 by 25/09/2022.

Public Consultation

Representations, comments or questions relating to the project may be made to the Secretary of State by 25/09/2022. All representations should quote reference number ES/2022/007 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).