

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-847U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1229682



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

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Registered No.: 00811900

Date: 6th October 2022

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[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  
DUNBAR increase in production**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2301/0 (Version 3), dated 28th September 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**

**DUNBAR increase in production**

**PR/2301/0 (Version 3)**

Whereas TOTALENERGIES E&P UK LIMITED has made an application dated 28th September 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/6294/0.

Effective Date: 6th October 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 October 2022.

#### **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 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 further 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 [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:

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 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 Dunbar 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 Dunbar field, due to a series of planned workovers of Dunbar wells (D13, D15, D19, D05z, D32 and D08z) which include scale milling and subsequent reperforation. The existing production consent is valid until 2022 and this application seeks to extend this to 2027.

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 Dunbar platform is located in Block 13/14a in the Central North Sea (CNS) approximately 133 kilometres (km) from the Scottish coast of the UK and 12 km from the UK/Norway median line, in an approximate water depth of 145 metres (m).

Regional sediments are composed of sand and muddy sand. Surveys in the area have shown local sediments to consist of poorly sorted very fine sand to coarse silt, defined as 'deep circalittoral sand'.

The benthic assemblage identified from site surveys at Dunbar indicate a community typical of the sediments identified. Observed epifauna included sea stars, squat lobster, sea urchins, anemones and seapens. 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. No other potential Annex 1 habitats were identified at Dunbar.

The closest area protected for Annex I habitat is the Pobie bank Reef Site of Community importance (SCI). This lies 85km to the southwest of Dunbar and is protected for stony bedrock and reef habitat.

There are no designated Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the vicinity of Dunbar with the closest being located 133km to the west (Fetlar to Haroldswick).

The Dunbar field lies within International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 50F1. This is an area for fish spawning and fish nursery for several species throughout the year. Many of the species identified are Scottish Priority Marine Features.

Seabird vulnerability for Block 3/14 is low year-round except for June when it is regarded as moderate. A similar pattern is also observed in adjacent blocks.

Atlantic white-sided dolphin, white-beaked dolphin, killer whale and the long-finned pilot whale have been observed in low densities in the area between the months of May and September. Grey and harbour seals are not frequently sighted within the area with individual densities of both ranging from 0-1 individuals per 25 km<sup>2</sup>.

Fishing effort in ICES 50F1 is dominated by demersal and shellfish species with some pelagic fishing also taking place. This area contributes to 0.23% of UK landings





and 0.33% of value when compared to overall UKCS fishing.

Dunbar is located within a Military of Defence (MoD) training range. However, as all routine operations will take place from Dunbar there will be no requirement for any additional notifications to be issued to the MOD. All activity will be covered under the existing notifications.

There are no telecommunications cables in the vicinity of the Dunbar 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 Dunbar platform will not result in any modifications to the existing plant with increased energy requirements. Atmospheric emissions are not forecasted to increase as a result of additional oil and gas production from the Dunbar field. No change to operational flaring or venting is expected to the currently consented levels. In addition, energy use demand is not expected to increase.

A small (<100m<sup>3</sup>/d) increase in produced water (PW) volume is forecast in 2023, compared to 2022 production year, which is considered insignificant, relative to the total Dunbar PW handling capacity. Oil in water concentrations are not forecast to change as a result of the additional oil and gas production. There is no direct discharge of PW to sea at the Dunbar platform, although some carry over from Alwyn Phase 1 PWRI facilities (which includes some produced water from the Dunbar separator) will be discharged to sea when Phase 1 is offline or over capacity.

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

No change is expected in operational flaring or venting levels compared to currently permitted 2022 flare and vent consents;

There are no expected transboundary effects from the operations.

It is considered that the increase in oil and gas production from the Dunbar 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.



## **2. 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.

## **3. 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.