

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-2992U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1229280



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

TAILWIND ENERGY LTD  
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Registered No.: 07879002

Date: 4th October 2022

Department for Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

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Tel [REDACTED]  
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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  
GANNET E FIELD**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2280/0 (Version 3), dated 30th 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**

**GANNET E FIELD**

**PR/2280/0 (Version 3)**

Whereas TAILWIND ENERGY LTD has made an application dated 30th 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 reference: PCON/6287.

Effective Date: 4th 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 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 [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 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 Gannet East field.  
Production consent application PCON/6287  
Included in Triton FPSO flare consent FCON/6402 & vent consent  
VCON/6401

### **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 Gannet East field, due to the proposed drilling of well GE04 in 2022. The increase in production is proposed for 2023 to 2025 and is requested in the production consent PCON/6287.



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 field is located in Block 21/30 along with its production facility, Triton Floating Production and Storage Offloading Vessel (FPSO) in the central North Sea (CNS) approximately 163 kilometres (km) from the Scottish coast of the UK and 89 km from the UK/Norway median line, in an approximate water depth of 93 metres (m). Typical residual current speed is 0.1m/s. Surface tidal currents range between 0.1 to 1.0m/s.

The sediment of the Gannet E/ Triton area is composed of sand and slightly gravelly sand and may contain significant mud in deeper areas and basins and is classed as 'deep circalittoral sand'. The area includes the Priority Marine Features (PMF) 'offshore subtidal sands and gravels' and the OSPAR listed ocean quahog. Surveys confirm muddy sand with depressions containing mixed sediment (shell and occasional gravel and cobbles). It is highly bioturbated with numerous burrows. Seapens and burrows were identified which could give rise to the potential for the OSPAR listed habitat 'seapen and burrowing megafauna communities' but block 21/30 is not in an area associated with the PMF of 'burrowed mud' and survey results confirmed a sandier substrate. The faunal communities of the central North Sea are dominated by polychaetes, confirmed by survey along with sea urchins and brittle stars. Other frequently observed species present include sea pen, starfish, hermit crab and anemones with sponges and faunal turfs more associated with shelly areas.

The closest area protected for Annex I habitat is the Scanner Pockmark Special Area of Conservation (SAC) 131km from Gannet E. designated for the protection of submarine structures made by leaking gases. SACs are now referred to as sites of national importance retaining the same protection under UK as EU regulation The nearest Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NC MPA) is the East of Gannet and Montrose Field NC MPA 7km east, designated for offshore deep-sea muds and ocean quahog aggregations and their supporting sands and gravels habitat.

Fish spawning species include Norway pout, Norway lobster, cod, mackerel, sandeel (all high intensity) and lemon sole. It is also a nursery area for several fish species





with a high probability of, Norway lobster, spurdog, European hake, haddock, and plaice and the PMF species of blue whiting, anglerfish, herring, mackerel, cod, ling, Norway pout, sandeel and whiting. Surveys indicate fine sand sediments favoured by sandeel but the species is less likely at Gannet E due to higher silt content. Nephrops prefer muddy substrate rather than sand and were observed during surveys.

Seabird species in the Gannet E/ Triton area include northern fulmar, northern gannet, pomarine/ arctic/ long tailed/ great skua, black legged kittiwake, great black backed/ legged/ herring, common guillemot, razorbill and little auk with some species showing a decline in numbers recently. Seabird vulnerability to accidental spill is low year-round in block 21/30 and neighbouring blocks.

Harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphin, common dolphin, minke whale, white beaked dolphin and Atlantic white-sided dolphin have been sighted in Gannet E area in moderate to low density. All species are PMFs, Annex IV listed for protection and additionally bottlenose dolphin, harbour porpoise and grey and harbour seals are Annex II listed species (of national importance). Seals use the area on an infrequent basis.

Block 21/30 falls within International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 43F0, and fishing effort is targeted for demersal species (96% by weight and 90% by value) and less for shellfish and pelagic species with a dominance of trawl gears. Fishing effort was low year-round apart from August and the ICES area had a low contribution relative to UK landings and value.

The Triton FPSO production installation has a 500m statutory safety exclusion zone around it. Shipping density in the area is low. The project location is not within a military activity zone, there are no known wrecks or historic marine protected areas, no submarine cables in the block. The area is too far offshore for aggregate or renewable development and Gannet E manifold is 2.7km from Triton FPSO and 13.7km from the next nearest installation.

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.

Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

Potential effects of atmospheric emissions on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed. The production increase will not require a change in offshore personnel hours with no change to the frequency of helicopter and vessel trips. While there is anticipated to be a minimal increase in flaring, venting



and emissions from tanker offtake associated with the increase in production from this field, overall emissions at Triton FPSO reflect declining production with a reduction in flare and vent between 2021 and 2022 and no change to combustion equipment or resultant emissions with no likely significant effect on the environment.

Produced water will continue to be discharged with an expected minimal overall increase in produced water volume and associated hydrocarbon content attributed to this project but offset by a decline in production at Triton FPSO, maintained within current permitted discharge. Chemicals will remain the same with an increase in use and discharge for five products, risk assessed and not expected to have a significant impact upon the environment.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the operations.

It is considered that the increase in oil and gas production from the Gannet E 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