

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-1202U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1233212



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

TOTALENERGIES E&P NORTH SEA UK LIMITED  
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Registered No.: 03682299

Date: 27th October 2022

Department for Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

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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  
CULZEAN**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2296/0 (Version 2), dated 3rd October 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**

**CULZEAN**

**PR/2296/0 (Version 2)**

Whereas TOTALENERGIES E&P NORTH SEA UK LIMITED has made an application dated 3rd October 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/3145/3.

Effective Date: 27th 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 16 November 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:

Not Applicable

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:

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 Culzean field as a consequence of de-bottlenecking the production plant.

### **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 Culzean field, due to the de-bottlenecking of the Culzean production plant. This thus meets the definition of "project" under the Offshore EIA regulations (2020). The existing production consent is valid until 2035.

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 Culzean Field is located in Block 22/25a of the Central North Sea approximately 227 km from the Scottish coastline (Peterhead) and 22 km from the UK/Norway median line, in an approximate water depth of 88 m.

The habitat in the vicinity of Culzean is a moderate energy environment characterised by deep circalittoral sand.

Surveys revealed there are no potential reef habitats or other habitats of conservation concern in the Culzean area.

The closest Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area to the Culzean field is the East of Gannet and Montrose Field NCMPA, which is located 14 km West of Block 22/25. This NCMPA is designated for the features offshore deep sea muds and Ocean quahog.

There are no designated Special Areas of Conservation within 40km of the development, the closest is the Scanner Pockmark which is approximately 132km to the North of Block 22/25.

The Culzean field lies within International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 43F1. This area lies within the spawning grounds for lemon sole, mackerel, Nephrops, Norway pout, cod and sandeels.

Seabird vulnerability for Block 22/25 is low. A similar pattern is also observed in adjacent blocks.

SCANS surveys identified five species of cetaceans likely to be present in the area; Harbour Porpoise, white-beaked dolphin, minke whale, white-sided dolphin and bottlenose dolphin.

The proposed operations is located approximately 227km offshore thus grey seals may be encountered from time to time but it is not likely that they use the area with any regularity or in great numbers.

Fishing effort in the area is relatively low when compared to the wider area.

There are no military areas or danger areas within the vicinity of the Culzean Field





There are a number of oil and gas installations in the vicinity of Culzean the closest being Shearwater which is 18km away.

There are no submarine cables in the immediate vicinity of Culzean.

There are no windfarms within 40km of the planned operations.

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.

The increase in production from Culzean is a result of modifications to the existing plant (debottlenecking) and results in an increased use of fuel gas, estimated for 2022 to be an increase of 14.5%. Atmospheric emissions are thus forecasted to increase, in the region of 13%, as a result of additional oil and gas production from the Culzean field. This is deemed to be a marginal increase.

There are no significant impacts on flaring regarding the production increase in 2022. Flaring should improve with the debottlenecking. There is no increase in venting due to the production increase.

Produced water discharges are expected to increase though concentrations of oil in water are well within regulatory limits and the impact of the extra oil discharged to sea is not believed to be significant.

There will be no new chemical applications required as a result of the increase to production. Any changes in the chemical usage will be linked to increases in produced water discharges.

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