

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5045U
UKOP Doc Ref:1233192



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

SPIRIT ENERGY NORTH SEA LIMITED
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Registered No.: 04594558

Date: 27th October 2022

Department for Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]
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www.gov.uk/beis
bst@beis.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

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

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2323/0 (Version 1), dated 20th 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.

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**

CHISWICK

PR/2323/0 (Version 1)

Whereas SPIRIT ENERGY NORTH SEA LIMITED has made an application dated 20th 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/6353/0.

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 9 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 gas production from the Chiswick field as a consequence of bringing online an additional well.

Description of project

This project consists of an increase in gas production of less than 500,000 cubic meters per day at the Chiswick field, due to the bringing into production of an addition infill well which is to be tied back to the Chiswick platform. This thus meets the definition of "project" under the Offshore EIA regulations (2020).

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 Chiswick Field is located in Block 49/4a in the Southern North Sea approximately 144 km Northeast of Cromer and 9 km from the UK/Netherlands median line, in an approximate water depth of 40 m.

The sediments in 49/4 predominantly consist of gravelly sand, with other smaller areas consisting of sand, slightly gravelly sand, muddy sand and sandy gravel.

The benthic fauna in the vicinity of the platform is typical of the shallow coarse sand and gravelly sediments that characterise the area. Surveys conducted around the area observed a diverse range of species including *Echinocyamus pusillus* and *Ophelia borealis*. Taxa *Echinocyamus*, *Urothoe* and *Laonice* were the most observed in the area around the Chiswick platform.

No species (such as ocean quahog or sea pens) or habitats of conservation significance protected under the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), such as *Sabellaria spinulosa* biogenic reefs, have been recorded within the Chiswick area.

Five protected sites lie within a 40 km radius of Chiswick: Markham/s Triangle (which transects the area), The Klaverbank (5km NE), The Southern North Sea SAC (14km to the N), North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef (18.5km SW) and Dogger Bank (30km to the N).

The Chiswick field lies within International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 36F2 which is a spawning and nursery ground for a number of fish species.

Seabird vulnerability for Block 49/4a varies from very high to low. A similar pattern is also observed in adjacent blocks.

Harbour porpoise, white-beaked dolphin and Minke whale have been recorded in the vicinity of the Chiswick field. Grey and harbour seals may be encountered from time to time in the Chiswick area, in low densities.

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

There are no military exercise areas within Block 49/4 and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has not identified the block as an area of concern.

The Chiswick field is in an area with numerous oil and gas developments.

There are no known active submarine telecommunication cables within the vicinity of Chiswick

Hornsea wind farm is 2 km west of the Chiswick platform.

There are no wrecks, historic MPAs or Scheduled monuments within Block 49/4.

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 Chiswick Field will not result in any modifications to the existing plant or increased energy requirements.

There will be no increase in atmospheric emissions associated with the increase in production from the Chiswick Field nor will there be any increase in venting. There is no flaring from the Chiswick installation.

There are no discharges of Produced Water from the Chiswick installation.

There will be no increase in the chemical use or discharge there is not expected to be any change in the current chemical used.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the operations.

It is considered that the increase in gas production from the Chiswick 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

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adverse effects on the environment:

Not applicable.