

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5358U
UKOP Doc Ref:1235093



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

PETROFAC FACILITIES MANAGEMENT LIMITED
BRIDGE VIEW
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ABERDEEN
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Registered No.: SC075047

Date: 3rd November 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
WELL 21/03d
LEVERETT PLANNED WELL**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2321/0 (Version 3), dated 31st 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**

**WELL 21/03d
LEVERETT PLANNED WELL**

DR/2321/0 (Version 3)

Whereas PETROFAC FACILITIES MANAGEMENT LIMITED has made an application dated 31st 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, WONS/14583/0/PIDA/1 Version 1.

Effective Date: 3rd November 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

The screening direction shall be valid from 3 November 2022 until 30 September 2023.

2 Commencement and completion of the project

The holder of the screening direction must notify the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (hereinafter called the 'Department') of commencement and completion of the project within two days:

- a) of commencement of the project and
- b) of completion of the project.

Notification should be sent by email to the Environmental Management Team
Mailbox: bst@beis.gov.uk

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, extended well test emissions or flaring and venting emissions relating to a well test, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms. In the case of atmospheric emissions relating to drilling projects undertaken from a fixed installation, they should be included in the annual EEMS reporting forms for the fixed installation.

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:

N/A

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]



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 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

- Installation of a CAN-basic conductor support structure

Description of the Project

Leverett well

The installation of the CAN-basic structure will be undertaken by a dynamically positioned Offshore Support Vessel (OSV) and may take up to three days to complete. The project will be supported by a guard vessel which will remain on location following installation of the CAN-basic structure until arrival of the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) to drill the well which is currently estimated as around 1 April 2023 and which will be the subject of a future post direction amendment. Following drilling of the well and departure of the MODU the guard vessel will return to location until the removal of the CAN-basic structure, currently estimated as up to 30 September 2023.



Installation of the CAN-basic structure is planned to begin in November 2022, and the screening direction covers the period 3 November 2022 to 30 September 2023. No cumulative impacts are expected to occur with any other existing or approved projects. The risk of a major accidents and environmental effects from major accidents, such as a release of diesel from the OSV and guard vessel has been assessed. 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.

There is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health. It is not considered likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters.

No nuisances are foreseen from the project.

Location of the Project

Having regard 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 Leverett well location lies within a seaward licenced area, which has been licenced for the exploration and extraction of hydrocarbons. The project is located approximately 146 km east from the northeast coastline in Scotland and approximately 72 km the UK/Norwegian median line, in an area where water depth is approximately 142 m. The predominant current in the area is generally to the south-east. The project location is not within any protected areas, with the closest being The Scanner Pockmarks SAC, approximately 40 km distant.

The site-specific survey identified the seabed as comprising mud and sandy mud. Further to this numerous elongated pockmarks were present in the area. However, there was a lack of evidence of shallow gas in the vicinity of depressions throughout the survey area and MDAC was not observed on camera ground-truthing data. The benthic fauna in the location is noted to include hermit crabs, shrimp, Norway lobster, sea pens, sea urchins and sea stars. The features 'Burrowed mud' and 'Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities' were noted to be present although the area to be impacted is relatively small.

The project works and timing will take place at a time when a number of fish species may be found to using the area as spawning or nursery locations. Sightings of cetaceans have been made all year but generally in low numbers, with moderate density during the proposed time of CAN-basic structure installation (November) and high density during potential time of CAN-basic structure removal (June to September). Seals are not expected to be seen at the remote location. Seabirds may in the area from July onwards (post-breeding season) and have an extremely high sensitivity to oil pollution in December and January. The project area is used for pelagic, demersal and shellfish fishing, but with a low historical effort. Shipping intensity at the project location is moderate to low. There are no other oil and gas installations in the vicinity of the project. There are no renewable energy projects located within 40km of the project location. The project is not located in a military



training ground. There are no wrecks of historical significance in the vicinity of the project.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii) of Schedule 5 are not likely to 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 to the environment from the activities associated with the change to the project were assessed, with focus on the predominant impacts resulting from physical presence from the vessels, atmospheric emissions from vessel use, seabed disturbance from installation of the CAN-basic structure and accidental events such as a diesel release.

The OSV and guard vessels have the potential to cause interference to other users of the sea, namely fishermen and vessel traffic, however the main operators of vessels in the area will be provided with advanced notice of the project and notification will be made to Kingfisher Information Services. The guard vessel will also be situated on location until arrival of the MODU to alert other users of the sea to the presence of the CAN-basic structure. Given the low importance of the fishing area and the moderate to low vessel traffic the impact is deemed insignificant.

The main receptor impacted by seabed disturbance will be the benthic communities. Physical disturbance can cause mortality or displacement of benthic species in the impacted zone. The area of seabed disturbance resulting from installation of the CAN-basic structure is 0.000201 km². Recovery of faunal communities within the disturbed area may be expected following cessation of the installation and subsequent removal activities. Therefore, based on the above, impacts on benthic communities from the rig location and cuttings deposition will be localised and not significant.

Emissions to air will occur from two sources, (1) the OSV and (2) the guard vessel. The quantity of carbon dioxide equivalent from the vessel use amounts to 0.005% of the 2020 total carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions from offshore oil and gas activity. The vessel emissions will not have a detrimental effect to local air quality over the long-term, nor will it inhibit the ability to reach wider climate change goals. The environmental effects from emissions to air are not expected to have a significant impact on the environment. The impact of the vessel emissions will be mitigated by optimising vessel efficiency i.e., minimising the length of time the vessels are on location, minimising fuel use and avoiding the unnecessary operation of power generation / combustion equipment.

There are no predicted expected transboundary impacts because of the project.

In the event that an unlikely and unplanned accidental diesel release scenario from a vessel collision was realised, the diesel that would be released is of limited volume



and is not expected to persist in the marine environment for a prolonged period of time.

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.

2) 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.