Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5335U
UKOP Doc Ref:1245132

Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

BP EXPLORATION OPERATING COMPANY LIMITED
CHERTSEY ROAD
SUNBURY ON THAMES
MIDDLESEX
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Registered No.: 00305943

Date: 12th December 2022

Department for Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [redacted]
Fax

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
LOYAL FIELD [Part of SCHIEHALLION], Glen Lyon FPSO, CAN-DUCTOR INSTALLATION PRIOR TO DRILLING PLANNED WELL 204/20a- PX104.

I refer to your amended application dated 9th December 2022, reference DR/2310/1 (Version 1).

It has been determined that the proposed changes to the project is not likely to result in a significant effect on the environment, and therefore an environmental impact assessment is not required.

A screening direction is therefore issued for the changes to the project. An amended schedule of conditions, comments, and main reasons for the decision on the amended application, 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

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by Environmental Section
Date: 2022.12.12 13:18:22 GMT
Reason: On behalf of the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy
Location: The Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy

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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

LOYAL FIELD [Part of SCHIEHALLION], Glen Lyon FPSO, CAN-DUCTOR INSTALLATION PRIOR TO DRILLING PLANNED WELL 204/20a- PX104.

DR/2310/1 (Version 1)

Whereas BP EXPLORATION OPERATING COMPANY LIMITED has made an application dated 9th December 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/14452.

Effective Date: 12th December 2022

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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 13 October 2022 until 31 December 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:

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]
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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

DR/2310/1 - This post direction amendment relates to an extension of the end date to allow for submission of further SAT applications to cover drilling operations in 2023. All aspects of the project remain the same and the decision below remains valid.

Having regard, in the 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

CAN-ductor installation at well PX104

Description of the Project

This project is for the installation, by suction piling into the seabed, of the CAN-Ductor system, Low Pressure Wellhead housing, Conductor extension and Deflector Base at the PX104 well location. This infrastructure is being pre-installed and will be used for future drilling of the well. Operations are expected to take 10 days.

The risk of a major accident such as a well blowout has not been assessed as drilling will not commence until a later date, hence there is no risk for a hydrocarbon blow-out scenario.

No cumulative impacts are expected to occur with any other existing or approved

projects.

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters.

Other than the matters considered further below, 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 proposed project is located in the Loyal field, West of Shetland (WoS), in UKCS Block 204/20, approximately 132 kilometres (km) the west of the Scottish coastline, and 32.5 km to the east of the UK-Faroes median line, in a depth of approximately 400 metres (m).

The area in the vicinity of Schiehallion and Loyal infrastructure is characterised under the European Nature Information System (EUNIS) protocol as Atlantic slope mixed sediment which falls under the deep-sea mixed substrata (A6.2) habitat. The superficial sediments in the wider region comprise of coarse sand with variable contributions of shells, gravels, cobbles and small boulders with a mean particle size of 0.9mm. This layer overlies soft brown clay deposits.

The mean significant wave height is expected to be up to 3m. Currents in the area are predominately north-easterly and mean current speeds are normally in the region of 0.1-0.2ms-1 with a maximum of 2ms-1 at the surface; and 0.05-0.1ms-1 with a maximum speed of 0.3ms-1 at the seabed.

The fauna observed across the survey area are regularly observed within the North East Atlantic area. The worksite lies within the Faroe-Shetland Sponge Belt NCMPA. Site specific surveys identified that sponges were observed at all stations apart from two. The nearest known aggregations of deep-sea sponge aggregations are located approximately 21.8 km from PX104. Sponge densities greater than 0.5 individuals / m-2 (conforming with the OSPAR description of the deep-sea sponge aggregations) were observed at one station (Station L) at the Loyal location, however, this did not extend over the whole survey area. Another designated feature of the NCMPA is ocean quahog (PMF). The nearest known aggregations of ocean quahog are located approximately 6.2 km west from PX104.

No areas of stony reef, fluid seep areas or other habitats of conservation significance were recorded in the survey area.

Bottlenose dolphins, harbour porpoise and white beaked dolphins were observed, in low densities in the WoS area.

Seabird vulnerability in block 204/20 is low in October and December and very high

in November. Adjacent blocks show similar vulnerability, also ranging from low to very high.

The proposed operations will coincide with fish spawning and/or nursery activity for a number of species.

There are a number of different seabed users which are active in the region. The nearest marine cable is 10.46 km away. No aggregate dredging and disposal sites, sites of marine archaeological interests, planned offshore renewable energy developments or recreational sailing routes have been identified within 40km of the operation. Shipping density in the area is low. The project is in the National Marine Plan Area for Scotland.

Given the location of the project, it is not likely that the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) 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 on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, including impacts arising from atmospheric emissions, seabed disturbance, physical presence, planned discharges and accidental spills.

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 project is located within the existing 500m safety exclusion zones of the Schiehallion West Drill Center, excluding unauthorised access of vessels and prohibiting access to fishing vessels.

The project will result in a seabed footprint of 35.26 m2. Ocean Quahog and individual porifera are likely to be present in the vicinity however, the nearest known aggregations of these species are 6.2 km and 21.8 km distant respectively. Sponge densities greater than 0.5 individuals / m-2 (conforming with the OSPAR description of the deep-sea sponge aggregations) were observed at one station (Station L) at the Loyal location, however, this did not extend over the whole survey area. The small-scale nature of the project is not likely to have any significant impact on water or sediment quality, benthic communities or on fish spawning.

Atmospheric emissions from the vessel during the installation of the CAN-Ductor are expected to be short lived and likely to be negligible relative to the total emissions associated with shipping. These are expected to rapidly disperse and are not likely to have a significant impact.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the project. The nearest boundary (Faroes median line) is located approximately 32.5 km of the operations.

Due to the zero probability of a blow-out scenario, there is no potential for a Major Environmental Incident (MEI).

The project is in accordance with the National Marine Plan for Scotland's objectives and policies. It is considered that the installation of the CAN-ductor at the PX104 well location is not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea 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.