

Our Ref: 01.08.06.15/383C
UKOP Doc Ref:1246086



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

REPSOL SINOPEC RESOURCES UK LIMITED
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Registered No.: 00825828

Date: 15th December 2022

Department for Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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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
SHAW FIELD PRODUCTION INCREASE**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2337/0 (Version 2), dated 14th December 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**

SHAW FIELD PRODUCTION INCREASE

PR/2337/0 (Version 2)

Whereas REPSOL SINOPEC RESOURCES UK LIMITED has made an application dated 14th 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, PCON/6500.

Effective Date: 15th December 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 Shaw field.
Production consent application PCON/6500

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 Shaw field, due to the proposed drilling of planned well 22/22a-SHC in January 2023 (BEIS reference DRA/956, DR/2329). The increase in production is proposed for 2023 and is requested in the production consent PCON/6500.

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 in block 22/22a 17km to the south of Montrose production installation where it is produced. This consists of Montrose Alpha and Montrose Bridge Linked Platform (BLP) located in block 22/17. The Montrose installation is in the central North Sea (CNS) approximately 190 kilometres (km) from the Scottish coast and 47 km from the UK/Norway median line, in an approximate water depth of 90 meters (m). Surface currents range between 0.26 to 0.39 m/s flowing in a south-easterly direction. The average mean significant wave height is 2.22 and spring tidal range is 1.02m. Winds have variable direction and speed is up to 19m/s in winter.

The sediment at the Montrose production installation where Shaw is produced, is composed of sands, gravels, and muds in various proportions. Production is located 43km from the Fladen and Witch grounds an area of sandy mud underlain by muddy beds associated with pockmarks and situated in subtidal mud with patches of other sediment. Survey results confirm moderately sorted sand to fine sand with varying degrees of patches of clay, silty sand, shell fragments, gravelly sediment and boulders and an overall classification for the area of 'offshore circalittoral sand/ mixed sediments'. Montrose is located within the Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NC MPA) East of Gannet and Montrose Fields, designated for offshore deep-sea muds (burrowed mud being a Priority Marine Feature (PMF) and ocean quahog aggregations (found to depths between 4 and 400m and OSPAR listed as threatened/ declining) including its supporting sand and gravel habitat). Survey results align with the location of Montrose outside the deep-sea mud area.

Infauna are characterised by polychaetes, and molluscs with epifauna including anemones, hermit crab, sea pen, hydroids and dead man's finger with more anemones and hydroids found in the mixed sediment. Annelids are abundant near the surface. The potential for the OSPAR listed habitat 'seapen and burrowing megafauna' was considered but sea pen density was patchy with infrequent burrows

The closest area protected for Annex I habitat is Scanner Pockmark Special Area of Conservation (SAC) 95km north, 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. Montrose is in East of Gannet and Montrose Fields with conservation objective to maintain or attain favourable condition.



Fish spawning species include cod, Norway pout, lemon sole, mackerel, nephrops and sandeel. Montrose is a nursery area for several fish including PMF species, blue whiting, anglerfish, herring, mackerel, cod, ling, Norway pout, sandeel, spurdog and whiting. Surveys indicate mixed sediment with sands favoured by sandeel. Sandeel have a restricted preference and while not recorded in block 22/17, are found in the wider area. Survey results within 10km of the platform confirmed demersal and flat fish species including hagfish.

Seabird species in the Montrose area include northern fulmar, European storm-petrel, northern gannet, arctic/ great/ skua, black legged kittiwake, black headed/ lesser black backed, glaucous/ great black backed, common and herring gull, common guillemot, razorbill, little auk and Atlantic puffin with some species showing a decline in numbers in recent years. Seabird vulnerability to accidental spill is low year-round in block 22/17 and neighbouring blocks.

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

Block 22/17 falls within International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 43F1, fishing effort data was not available, but tonnage landed was highest for demersal species while value greatest for shellfish. Effort, quantity, and value varied between 2017 and 2021. Trawl gear was dominant. Monthly effort, quantity and value is recorded as 'disclosive' apart from January and July.

The Montrose 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. The nearest submarine cable is 38km away. The area has no aggregate or renewable development and Arbroath is the next nearest oil and gas 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. Potential effects of the atmospheric emissions on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed. 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 production increase associated with the drilling of well 22/22a-SHC at Shaw field



is set against a forecast decline in overall production at Montrose in 2023 compared to 2022. It will therefore not require a change in offshore personnel hours with no change to the frequency of helicopter and vessel trips. There will be no change to current combustion plant, power load or emissions. There is anticipated to be a decrease in flaring associated with all fields, produced at Montrose (including Shaw) between 2022 and 2023 (ref: FCON/6439) and venting (ref: VCON/6426). There will be minimal change to reportable emissions and no likely significant effect on the environment.

Produced water will continue to be discharged with an expected minimal increase in volume and associated production chemicals. There will be minimal localised increase in de scaling and wax inhibitor associated with the SHC well at Shaw but a reduction in the discharge of production chemicals associated with sea water lift. Chemicals have been risk assessed and pose no risk to the marine environment and are therefore not expected to have a significant impact. The concentration of hydrocarbon in produced water will remain within current permitted level.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the operations.

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

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.