Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5486U
UKOP Doc Ref:1265206

Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

ONE-DYAS UK LIMITED
100 BISHOPSGATE
LONDON
EC2N 4AG

Registered No.: 03531783

Date: 10th March 2023

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
Crosgan appraisal WELL 42/15a-H- Valaris 123 MODU.

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2345/0 (Version 3), dated 6th March 2023 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

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by Environmental Section
Date: 2023.03.10 10:17:45 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

Crosgan appraisal WELL 42/15a-H- Valaris 123 MODU.

DR/2345/0 (Version 3)

Whereas ONE-DYAS UK LIMITED has made an application dated 6th March 2023, 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/14994/0/IDA/1 and WONS/15149/0/EWT/2.

Effective Date: 10th March 2023

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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 10 March 2023 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 Nature of stabilisation or protection materials

Rock deposits

600 tonnes of clean, inert rock material, containing minimal fines, (The quantity of rock deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary stabilisation or protection, and any surplus rock must be returned to land).

4 Location of stabilisation or protection materials

MoDU - Valaris 123

Within 500 metres radius of the legs of the jack-up mobile drilling unit located at 54 39 41.094 North, 0 47 7.614 East.

5 Extended well tests

a) Production levels

The holder of the screening direction shall ensure that the production of hydrocarbons during the well test does not exceed the level(s) detailed in the

application for the screening direction.

b) Associated flaring and venting

The holder of the screening direction shall, ensure that any associated flaring of hydrocarbons during the well test does not exceed the level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction and/or that any associated venting of gas during the well test does not exceed the level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction.

6 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.

7 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.

8 Environmental Mitigation

1. Piling actvity must be completed by **31st March 2023** . Should piling be required after this date, a variation to this screening direction must be requested;

2. Piling should be undertaken in accordance with the relevant sections of the current Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) guidelines *'Statutory nature conservation agency protocol for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from piling noise'* , and must be undertaken in accordance with the following conditions:

(i) The JNCC 2010 Guidelines for minimising the risk of injury and disturbance to marine mammals from piling noise are followed at all times during the operation. These guidelines are available here: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/JNCC_Piling%20protocol_August_2010.pdf

(ii) These guidelines require the use of Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) and also outline protocols for the appropriate soft-start, mitigation and reporting.

(iii) The pre piling search and soft start should be timed to occur during hours of daylight / good visibility to allow an MMO to observe for any marine mammals within 500m of the sound source and if necessary delay the soft start if animals are detected within this zone.

(iv) The mitigation zone should be monitored by the MMO for a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the commencement of piling.

(v) The soft start should be undertaken for not less than 20 minutes and should be ceased if possible if a marine mammal enters the mitigation zone during the soft start. Piling can recommence if there is no further detection for 20 minutes.

(vi) If there is a break in the piling activity for a period of greater than 10 minutes then the pre piling search and soft start should recommence.

(vii) As a minimum, one dedicated MMO should be used on this operation. The number of MMO's, should be considered to reflect the duration of opertaions.

(viii) If piling is due to commence during periods of darkness, poor visibility, or during periods when the sea state is not conducive to visual detection of marine mammals (above Sea State 4), Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) must be used with points iv, v and vi above. The number of PAM operators, should be considered to reflect the duration of opertaions.

(ix) A report of the visual and/or acoustic monitoring undertaken during the course of the piling operation must be completed and submitted by email to the Environmental Management Team Mailbox: bst@beis.gov.uk, and copied to JNCC at seismic@jncc.gov.uk, within 6 weeks after the piling operations have been completed. The report must be compiled using the current JNCC Reporting Forms and must include the Department's reference number and the Marine Mammal Recording Form in its original format (i.e. as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and not converted to an Adobe Portable Document Format file). (Further information can be found in Section 2.4 of the JNCC guidelines).

9 Monitoring

The results of any pre or post-placement surveys carried out to confirm the necessity for the deposits covered by the screening direction and/or to confirm the accurate positioning of the stabilisation or protection materials, should be forwarded to the Department following completion of the surveys

10 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.

11 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.

12 Deposit returns

The holder of the screening direction shall submit a report to the Department following completion of the deposit covered by the screening direction, confirming the quantity of materials deposited and the estimated area of impact, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting form. Where no deposits are made, a 'nil' return is required.

13 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).

14 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:

9/3/23 DRA/975 DR/2345

The Department would like to draw to your attention Condition 8 which refers to specific measures regarding mitigation for the environmental impacts associated with piling activity.

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 reason

The following provides a summary of the assessments undertaken by OPRED to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for this project. This document 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

Stabilisation of the rig legs with 600 tonnes of rock (contingency operation);
Piling of the 30" conductor;
Drilling of 32", 24", 16", 12 ", 8 " and 6" sections with Water based Mud (WBM);
Vertical Seismic Profiling (VSP) of the well;
Wellbore clean up and Extended Well Test (EWT);
Plug and abandonment.

Description of project

This project covers the drilling of the 42/15a-H appraisal well using the Valaris-123

jack-up drilling rig. 600 tonnes of rock may be required as a contingency stabilisation material for the jack up rig spud cans. The rock deposit would cover an area of 1,800m2.

The 30" conductor will be piled into the seabed to a depth of 70 m using a hammer. Piling is anticipated to last 8 hours and will be conducted before 1st April.

The well will be drilled using WBM. The fluids and cuttings from the 32" and 24" sections will be discharged at the seabed. Fluids and cuttings from the remaining well sections will be discharged at the sea surface from the rig. Once the well sections have been drilled, casings will be run, and cement will be used to provide integrity of the well. On completion of the drilling operations, VSP will be carried out and an extended well test will be conducted. The well will then be plugged and abandoned to Oil and Gas UK guidance. Operations are expected to take 75 days.

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters. The risk of a major accident such as a well blowout 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.

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 project is located at the Crosgan discovery, in the Southern North Sea, which is in block 42/15a, 82 kilometres (km) from the coast, and 132 km from the UK / Netherlands median line, in water depth of 73 metres (m). The residual current speed in the area is 0.05 m/s. The wave height within the Crosgan area ranges from 1.51 - 1.80 m and the annual mean wave power is between 12.1 - 18.0 kW/m.

The project is in an area characterised as deep circalittoral sand. Specific site surveys identified fine sand across the surveyed area with low quantities of shell fragments. No significant seabed features were identified. The results of sediment analysis for total hydrocarbon concentrations (THC) and heavy metals were not available at the time of submission, however no significant contamination is anticipated due to the sandy nature of the sediments and lack of local sources of contamination.

Preliminary results from the 2022 site specific environmental survey identified very low faunal diversity and abundance in camera imagery and included Annelida (Polychaeta), Arthopoda, Chordata, Echinodermata and Mollusca (Bivalvia). Preliminary analysis of survey footage suggests that there was no evidence of species or habitats of conservation significance under the Offshore Petroleum

Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001 (as amended) within the surveyed area. There is no evidence of threatened or declining species listed under OSPAR or benthic Priority Marine Features (PMF) within the surveyed area.

The well is located within the Southern North Sea SAC (summer area) designated for the presence of Annex II harbour porpoise. The Dogger Bank SAC is also located 26 km to the east of the Crosgan well, which is designated for Annex I 'Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time'. There are no other protected wites with 40km of the proposed well.

The project falls within the English Northeast Offshore National Marine Plan (NMP).

Numerous cetacean species are present in the area in high to low densities during the operational period. The presence of grey seals in the Crosgan discovery area is likely to be between 1-5 individuals per 25 km2 and harbour seals as between 0-1 individuals per 25 km2. Seabird sensitivity during the operational period ranges from extremely high to low. Pelagic fishing accounted for the highest landings and value in 2021, followed by shellfish. Overall, fishing effort in the area is low relative to UK landings with ICES rectangle 38F0 representing 0.16% of total UK fishing effort.

The project is in an area of moderate shipping density. The proposed operations will coincide with fish spawning and/or nursery activity for several species. Of the species identified as using the area as a spawning ground or nursery area, those that are particularly sensitive to anthropogenic disturbance from oil and gas related activities include cod, sandeel and herring.

The closest oil and gas installation is located 24 km southwest of the drilling site. The project is not located within or near any military practice and exercise areas (PEXA), nor are there any Ministry of Defence (MoD) related block restraints on Block 42/15. There are no aggregate extraction areas within the vicinity. Two telecommunication cables are identified with 3km of the drilling location. There are no licenced wind farms or lease areas within 40 km of the Crosgan well. The Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 (RWE Renewables) is located approximately 28 km to the east of the Crosgan well. There are no aquaculture sites or Shellfish Water Protected Areas within the immediate vicinity of the Crosgan area.

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

There will be a temporary 500 m safety exclusion zone around the Valaris-123 jack-up rig during the drilling activities, excluding unauthorised access of vessels and prohibiting access to fishing vessels. A standby vessel will be on site for the duration of the operation. No anchors will be used for the rig. All appropriate notifications to mariners will be made prior to the well drilling activities commencing. Given that the 42/15a- 42/15a-H appraisal well is in an area considered to be of low importance to the UK fishing industry, in an area which does not experience high shipping density, and the drilling campaign is of a relativity short duration, any impacts on other sea users is not considered to be significant.

Seabed impacts will primarily arise from rock deposits required for the safe operation of the jack-up rig and the discharge of drill cuttings. A total of 1,800 tonnes of rock is required as stabilisation material for the rig spud cans. Flora and fauna are likely to be lost within the immediate footprint of the rock deposit, but the area impacted represents a small (0.002563 km2) impact area in a large area of similar habitat. The discharge of the drill cuttings is not expected to result in a significant adverse impact to the marine environment. The area is recognised as a herring, cod and sandeel spawning area, however, site specific surveys indicate that the substrate is not suited to herring spawning. Recent scientific studies also indicate this area is a 'rare' spawning area for cod and an area with a low probability of sandeel presence. As such and taking account the impact area, no significant impacts on these species at a population level are not expected.

Atmospheric emissions will arise from the use of the Valaris-123 jack-up rig and other associated vessels. Atmospheric emissions, when compared with total UK figures, are considered to present a relatively small contribution. Furthermore, the temporary nature of the emissions along with the remote geographic location and winds within the offshore environment, means that the atmospheric emissions would be rapidly dispersed and are not likely to be detectable within a short distance from the source. Therefore, while atmospheric emissions will make a cumulative contribution to global climate change, they are not considered to present a significant local environmental impact.

The application refers to analogous studies and the Strategic Environmental Assessment to demonstrate that the discharge of drill cuttings is not expected to result in a significant adverse impact to the marine environment.

Discharge of offshore chemicals associated with the drilling of the well, cementing and completion operations have been assessed as not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Small volumes of hydrocarbons will be discharged to sea as a result of drilling the reservoir section, but significant impacts from this on the marine environment are not considered likely.

The nearest boundary line is the UK/ Netherlands boundary, which is 132 km to the East. As such, no transboundary impacts are expected.

Apart from the location of the project being located within the Southern North Sea SAC, and 26km to the West of the Dogger Bank SAC, there are no other SPAs, SACs or SCIs in the immediate vicinity of the Crosgan well. The application demonstrates that the impact area associated with rock stabilisation material is likely to impact a very small proportion of the SNS SAC (0.00000487%). The rock placement proposed (which is only a contingency) represents 0.25% of the known deposits placed in the Southern North Sea between 2011 and 2016 and 0.39% of the Circalittoral sand habitat already impacted by deposits. Rock deposits therefore are not considered to represent a significant cumulative impact, given that the circalittoral sand habitat is widespread in the Southern North Sea.

Site specific modelling of drill cuttings was not undertaken for this operation, however, the application references the Strategic Environmental Assessment and several studies of similar operations, where impacts from WBM discharges were demonstrated to be restricted to within a radius of 50 - 100 m of the well site. Other drilling operations have been recorded in quadrant 42, however, the impact area associated with these are likely to be similar to this operation and therefore not significant in cumulative terms.

Cumulative impacts associated with piling activities are not anticipated as this activity will be conducted prior to the 1st of April and therefore out with the sensitive summer season of the Southern North Sea SAC. Noise associated with VSP operations is demonstrated to be insignificant alone and when considered in-combination with other ongoing operations.

The Dogger Bank SAC is not likely to be impacted given the small impact area associated with the project and distance from the Dogger Bank SAC boundary.

Fish, marine mammals and benthic species (which may be PMFs, Annex II species and EPSs) are not considered to be significantly impacted.

Although not a planned activity, a worst-case major accident scenario resulting from a potential well blow-out was modelled and assessed. The probability of a large oil spill from the proposed operations is low. Therefore, it is considered that the control measures in place to prevent loss of well control minimise the risk of an oil spill that could have a significant impact and the proposed operations carried out as planned are not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The drilling operations do not contradict any of the English Northeast Offshore National Marine Plan objectives and policies.

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:

n/a