

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5528U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1266375



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

PERENCO UK LIMITED  
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LONDON  
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Registered No.: 04653066

Date: 17th March 2023

Department for Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

AB1 Building  
Crimon Place  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1BJ

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[www.gov.uk/beis](http://www.gov.uk/beis)  
[bst@beis.gov.uk](mailto:bst@beis.gov.uk)

Dear Sir / Madam

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

**RAVENSPURN N[pt.of RAVENSPURN], Ravenspurn North ST3 Platform, Valaris  
247 DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 42/30-D9**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2356/0 (Version 2), dated 14th 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](mailto: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**

**RAVENSPURN N[pt.of RAVENSPURN], Ravenspurn North ST3 Platform, Valaris  
247 DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 42/30-D9**

**DR/2356/0 (Version 2)**

Whereas PERENCO UK LIMITED has made an application dated 14th 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/15187/0/GS\_1

Effective Date: 17th March 2023



# **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 17 March 2023 until 31 October 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](mailto: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 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 assessment undertaken 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**

- Drilling of 8.5" section with Low Toxicity Oil Based Mud (LTOBM)
- Drilling of 6" section using LTOBM
- Lower and Upper well completion
- Well clean-up
- Well suspension

#### **Description of the project**

The project is the drilling of a side-track of well 42/30-D09z at the at the Ravenspurn North ST3 platform, located in UKCS Block 42/30a. The proposed side-track drilling



operations will be performed from the Valaris 247 heavy duty jack-up drilling rig.

The proposed operations are expected to last a maximum of 230 days.

The side-track will use low toxicity oil-based mud (LTOBM) for both 8 " and 6" sections.

Drill cuttings will be skipped and shipped.

The well will be cleaned up using 220 m<sup>3</sup> of clean-up brine which will be skipped and shipped.

### **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 Ravenspurn North field is in UKCS Blocks 42/29a, 42/30a and 43/26a of the Southern North Sea. The proposed project is located 65 km northeast of the nearest UK landfall, and 124 km to the west of the UK/Netherlands median line. The water depth at ST3 is approximately 45 m.

Seabed sediments in the vicinity of the Ravenspurn North ST3 comprise Holocene sand and slightly gravelly sand. EUNIS habitat Deep Circalittoral Sand is predicted to be present in the proposed project area.

The proposed operations will coincide with the spawning and/or nursery of fish species. Species that have been identified as spawning in the area include cod, lemon sole, plaice, and sandeels. It is also an area for year-round nursery grounds for anglerfish, blue whiting, cod, herring, horse mackerel, lemon sole, mackerel, sandeels, sprat, spurdog, and whiting.

The vulnerability of seabirds to an oil spill in Block 42/30 is high to extremely high. Given that the ST3 drilling operations will take place between March and October 2023, there are five months (March, April, June, September and October) where the SOSI values are classed as very or extremely high

The following cetacean species occur in the proposed project area: Atlantic white-sided dolphin, harbour porpoise, minke whale and white-beaked dolphin. Harbour porpoise occurs throughout the year at low densities. The other three species occur in low densities between June and October.

Grey and harbour seals occur in the area throughout the year at low densities and at moderate densities in the summer period.

The proposed project area is located within the Southern North Sea SAC and it is designated for harbour porpoise. The Holderness Offshore MCZ is 27 km from the





proposed project area, and it is designated for subtidal coarse sediment, subtidal sand, subtidal mixed sediments, Ocean quahog and North Sea glacial tunnel valleys.

The fishing effort in the proposed project area is considered to be low.

The shipping density in the proposed project area is considered to be low.

The Ravenspurn South Development is in the same block (42/30). Pipelines associated with the Ravenspurn North and Ravenspurn South Developments and the associated interfield export pipelines to the Cleeton host facility are near the proposed project area. PUK are the Pipeline Operator for all of the pipelines within block 42/30.

No subsea telecommunications cables pass through the block 42/30.

There are no operational offshore wind farms (OWFs) within the immediate vicinity of Block 42/30.

Block 42/30 overlaps the boundary of the Aquifer 5/42 Agreement for Lease (AfL) carbon capture and storage (CCS) area.

The Ravenspurn North Development is located within a Royal Airforce practice and exercise area (PEXA) and danger area and there is a Royal Navy PEXA located to the north of the Ravenspurn North Development. Block 42/30 is not of concern to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as it is not situated within any practice ranges.

There are no active licensed dredging areas or dredge disposal areas within the Block 42/30.

There are several charted wrecks located within the Ravenspurn North Development area but none of these wrecks are in the immediate vicinity of the proposed drilling operations.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (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 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 Valaris 247 jack-up drilling rig will be located within the 500 m safety zone of the Ravenspurn North ST3 platform during the drilling activities (CL/594/10). An



Emergency Response and Rescue Vessel (ERRV) will be on site and in addition to providing emergency support to the Valaris 247. The rig will also be supported by a single supply vessel operating out of a supply base in Great Yarmouth. It is anticipated that the supply vessel will visit the rig three times per week during the drilling operations.

The physical presence of four of the Valaris 247 jack-up rig mooring anchors outside the existing ST3 Platform 500 metre safety exclusion zone may result in interference to commercial shipping vessels and/or fishing vessels by removing sea area available to these sea-users that may be used as shipping routes or fishing grounds. The mooring anchors will be placed up to approximately 220 m (0.220 km) outside of the existing ST3 platform 500 m safety exclusion zone. However, the additional exclusion is temporary and will only last for the duration of the rig move and interface (estimated duration 1 week).

The area surrounding the ST3 Platform is considered to have a 'high' level of shipping activity and a low to moderate level of fishing activity compared to other areas of the North Sea.

Atmospheric emissions will arise from the use of the Valaris 247 MODU 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.

Seabed impacts will primarily arise from the anchoring and jacking-up of the Valaris 247. The MODU will be positioned and held on location using four anchors. There will be some lateral movement of the mooring lines that are in contact with the seabed, however, the predicted area impacted from the anchors and anchor chains, is expected to be minimal.

Fish, marine mammals and benthic species (which may be PMFs, Annex II species and EPSs) are not considered to be significantly impacted. This includes noise impacts to marine mammals, as drilling and vessel noise is deemed below levels which present a significant risk.

Discharge of offshore chemicals associated with the drilling of the well, cementing and abandonment operations have been assessed as not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Offshore chemicals associated with LTOBM will be skipped and shipped. A small quantity of LTOBM may be discharged as part of well clean-up operations. These have been assessed and deemed to not have a significant effect on the marine environment.

## **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:

It has been concluded there are no significant effects.