

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5453U
UKOP Doc Ref:1268132



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

APACHE BERYL I LIMITED
PO BOX 1111
PAGET-BROWN TRUST COMPANY LTD
BOUNDARY HALL
CRICKET SQUARE
GEORGE TOWN
GRAND CAYMAN
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Registered No.: FC005975

Date: 30th March 2023

Department for Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]
Fax [REDACTED]

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
BERYL DEVELOPMENT WELL 9/13a-B45Z**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2335/3 (Version 3), dated 24th 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



**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**

BERYL DEVELOPMENT WELL 9/13a-B45Z

DR/2335/3 (Version 3)

Whereas APACHE BERYL I LIMITED has made an application dated 24th 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/11959/1/GS/1.

Effective Date: 30th 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 6 January 2023 until 31 May 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 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



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. 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

This screening direction variation (DR/2235/3) relates to a change to the project for which a screening direction was previously issued.

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

The revision to the Screening Direction includes the addition of a potential mechanical side-track at the 8 " section .

Slot recovery of the existing gas lift completion

Side-track drilling of an 8 " section and a 6" section using oil-based mud (OBM)

Cementing operations for drilled sections



Completion will be undertaken with a 5 " x 4 " gas lifted completion

Wellbore clean-up

Description of the Project

This amendment to the Screening Direction (DR/2235/3) includes the addition of a potential mechanical side-track at the 8 " section .

The variation DR/2235/2 was only associated with inserting the correct WONS reference. There were no other changes to proposed operations.

The original Screening Direction (DR/2229/0) relates to the drilling (side-tracking) and completion of the 9/13a-B45z well (herein referred to as "the well"). The well will target reserves in an undrilled fault-block on the East Flank of Beryl Bravo. The operations will be conducted from the Beryl Bravo platform.

The expected duration of the operations is 66 days.

The well will be side-tracked from the existing 9 " casing, and an 8 " hole shall be drilled, using OBM. The 7" liner will be run and cemented. The reservoir section will be drilled in 6" hole using OBM to the BDN target, and a 4 " liner will be run and cemented. The well will be perforated and completed as a deep gas lift (DGL) producer. A dedicated clean-up pill will be pumped and displaced with brine. The clean-up pill will be skipped and shipped. OBM cuttings and fluids will be skipped and shipped to shore.

A potential mechanical side-track at the 8 " section may be drilled from 9 5/8" whipstock if difficulties and operational delays are encountered during the drilling of the well.

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. 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 proposed drilling project is in the Beryl Field, which lies in the northern North Sea (Block 9/13). The Field is 159 km from the UK coast (Shetland Islands) and 23 km from the UK/Norwegian Median Line. The project area has a water depth of 126 m and the annual mean significant wave height varies from 1.81 to 2.1m.

The predicted seabed substrate at the project area generally comprise sand to muddy sand. Site specific surveys confirmed the seabed sediments at the well predominantly are, predominantly, fine to medium sand. The benthic faunal community was dominated by Polychaeta. There was no indication of any species on the Scottish Biodiversity List or on the IUCN Global List.

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

Various cetacean species have been recorded near the project area throughout the year. Animal aggregation ranges from high to low throughout the year. Low numbers of seals are anticipated to be in the project area at any time.

Seabird oil sensitivity in the vicinity of the project area is low for most of the year, with no data available for April, October, November and December.

The closest site of conservation interest is the Braemar Pockmarks, located 50 km south of the project area, that protects the Annex I habitat 'submarine structures made by leaking gases.

The project area is located the National Marine Plan Area for Scotland.

There were no Annex I habitats protected under the Habitats Directive (1992) or any other species or habitats of conservation importance observed within the project area.

The project area is primarily used for demersal and pelagic fishing. The fishing effort in the area is low to moderate near the project area.

There are several oil and gas fields near the project area. There are no cables in the immediate vicinity of the project area. The closest cable being a TAMPNET-4 telecommunications cable located approximately 10 km to the north of the project area. There are no operational renewable energy sites, nor any under construction and there are no known wrecks of historical importance, military activity areas, shellfish water protected areas or active aquaculture sites near the project area. Shipping density is generally low in the project area.

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 change to 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, planned discharges and accidental spills.

Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact from the change to project on population and human health.

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.

The wellbore clean-up operations may result in the discharge of wastewater containing residual base oil from the OBM. This discharge has been assessed and is not considered to have a likely significant effect on the environment.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the drilling operations at the project area. The nearest boundary (UK/Norway Median Line) is located approximately 23 km away. It is not considered likely that any planned operational discharge (chemicals) will be detectable at this distance from the project area.

The drilling operations do not contradict any objectives and policies of Scotland's National Marine Plan.

Although not a planned activity, a worst-case major accident scenario resulting from a potential well blowout 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 which could have a significant impact. The proposed operations, carried out as planned, are not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

It is considered that the change to the drilling activities for the well 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.

Decision

Taking the above considerations into account, the Secretary of State has concluded that the change 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:

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n/a