

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5593U
UKOP Doc Ref:1277837



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

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

Registered No.: FC005975

Date: 1st June 2023

Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020
BERYL, WELL 9/13a-B87Y**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2361/0 (Version 3), dated 30th May 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] or email the Environmental Management Team at bst@beis.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Department for Energy Security &
Net Zero

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

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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**

BERYL, WELL 9/13a-B87Y

DR/2361/0 (Version 3)

Whereas APACHE BERYL I LIMITED has made an application dated 30th May 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/14239/0/GS/1 Version 2.

Effective Date: 1st June 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 2 June 2023 until 30 October 2023.

2 Commencement and completion of the project

The holder of the screening direction must notify the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (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 Energy Security & Net Zero
AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [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

Slot recovery

Sidetrack drilling of 8 " section and contingency 6" section with Oil based Mud (OBM);

Wellbore clean up and completion.

Description of project

This project covers the drilling of a sidetrack to well 9/13a-B87Y from the Beryl Bravo platform.

The well will be drilled using OBM. The fluids and cuttings from the 8 " and 6" sections will be contained and skipped and shipped to shore for disposal. 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 a well bore clean-up will be performed. Operations are expected to take 51 days in total.

It is not considered 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 Beryl Bravo platform in the Northern North Sea, which is in block 9/13, 155 kilometres (km) from the coast, and 22km from the UK / Norway median line, in water depth of 126metres (m). The residual current speed in the area is 0.25 m/s. The wave height within the Beryl area ranges from 2.41-2.70m and the annual mean wave power is between 30.1-36.0kW/m.

The project is in an area characterised as 'Offshore circalittoral sand. Site specific surveys identified sand to muddy sand throughout the area, though an area of coarse sediment (gravelly sand to sandy gravel) occurs to the south-west of the Beryl area. No significant seabed features were identified. Hydrocarbon and heavy metal contamination was not evident, with levels generally considered to be within or below background concentration when compared to published data from the region.

The benthic faunal community was dominated by Polychaeta, specifically *Paraprionospio pinnata* which was identified as the most abundant taxa across the survey area (Gardline, 2014). Abundance across the remaining four taxonomic groups was relatively low. Juvenile individuals of the bivalve mollusc *Arctica islandica* (ocean quahog) were recorded, in addition to presence of one adult specimen. *Arctica islandica* is listed on the OSPAR (2008) list of threatened and/or declining species and habitats, and is commonly found within this area of the North Sea. There was no evidence of any other species or habitats of conservation significance under the Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001 (as amended) within the surveyed area. With the exception of Ocean quahog, there is no evidence of threatened or declining species listed under OSPAR or benthic Priority Marine Features (PMF) within the surveyed area.

There are no protected sites within 40km of the proposed well.

The project falls within Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP).

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, Nephrops and sandeel.

Numerous cetacean species are present in the area in high to low densities during the operational period. The presence of grey and harbour seals in the area is likely to be between 0-1 individuals per 25 km². Seabird sensitivity during the operational period is low with 1 adjacent block showing Medium sensitivity in May. Demersal fishing accounted for the highest landings and value in 2021, followed by pelagic. Overall, fishing effort in the area is high, particularly for demersal species. ICES rectangle 48F1 represented 0.52% of total UK fishing effort.

The project is in an area of low shipping density. Beryl is located in a mature hydrocarbon production area with several other installations present. 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 9/13. There are no aggregate extraction areas within the vicinity. The closest telecommunications cable is 10km away. Beryl Bravo platform is located within an offshore Wind Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas (INTOG) area. There are no licenced wind farms or lease areas within 40 km of Beryl Bravo. There are no aquaculture sites or Shellfish Water Protected Areas within the immediate vicinity of the Beryl Bravo 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, 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 Beryl Bravo platform is already subject to a 500m safety zone, excluding unauthorised access of vessels and prohibiting access to fishing vessels. Given that the 9/13a-B87Y well will be drilled from an existing platform afforded with a 500m safety zone, and that no additional infrastructure is required, any impacts on other sea users is not considered to be significant.

Seabed disturbance impacts are not likely from this operation.

Atmospheric emissions will arise from the drilling of the well 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.

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 nearest boundary line is the UK/ Norway boundary, which is 22km to the East. Due to the limited environmental impact of the operation, no transboundary impacts are expected.

There are no SPAs, SACs or SCIs in the immediate vicinity of the Beryl platform.

Cumulative impacts are not considered likely.

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 Scotland's National Marine Plan objectives and policies.

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 was concluded that the project posed no significant adverse effects.