ES/2022/006

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning
AB1 Building
Wing C
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [redacted]

www.gov.uk/desnz
BST@beis.gov.uk

By email: consents@nstauthority.co.uk

[redacted]
North Sea Transition Authority
3rd Floor
1 Marischal Square
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1BL

7th July 2023

Dear [redacted]

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

NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION TO AGREE TO THE GRANT OF CONSENT

Teal West Development

In accordance with the Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020 (the "EIA Regulations"), an environmental impact assessment has been carried out for the Teal West Development. Having considered the Environmental Statement ES/2022/006 and the representations received from relevant authorities, the Secretary of State has concluded that the project is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The Secretary of State has also decided that no conditions should be attached to the agreement to the grant of consent.

In accordance with the Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001 (the "Habitats Regulations"), the Secretary of State has also considered whether the grant of consent for this project would be likely to lead to a significant effect on a relevant site. The Secretary of State does not consider that anything that might be done or any activity which might be carried on pursuant to the consent is likely to have a significant effect on a relevant site, whether individually or in combination with any other plan or project, including but not limited to any other relevant project.

The Secretary of State accordingly gives agreement to the Oil and Gas Authority's (OGA[1]) grant of consent for the project as detailed in the application for consent PCON/6504/0 and the Environmental Statement.

Once the OGA has reached a decision on whether to grant consent, please could you promptly, within 1 day, inform [redacted] by email [redacted] (copying in BST@energysecurity.gov.uk) and [redacted]

[1] The Oil and Gas Authority now operates under the business name of the North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA).

[redacted] by email [redacted] that Anasuria Hibiscus UK Ltd has been notified of the decision, and the date of that decision. OPRED will then proceed to publish a notice (under Regulation 16) on the GOV.UK website and undertake its other obligations as set out in Regulation 16, regarding publication of the relevant ES decision documentation.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning
For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020

Regulation 14(3)
Secretary of State Decision

Anasuria Hibiscus UK Ltd

Teal West Development

To: [redacted]**, Director, Environmental Operations, OPRED**

Decision Recommendation:

That you agree, on behalf of the Secretary of State, to the grant of consent by the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA)[1].

As set out further below, taking into account the relevant considerations, I have concluded that the project will not have any significant effects on the environment.

From: [redacted]
Senior Environmental Manager

Date: **7th July 2023**

ES Title:	Teal West Development
Developer:	Anasuria Hibiscus UK Ltd (AHUK)
Consultants:	Xodus Group
OGA Field Group:	Central North Sea
ES Report No:	ES/2022/006
ES Submission Date:	29 July 2022
Block No/s:	21/24d
Project Type:	Field development
OGA Reference No:	PCON/6504/0

Project Description

The Teal West Development will be developed over three phases and will consist of a subsea development tied back to the existing Anasuria Floating Production Storage and Offloading Vessel (FPSO), which is currently operated by Installation Operator, Anasuria Operating Company (AOC). The Anasuria FPSO was originally commissioned in 1996 and supports oil production, storage and gas export from the Guillemot A, Teal, Teal South and Cook fields.

The proposed development will be located in the Central North Sea, approximately 155 kilometres (km) from the UK coastline and 87 km from the UK/Norwegian median line. The project will consist of up to two subsea production wells to extract oil and gas, and a water injection well developed from a single drill centre (DC), located approximately 4 km south-east of the existing Anasuria FPSO.

[1] The Oil and Gas Authority now operates under the business name of the North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA).

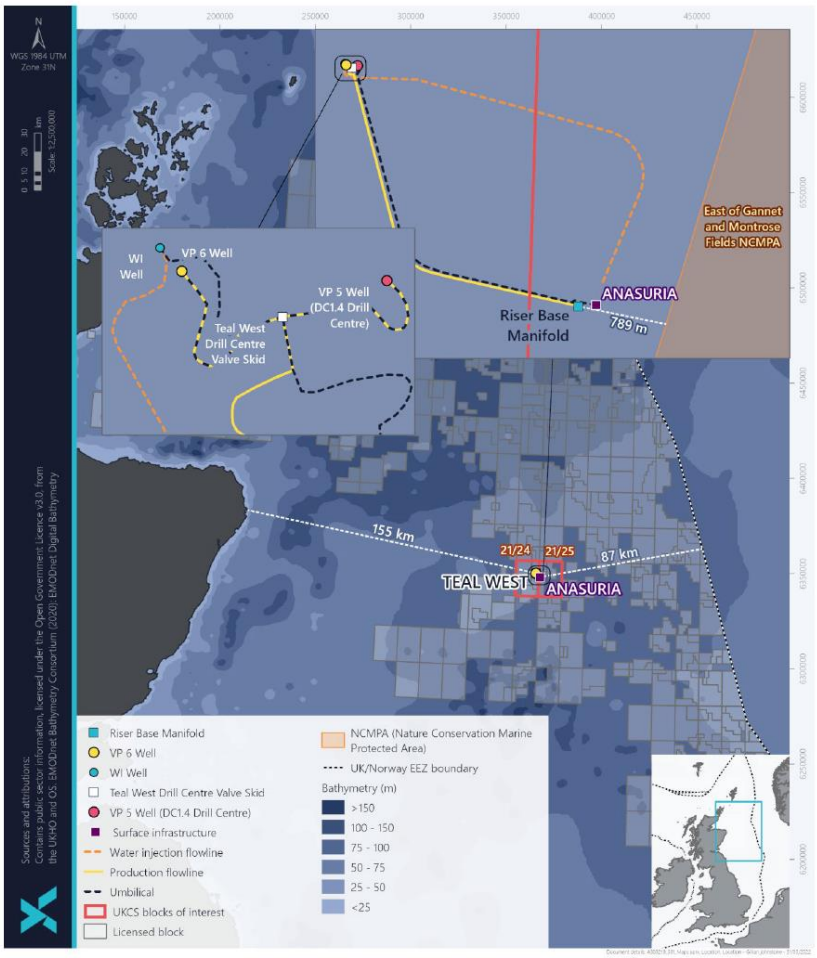


Figure 1-1 - Location of the Teal West Development

The development will be divided into three phases. Phase 1 will consist of the drilling of one oil production well tied back to the Anasuria FPSO via a new 3.4 km, 6" flexible, production flowline and a new 3.4 km electrohydraulic umbilical line via a trench and burial method. Phase 2 will be dependent on the success of the Phase 1 well. Phase 2 will involve the drilling of a water injection well, the installation of a new single 6" 4.0 km water injection line between a riser based manifold at the Anasuria FPSO and the water injection well at Teal West DC, via trench and burial.

If Phase 1 and 2 both indicate the potential for high oil volumes, a second production well will be drilled and tied back to the Anasuria FPSO (Phase 3).

The drilling of all wells will be conducted from a jack-up drilling rig (MoDU) using spud cans on the bottom of the legs.

Other subsea infrastructure planned to be installed consists of a single 8" production riser, an umbilical riser, clump weights (for risers), wellheads and xmas trees, spools, jumpers, electrical flying leads, and protective materials (sandbags, mattresses and rock placement).

Drilling of the Phase 1 well is scheduled to start in Q3 2023 with an aim for first oil in Q2 2024. If successful, the water injection well and second production well are scheduled for Q3 2025 and Q1 2027 respectively.

The oil will be processed and exported to shore via tankers. The gas produced by the wells will be used as fuel on the FPSO and any remaining gas will be exported to shore via the existing Fulmar Gas pipeline.

Key Environmental Impacts

The Environmental Statement (ES) identified and discussed the following as having the potential to cause an environmental impact:

- effects on users of the sea (e.g. commercial fishing and shipping) from the physical presence of temporary and permanent infrastructure, and the construction phase of the project;
- effects on the sediment, seabed habitats, fauna and flora from seabed disturbance from the physical presence of temporary and permanent infrastructure;
- effects on the seabed and protected species and habitats;
- effects on water quality from discharges to sea;
- effects on local air quality and climate from the atmospheric emissions generated by the project;
- effects from underwater noise caused by vessels, hammer piling, and vertical seismic profiling, and
- effects on water quality, protected species and habitats, fauna and flora from an accidental event resulting in an oil release.

Key Environmental Sensitivities

The ES identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- **Fish and shellfish**: The project area lies within multiple nursery and spawning areas of fish species. Priority Marine Features (PMF) such as anglerfish, blue whiting, cod, herring, ling, mackerel, Norway pout, sandeels, spurdog and whiting are known to be found in the project area. Cod, spotted ray and spurdog are also listed on the OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining species in the project location. Sandeels are known to have a particularly important ecological function as a prey item for other fish, seabirds and marine mammals. There is evidence that the presence of fine sediment in the sediment reduces the seabed's suitability to sandeels.

- **Seabirds**: Multiple species of seabird could be present at the project area dependent upon the season. The following species have been recorded within the proposed project and quad/block 21/25: northern fulmar, sooty shearwater, manx shearwaters, European storm petrel, northern gannet, Artic skua, great skua, black-legged kittiwake, great black-backed gull, common gull, lesser black-backed gull, herring gull, arctic tern, common guillemot, razorbill, little auk and Atlantic puffin. Sensitivity of seabirds in the project area is low throughout the year and in surrounding quad/blocks, aside from the months of April and May (extremely high in block 21/18 and 21/23).

- **Protected habitats and species**: There are no Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within 100 km of the development. The closest SAC to the proposed project is the Scanner Pockmark, located 110 km to the north-east, which is designated for the Annex I habitat 'submarine structures made by leaking gases'. The closest Special

Protected Area (SPA) is Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast, approximately 152 km northwest of the proposed project.

The closest site of conservation interest is the Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA) East of Gannet and Montrose Fields, which is 0.7 km from the riser base manifold. This NCMPA protected features are the ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*) aggregations and the Priority Marine Feature (PMF) in Scotland's seas 'Offshore deep-sea muds' habitat. Most of the seabed within the NCMPA is dominated by sands and gravel which are the preferred habitat of the ocean quahog, which is listed under OSPAR as a threatened and/or declining species. The NCMPA also includes a band of offshore deep-sea mud which supports many types of worm and mollusc, which in turn support a number of species of fish.

- **European Protected Species and pinnipeds**: Cetaceans known to be present in the area include harbour porpoise, white-beaked dolphin, minke whale, bottlenose dolphin and Atlantic white-sided dolphin. However, the proposed project area is considered to have a low cetacean density and not significant for feeding, breeding, nursery or migrating cetaceans. Grey and harbour seals are the most likely seal species to be encountered in the area. However, as harbour seals primarily stay within 50 km of the coastline, and grey seals use offshore areas (up to 100 km from the coast), and as the proposed project area is approximately 155km to the nearest coastline, the prediction of density of these species in the vicinity is low and no interactions with seal haul out or breeding sites are expected.

- **Other users of the sea**: The area is fished by local and international vessels. Demersal and pelagic fishing gear is most prevalent in the project area, with the majority of the fishing effort focussed on the summer months. Commercial fishing effort in the project area has been assessed as "low" representing less than 1% of the total UK fishing effort in ICES rectangle 43F0.

  Commercial shipping activity is considered very low and on the shelf most vessels are cargo, tanker and fishing vessels. The density of tanker vessels is also relatively high around Anasuria, which is possibly associated with the transport of crude oil from the FPSO via shuttle tankers.

  The nearest oil and gas infrastructure from the proposed project is the Anasuria FPSO, to which the Teal West production flowline and umbilical will tie-back, located approximately 3 km East South East from the proposed wells. There are also several pipelines in the vicinity. The production flowline and umbilical will cross the gas lift pipeline from the Anasuria FPSO to the Guillemot manifold, operated by AOC, and the water injection pipeline will cross the production pipeline and gas lift pipeline from Anasuria to the Cook manifold (operated by Ithaca). Shell's Gannet Alpha platform is 14.2 km East South East from the proposed project; the Triton FPSO 20 km South South East and EnQuest heather's Kittiwake platform 26.6 km North North West.

  The project area is not used for military exercises. There are no offshore wind farms near the project area (the closest one, Seagreen 1 Development, is 157 km away). There are no telecommunication cables nearby (closest is Tampnet 49 km north) The closest wreck to the project area is 2.9 km south-southwest, the identify of which is unknown. The closest known wreck is Zephyus, approximately 5.2 km west-southwest.

- **In-combination, cumulative and transboundary sensitivities**: There are no expected transboundary effects from the operations due to the localised and

temporary nature of the disturbance and the 87 km distance from the UK/Norway Median Line. The installation of infrastructure will reduce availability of natural environment to activities such as fishing, but this will be offset by trenching and burying the pipelines so that fishing activities can continue in those locations. No other oil and gas installation activities are planned in the project area at the time of installation and commissioning. Produced water will be processed and discharged at the Anasuria FPSO resulting in an increase in produced water from the installation. Given the density of oil and gas installations in the area, it is possible that cumulative impacts relating to air quality from atmospheric emissions may occur from vessel operations and the small increase in atmospheric emissions from the Anasuria FPSO as a result of the project. The installation of subsea infrastructure (as listed under Project Description above) will contribute to the cumulative impact on the seabed.

Public Consultation(s)

The ES and the application for consent was subject to Public Notice, which was published on 14th September 2022 and ended on 15th October 2022. There were no public representations which related to the environmental effects of the project.

Further information was requested from AHUK on 23rd February 2023, 28th April 2023 and 19th May 2023. Documents containing responses to these comments were received on 16th March 2023, 10th May 2023 and 30th May 2023. The further information provided by the developer was not directly relevant to reaching a conclusion on whether the project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, and was therefore not subject to further public notice.

Consultation with Other Authorities

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Ministry of Defence, Northern Lighthouse Board, Marine Scotland, and Maritime Coastal Agency were consulted on the application for consent and the ES submission. All the consultees submitted responses and none of the consultees had objections to the environmental impact assessment.

Consultation with other Countries

Given the location of the project proposal, no other countries have been included in the consultation process.

Conclusion on the significant effect of the project on the environment

I have reviewed the following:

- the ES;
- the further information obtained under Regulation 12 as summarised above;
- the representations received from other authorities as summarised above.

Taking those matters into account to the extent required under Regulation 14(2), I have concluded on behalf of the Secretary of State that this project will not have any significant effects on the environment:

Physical presence of temporary and permanent infrastructure and interaction with other sea users

There is no significant impact anticipated from the navigational hazards to other users of the sea given the low levels of shipping and fishing in the area. Whilst the project is under construction, the physical presence of the MoDU and supporting vessels will displace other users of the sea, which is predominately shipping and fishing. Shipping and fishing activities have been described above as low within the project area.

There will be additional temporary exclusion zones (500 m safety zone centred on the MoDU) during construction, which will also exclude vessels from the project area. A new 500 m safety zone will be put in place for the new drill centre, which will exclude vessels for the life of the field (approximately until 2034). However, vessels will not be excluded from the pipeline area. Fishing effort in the area is considered low and mostly undertaken with demersal and pelagic gear.

Pipelines will be trenched and buried, and subsea protection materials will be over trawlable to reduce the potential for snagging; therefore, the impacts to the fishing industry are not considered significant. The safety zone associated for the new drill centre will result in a small reduction in area available to fishing vessels. A change in habitat type is likely from the installation of new infrastructure, but the impact is not significant, given the comparatively small amount of available natural habitat being altered. There are no protected areas impacted by the development, or Annex I habitats in the area.

I agree with the assessment that the impacts resulting from the physical presence of MoDUs, vessels and associated infrastructure, will not have a significant impact on the environment.

Seabed Impacts

There will be seabed impacts from the siting of the MoDU and its spud cans, water-based drill cuttings will be discharged to the seabed from the drilling of subsea wells, the installation of the subsea infrastructure which includes pipelines (trenched and buried), valve skid, spools, jumpers, manifold, drill centre and protective materials such as sandbags, mattresses, and rock. The worst-case assessment of accounting for three separate MoDU deployments (three spud cans for each well) was conducted, however the developer will look to minimise the footprint by re-using existing spud can depressions where possible. The risk to the seabed from the discharge of cuttings is a smothering effect which is the dominant mechanism of ecological disturbance, however this is expected to be localised and of short duration, with recolonisation expected over time which would result in seabed recovery. Drill cuttings modelling indicates that the thickness of the cuttings pile will rapidly decrease with increasing distance from the wells, reducing to less than 1 mm thickness within 110 m radius in a worst-case scenario.

Muddy sand was recorded during the 2021 / 2022 Teal West surveys and was not considered to represent ‘mud’ as the silt and clay portion of the sediment was less than 15%. Ocean quahog were recorded at seven of the survey stations in the survey area; with no adult individuals identified as being present in the proposed project area. The proposed project location is outwith the general distribution area for ocean quahog. Low densities of ocean quahog were recorded during the survey and the proposed Teal West project area is not expected to be of a particular conservation value for this species as it would not be expected to occur either in significant densities or in communities of specific conservation value.

The production flowline and the control umbilical will be buried in separate trenches which will be up to 3.6 km in length and 3 m wide. The direct footprint for each line will be 10,800 m^2. The water injection flowline will be in a 4.0 km length and 3 m wide trench equating to a direct footprint of 12,000 m^2 Laying, trenching and burying of the flowlines and umbilicals will result in localised short term smothering and scour effect of the seabed. The disturbance will be short term and temporary, with the benthic community able to recover over time.

The pipeline will be protected by concrete mattresses and sandbags. Rock will be used along pipeline crossings and to mitigate against the risk of any upheaval buckling (UHB) of the production line. The flexible design of the production flowline and trench and backfill installation strategy is expected to minimise the associated UHB risk. The introduction of hard substrate (deposits of protective material such as rock and mattresses) can change the local seabed type to one that adversely affects species with a sand/gravel sediment habitat preference. The hard substrates introduced to the seabed are expected to be colonised and it is not expected that the introduction of protective material will change the area seabed type. The worst-case permanent area of impact to the seabed presented in the ES is expected to be 0.055 km^2.

Clarification was provided by the Developer in relation to the quantity of rock dump required. The total worst-case permanent area of impact to the seabed was re-calculated and this was less than assessed in the ES. The further information provided was deemed not directly relevant to reaching a conclusion on whether the project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

I agree with the assessment that while there will be impacts to the seabed, these are not expected to be significant in terms of environmental effects given the ability of the environment to recover from temporary disturbance and the small footprint of the disturbed area. Therefore, it is unlikely that there will be any significant risk of the project hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of the East of Gannet and Montrose Fields NCMPA site. There are no other designated sites or Annex 1 habitats within the proposed project area.

Discharges to sea

There will be limited discharges to sea, with the majority of the discharges from the drilling of the wells (drill cuttings, drilling mud, wellbore clean up fluids, chemicals and cement), installation and commissioning of infrastructure (i.e. sediment suspension during pipeline trenching) and the production phase (i.e. via discharge of produced water at the Anasuria FPSO). Water quality and marine organisms were identified as key receptors. Water based muds and the associated cuttings from drilling the top-hole sections of each well will be discharged to sea. A drill cuttings modelling exercise was undertaken to assess the deposition from drilling. There will be limited discharges of chemicals used during the drilling phases and water quality and marine organisms were identified as key receptors. The impacts to water quality are likely to be localised and short term, given the short timeframe for the drilling activities and the selection of chemicals that are low risk to the environment. Any deterioration of water quality will be localised and short term, and the impact is not considered to be significant. No cumulative or transboundary effects are anticipated.

I agree with the assessment that the impact to water quality and marine organisms from discharges to sea will not result in a significant impact, given the dilution and dispersion expected in the marine environment.

Atmospheric emissions

Local air quality and global climate change were the primary receptors considered in relation to atmospheric emissions from the project.

Atmospheric emissions from the construction phase of the project will be related to fuel combustion from the MoDU, vessels and helicopter traffic and flaring activities during well clean up. The highest NO_x and SO_x emissions will be from the MoDU and the helicopters respectively. The majority of the MoDU, vessel and helicopter emissions will occur in 2024 at the drilling and installation phase. There is not expected to be increases in helicopter flights or supply vessel transits to Anasuria FPSO due to Teal West. The total estimated carbon dioxide equivalent CO_2(e) emissions from the drilling of the wells and the installation of all subsea infrastructure is 0.36% of 2019 UK shipping emissions.

The incremental and total impact on production and processing from the additional wells from the project at the Anasuria FPSO were also assessed. The main atmospheric emissions associated with production is from power generation, gas compression, flaring and fugitive emissions, which will result in an increase in total CO_2(e) emissions from the FPSO. There is not expected to be an incremental increase in diesel use for power generation. No additional flaring will be expected as a result of the tie-in of the wells. The only flaring that is anticipated to occur as a result of the Teal West Development is from the MoDU for well clean-up.

There will be an increase in venting on the FPSO from the cargo oil tanks, which will increase (worst case) the amount of gas vented to atmosphere. It is anticipated that the addition of the Teal West production to the Anasuria FPSO process will reduce the Anasuria FPSO carbon intensity, as the proportional increase in production is higher than the proportional increase in emissions i.e. the processing plant will run at a higher efficiency.

The contribution of CO_2(e) from the Teal West project for the duration of the field life (to 2034) was assessed. The incremental emissions contribution for the project would represent 0.11% of emissions reported by the offshore oil and gas sector in 2020.

The developer supports the UK Government's commitment to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and the North Sea Transition Deal (NSTD) targets, whilst supporting other industry commitments and initiatives which have been developed to facilitate progress towards the target of net zero.

Clarification was provided by the Developer in relation to incremental emissions, and the atmospheric emissions commitments made by the Anasuria FPSO installation operator. The overall assessed atmospheric emissions in the ES have not changed and the further information provided was deemed not directly relevant to reaching a conclusion on whether the project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and was therefore not subject to further public notice.

The addition of the project, when combined with the existing Anasuria field emissions, takes up 0.02% proportion of the budget allocation from the UK Climate Change Carbon Budget for the different budgeting periods (2023-2037). The emission reduction measures to be taken by the developer and the Installation Operator, AOC, will help to reduce emissions from Teal West, and reduce GHG intensities from the Anasuria FPSO for production cases to at least 2034.

Impacts on air quality will be localised and given the distance from the UK/Norway median line, no transboundary impacts are expected.

I agree with the assessment undertaken and conclusion that the sensitivity of climate change as a receptor is considered very high, but the emissions from this project are considered to be low, therefore the magnitude of effect is considered low. Overall, I agree with the assessment that the environmental impact from emissions is not significant.

Underwater noise

There are several noise sources associated with the project such as drilling, operation of vessels and helicopters, hammer piling for the installation of the manifold and valve skid and seismic profiling of the subsea wells using Vertical Seismic Profiling (VSP). The contribution to the noise from drilling activities and vessel presence were considered negligible and are not considered capable of causing significant effects to the environment. Given that the main receptors to underwater noise are marine mammals and fish, noise modelling was undertaken for worst case piling of the installation of the manifold and valve skid and the VSP.

The intensity, frequency and duration of the noise from the seismic airguns and piling (considered the worst-case sources) was assessed with reference to sensitivities and likely presence of specific animals. The information provided indicated that the risk of disturbance to fish is considered low and habituation is unlikely due to the short period of activity. There is a very low likelihood of injury or non-trivial disturbance to marine mammals as a result of the hammer piling for the installation of the manifold and valve skid and VSP. The sound emitted from the source will dissipate very quickly and there will be no accumulation of the sound levels. The contribution to the noise from the proposed VSP surveys was considered negligible.

The developer has stated that JNCC mitigation guidelines will be followed during the VSP operations, which includes the use of soft starts, the use of Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) and, potentially, Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) if required. Given that piling will last up to 12 hours and the VSP surveys will last up to 16 hours in total, and are therefore temporary in nature, and the use of standard noise mitigation measures, the impact to marine mammals and fish is not expected to be significant. The developer will need to seek consent from OPRED via a separate approval process to gain permission to undertake a VSP Survey. I agree with the results of the noise assessment that no significant effects are anticipated from the noise generated by the project.

Accidental events

The impact from a well blow out was considered as the worst-case accidental event. Modelling indicated that the most common fate of released hydrocarbon was through evaporation to atmosphere. In comparison, there is a small potential for the oil to suspend below the sea surface in rougher weather conditions. Given that the crude may be suspended below the sea surface, there could be a significant impact on the seabed sediments.

Plankton, due to its nature of drifting with the currents, could be affected in both sea states, and can be vulnerable to oil pollution. Filter feeders such as sea pens and ocean quahog, both of which have been identified in surveys, are also vulnerable to oil pollution due to the ingestion of oil when feeding. It is expected that fish actively avoid the oil spill areas, however fish spawning areas, which have been identified in the area, could be impacted by an oil spill. Seabirds are sensitive to the effect of surface oil pollution which affects their plumage and digestion systems. Marine mammals tend to be highly mobile and can swim away from an oil spill area, however resident populations may not leave the area, and

feeding marine mammals can be particularly affected through the ingestion of oil and for contaminants to be passed through the mother's milk. It is expected that the impact on benthos, fish, marine mammals, seabirds would be significant in a well blowout scenario.

It is expected that a well blow out scenario would also have a significant impact on nearby protected areas, coastal area and impact on Danish and Norwegian waters. I agree with the conclusion that an accidental event, in this case a well blow out, has the potential to have a significant effect on the environment. However, such an event is unlikely to occur, and the developer has a range of mitigation measures in place to respond to a well blowout and reduce the impact. The developer has therefore proposed key measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effect on the environment from accidental events. These measures include having an approved Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP), a relief well plan and primary and secondary barriers in place.

I agree with the assessment of environmental effects once control and mitigation measures from the unlikely event are accounted for.

Features of the project or measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset significant effects.

The only impact identified as potentially having a significant effect on the environment is an accidental event, which in this case is a well blow out. The following key measures of the project are envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effect on the environment from accidental events.

The developer has a number of measures in place to ensure that the risk of a well blow-out occurring is minimised. These preventative measures are:

a) Primary Well Barrier: the developer will use appropriate drilling fluids to maintain well control and provide sufficient hydrostatic pressure;
b) Secondary Well Barrier: the developer will utilise a blow out preventor (BOP) which is used for the initial stages of secondary well control should a blow out occur;
c) Operations will be carried out in accordance with a well plan to ensure well control is maintained;
d) Oil Pollution Emergency Plan which sets out arrangements for responding to incidents that may cause oil pollution;
e) Well Procedures and equipment to control the well in the event of a blow out, including a capping device or the drilling of a relief well.

Although a significant effect to the environment would be expected in the case of an unplanned, accidental well blow-out from a Teal West well, the mitigation measures and commitments in place above, will seek to avoid and/or reduce the unlikely impact as far as possible.

I therefore agree with the conclusion that a well blow-out does have the potential to significantly affect the environment, however, mitigation measures and commitments will be in place to reduce the risk of a well blow-out occurring, to as low a risk as possible.

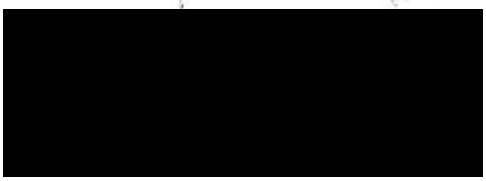
Decision on Conditions to the agreement of the grant of consent

No conditions should be attached to the agreement to the grant of consent.

Recommendation

I have set out above my conclusion on the significant effects of the project on the environment.

I recommend that the Secretary of State should agree to the grant of consent for this project because taking into account the effect of measures set out above, there will be no significant effects on the environment.



[redacted]

Date: 7th July 2023

[redacted]

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning
For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Agreement decision

I accept the recommendation for the reasons given.

On behalf of the Secretary of State, I therefore agree to the grant of consent.

[redacted]

Date 07 July 2023

[redacted]

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning
For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy.