

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5743U
UKOP Doc Ref:1289880



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

ENQUEST HEATHER LIMITED
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Registered No.: 02748866

Date: 11th August 2023

Department for Energy Security &
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Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020
MAGNUS WELL 211/12a-M43(B07)**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2393/0 (Version 1), dated 5th July 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 OPRED@Energysecurity.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**

MAGNUS WELL 211/12a-M43(B07)

DR/2393/0 (Version 1)

Whereas ENQUEST HEATHER LIMITED has made an application dated 5th July 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/15615/0/GS/1.

Effective Date: 11th August 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 11 August 2023 until 29 February 2024.

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: OPRED@Energysecurity.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:

OPRED@Energysecurity.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:

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 the B07 production well by sidetracking the M42 donor well (8.5" section)

Drilling of contingency sidetrack (8.5" and 6" sections)

(WONS/15615/0/GS/1)

Description of the Project

The Magnus platform is a drilling and production platform in the Northern North Sea with oil exported to Sullom Voe and gas exported via the FLAGGS pipeline via Brent A to the St Fergus gas terminal. Produced water is discharged to sea. Well M43 (hereby referred to as B07) will be a sidetracked well from the existing platform M42 well, which is shut in due to water cut and will be plugged and abandoned ahead of drilling the B07 well. B07 will be drilled with OBM, which will be contained and shipped onshore. The well will be drilled within the already established 500m safety zone which surrounds the Magnus platform. Operations are expected to last a total of 95 days and will take place between 11 August 2023 and 29 February 2024, the proposed project area is within a well-developed area of the Northern North Sea.

Cumulative impacts from drilling discharges, atmospheric releases and oil and chemical releases have been assessed. It has been concluded that there will be no cumulative impacts expected to occur with this project due to the containment of drill cuttings and muds with no discharge to the marine environment, the proposed mitigation and the short duration of the project.

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters and 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 from 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 Magnus platform is located in the Northern North Sea within the East Shetland Basin and is approximately 17 km from the UK/Norwegian median line and 142 km northeast of Shetland. Sediments within the region of the platform comprise sand and slightly gravelly sand, with the sediment within the area classified as 'deep circalittoral sand'. Surveys of the area showed that the sediments comprise sand with occasional gravel and shell fragments. The Magnus platform is located within an area as potentially supporting Annex I stony reefs, however surveys have not identified stony reef habitats. There is no evidence within the area of Annex I submarine structures. Water depths across the area is around 185m and the average wave height ranges from 2.71m - 3m. A survey of the area showed that the dominant groups around the platform area are worm species along with molluscs and polychaetes, with a stable homogenous community, typical of sandy sediments. The Priority Marine Feature (PMF) 'offshore subtidal sands and gravels' have been recorded within the Magnus area. Subtidal sands and gravels are the preferred habitat of the ocean quahog. The species has been recovered in the area but in low numbers. Sea pens have been recorded in surveys, and an assessment was undertaken of the 'sea pen and burrowing megafauna communities' habitat as these are on the OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining species. Using the SACFOR scale, the density of sea pens was classified as occasional or rare, therefore it was concluded that such a community was not present within the area of the Magnus platform. Hard and soft substrate sponges were also recorded within the area, but were not found in sufficient densities to constitute a 'sponge dominated habitat' as defined by OSPAR.

Minke whale, long finned pilot whale, killer whale, bottlenose dolphin, atlantic white-sided dolphin and harbour porpoise have all been recorded in the vicinity of the Magnus area. Densities of the species are categorised as low to moderate, with the exception of the killer whale which is high in June. Grey and harbour seals may be encountered, and density maps show the presence of grey and harbour seals in the area of the project area as 0-1 individuals per 25km². The Magnus platform is not situated within any conservation areas, with the closest area of conservation interest being the North East Faroe Shetland Channel NCMPA which lies 80km to the north west. This site is designated for deep sponge aggregations, offshore muds, subtidal sands and gravels and geological and geomorphological features. The North-East Faroe-Shetland Chanel Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (MPA) is located approximately 80km to the northwest and is designated for deep-sea sponge aggregations, offshore deep-sea muds, and other features.

The Magnus platform lies within fishing designated ICES rectangle 52F1 and the proposed operations will coincide with nursery and/or spawning activity for a number of species. Fishing effort in the area is designated as of low importance, with demersal fishing dominating the species type. Seabird oil sensitivity in the vicinity of the Magnus platform is predominately low, with medium sensitivity in March, and high sensitivity in January, November and December.



There are 2 non dangerous wrecks within 40km of the Magnus platform and there are no known Historic Marine Protected Areas (HMPAs) within block 211/12. There are no offshore wind farms within the vicinity. The Magnus platform is located within the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) lease area NE-b. The closest Scotwind lease area is NE-1, which is located over 130 km south-east of Magnus. There are no telecommunication cables within 40km of the Magnus field, the closest cable being the CANTAT Faroese cable with is 55km to the north-east. There are no aquaculture sites or shellfish protected areas within the vicinity of the project area, the closest being 145km from the platform. There are no military restrictions within block 211/12.

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 change to 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, 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 from the change to the project on population and human health.

A 500m safety exclusion zone is already in place around the Magnus platform, which excludes unauthorised access of vessels and prohibits access to fishing vessels. Fishing within the area is of low importance to the fishing sector and shipping density is low. No additional impacts to other marine users are identified as part of the drilling of well B07. Therefore, there are no significant effects likely in terms of physical presence from the proposed project.

There will be no seabed disturbance as part of the project as the drill cuttings and mud will be skipped and shipped onshore. The project therefore does not present a disturbance risk to any of the benthic communities within the area.

Noise generated from the project activities will not be significant, and it is concluded that the project is not expected to have a likely significant effect on the site in relation to harbour porpoise and the supporting habitats and prey.

The proposed drilling operation is being undertaken at the Magnus platform, and will use existing power generation equipment. It is not expected that the emissions due to the drilling of the well will have a significant impact on air quality, nor will it inhibit the ability to reach wider climate change goals.

The well to be drilled is a production well, and an assessment has been included within the project proposal to assess as a worst case, a well blow out within the



Magnus field, and the subsequent potential for a Major Environmental Incident (MEI). The assessment concluded that there is no potential for an MEI to occur, however procedures are in place to minimise the risk of a hydrocarbon release whether from a well blow out or diesel loading operation. The developer has suitable mitigation in place to prevent such an occurrence for either spill scenario.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the proposal to drill B07 well. The nearest boundary (UK/Norwegian median) is located approximately 17 km from the proposed well location. Drill cuttings and mud will not be discharged to the marine environment, and there are procedures in place to minimise the risk of an oil release should the scenario arise. Therefore, any transboundary effects should not be significant.

The drilling operations are consistent with the National Marine Plan for Scotland's 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:

n/a