

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5789U
UKOP Doc Ref:1294803



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

TOTALENERGIES E&P UK LIMITED
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Registered No.: 00811900

Date: 6th September 2023

Department for Energy Security &
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OPRED@energysecurity.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

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

PIPELINE PL2759 Hot Tap Tee investigation works

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PL/2403/0 (Version 2), dated 5th September 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**

PIPELINE PL2759 Hot Tap Tee investigation works

PL/2403/0 (Version 2)

Whereas TOTALENERGIES E&P UK LIMITED has made an application dated 5th September 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 PA/4806.

Effective Date: 6th September 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 10 September 2023 until 30 November 2023.

2 Commencement and completion of the project

The holder of the screening direction must confirm the dates of commencement and completion of the project covered by the screening direction. Notification should be sent by email to the Environmental Management Team Mailbox: OPRED@energysecurity.gov.uk

3 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials

Within an area bounded by the coordinates as described in the application.

4 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.

5 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.



6 Monitoring

The results of any pre or post-placement surveys carried out to confirm the necessity for the deposits covered by the screening direction and/or to confirm the accurate positioning of the stabilisation or protection materials, should be forwarded to the Department following completion of the surveys

7 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.

8 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, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms.

9 Deposit returns

The holder of the screening direction shall submit a report to the Department following completion of the deposit covered by the screening direction, confirming the quantity of materials deposited and the estimated area of impact, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting form. Where no deposits are made, a 'nil' return is required.

10 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).

11 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:

N/A

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

Laggan Tormore Pipeline Hot Tap Tee (PL2759)

Decision reasons

This document 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 developer 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:

Description of project

Removal of approximately 25 tonnes of rock and glass reinforced plastic protection to allow divers to gain access to the hot tap tee which allows for inspection of a potential tie in point for the Victory pipeline.

On completion of inspection inhibitor sticks will be placed in the cavity under the flange for preservation these comprise biocide and oxygen scavenger sticks.



Replace approximately 25 tonnes of rock on completion of the inspection.
The proposed activities are estimated to take 5 days with an earliest start date of the 13th September.

Location of project

Having regard, in particular, to the matters identified in Schedule 5 2(a) to (c) of the Regulations, the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the project has been considered as follows.

The location of the project is typical of the marine environment West of Shetland, 32km offshore from Shetland in Block 207/01.

During the possible timing of the proposed activities (September), fish species that may be spawning in the area include herring and lemon sole. The proposed project also coincides with the breeding season for many seabirds and September is a time when White-beaked dolphin have been sighted in the area.

Site-specific data has been collected over the main Victory site, including the Hot Tap Tee area. The survey identified three main habitat types in the region (identified here using the European Nature Information System (EUNIS) habitat classifications): offshore circalittoral coarse sediment (MD3), offshore circalittoral sand (MD5), and offshore circalittoral mixed sediment (MD4). The benthic species observed in these habitats are typical of the West of Shetland area. The works do not take place in any marine protected areas. However, potential sensitive habitats and species are known to occur in the wider West of Shetland region, namely, sub-tidal reefs (e.g., biogenic reefs formed by *D. pertusum* and rocky reefs formed from iceberg scour or moraine deposits); Ocean Quahog (*Arctica islandica*); and Deep-sea Sponge Aggregations.

No evidence of biogenic reefs or deep-sea sponge aggregations have been observed in the project location. It is acknowledged that Ocean Quahog has previously been recorded in the wider area in other survey and it therefore possible that individuals could be present within the Victory development area.

The project area is a relatively well fished area and important to the fishing community and shipping activity is very low in the region. Overall, the area is well developed oil and gas region. There are no MOD concerns.

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:

The disturbance of a small area of seabed (up to 75m² in total) within the pipeline corridor.

Atmospheric emissions associated with the operation of the vessel for five days.



Navigational impacts due to the presence of a vessel on station to do the works for five days.

The discharge of small amounts of chemicals which has been risk assessed and the impacts determined to be negligible.

Noise from the presence of the vessel and works to handle the rock cover.

Due to the nature and scale of the project, none of the impacts are considered to be significant on the marine environment, atmospheric emissions, or other users of the sea. There is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

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