Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5744U
UKOP Doc Ref:1295098

Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

PERENCO UK LIMITED
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Registered No.: 04653066

Date: 8th September 2023

Department for Energy Security &
Net Zero

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
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AB10 1BJ

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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
Ravenspurn South C Platform, DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 42/30a-C42/30-C6

I refer to your amended application dated 6th September 2023, reference DR/2394/1 (Version 2).

It has been determined that the proposed changes to the project is not likely to result in a significant effect on the environment, and therefore an environmental impact assessment is not required.

A screening direction is therefore issued for the changes to the project. An amended schedule of conditions, comments, and main reasons for the decision on the amended application, 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 Therese Follin Harcombe on +44 (0)1224 254030 or email the Environmental Management Team at OPRED@Energysecurity.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by Environmental Section
Date: 2023.09.08 08:41:43 BST
Reason: On behalf of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Location: The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

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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

Ravenspurn South C Platform, DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 42/30a-C42/30-C6

DR/2394/1 (Version 2)

Whereas PERENCO UK LIMITED has made an application dated 6th 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, WONS/15451/0/IDA/1v1 and WONS/15719/0/EWT/1.

Effective Date: 8th September 2023

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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 4 August 2023 until 31 December 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: OPRED@Energysecurity.gov.uk

3 Extended well tests

a) Production levels

The holder of the screening direction shall ensure that the production of hydrocarbons during the well test does not exceed the level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction.

b) Associated flaring and venting

The holder of the screening direction shall, ensure that any associated flaring of hydrocarbons during the well test does not exceed the level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction and/or that any associated venting of gas during the well test does not exceed the level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction.

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 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.

7 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.

8 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).

9 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 comment.

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

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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 todetermine 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

DR/2394/1 - This post direction amendments relates to the underaking of an extended well test. All other aspects of the project remain the same and the decision reasons below remains valid.

-Drilling of the 42/30- C06 well (17.5", 12.25" and 8.5" sections)

-Drilling of contingency sidetrack 42/30-C06z (8.5 and 6" sections)

-Contingency re-spud and mechanical sidetrack

-Completion of the well (WONS/15451/0/IDA/1v1)

-Extended well test (WONS/15719/0/EWT/1)

Description of the Project

This application covers the drilling of the 42/30-C06 well and contingency sidetrack (42/30 -C06z). The drilling of the production well will be undertaken from the Valaris 247 which will be located at the Ravenspurn South Charlie Platform (RSC). Drilling operations may take up to 140 days to complete (including sidetrack).

The 17.5" section will be drilled using water based mud (WBM) and the lower 2 sections of the well will be drilled using low toxicity oil based mud (LTOBM). The oil-based mud will transported to shore for processing and disposal. The extended well test will take place for a maximum of 288 hours and as a worst case produce 324 MMscf of gas and 38m3 condensate. The screening direction covers the period 8 September to 31 December 2023.

No cumulative impacts are expected to occur with any other existing or approved projects. The risk of a major accidents and environmental effects from major accidents, 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.

There is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health. It is not considered likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters. No nuisances are foreseen from the project.

Location of the Project

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

The Ravenspurn South field is comprised of the normally unattended installations (NUIs) Ravenspurn south, Alpha, Bravo and Charlie which are part of the Cleeton development in the southern north sea. The Ravenspurn South Charlie (RSC) platform is a single wellhead steel platform that produces gas and condensate to the Cleeton host facility via a 12-inch pipeline (PL451). At Cleeton, the Ravenspurn South gas is co-mingled with production from Cleeton and associated tiebacks and is exported onshore via a 59 km 36-inch diameter pipeline (PL447) to the onshore Dimlington Gas Terminal (DGT). Located in block 42/30 in the southern north sea approximatley 58 kilometres (km) from Flamborough head on the North Yorkshire coastline and approximately 130 km from the UK/Netherlands median line in waters depths of approximately 49 metres.

The general circulation of near-surface water masses in the North Sea is cyclonic and is mostly driven by the ingression of Atlantic surface water from the west into the northern North Sea. As a result, residual water currents near the sea surface tend to move in a south easterly direction along the coast towards the English Channel.

Seabed sediments within the southern north sea generally comprise coarse sands with gravels in some areas. Sediments are highly mobile largely due to the increased near seabed currents. Seabed in the vicinity of the RSC comprises Holocene sand and slightly gravelly sand. The main sediment type is described as "Offshore circalittoral sand" and is characterised by a diverse range of polychaetes, amphipods, bivalves and echinoderms. No Annex I habitat was recorded in the survey.

The project works will take place during a period when a number of fish species may be found to using the area as spawning or nursery locations. Sightings of cetaceans are most common between the months of May and September. Seals are not expected to be seen at the remote location. Seabirds are most common in the area during the winter months, although seabird sensitivity to oil is medium to high throughout the year. The project area is primarily used for shellfish fishing, although fishing effort is low in the area. Shipping intensity at the project location is high. The surrounding area comprises other oil and gas infrastructure within 20 km, and is within a Royal Airforce Practice and Exercise Area (PEXA) and danger area and a Royal Navy PEXA is also nearby. There are no operational windfarms in the vicinity of the RSC platform however the Hornsea Four Offshore windfarm is located approximately 12km away, this windfarm is currently in the planning stage and the Endurance Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) site which is at the lease phase is located 4.7 km away. There are no offshore marine aggregate extraction areas in the vicinity, there are 3 wrecks located nearby although the closest is 8km away.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) and (viii) of Schedule 5 are not likely to 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 to the environment from the activities associated with the change to the project were assessed, with focus on the predominant impacts resulting from the physical presence of the modu, seabed disturbance, atmospheric emissions from platform, planned discharges to sea from chemical use, and accidental events such as an oil spill.

There is a 500 m radius safety zone around the RSC, excluding unauthorised access of vessels and prohibiting access to fishing vessels, the temporary siting of the Valaris 247 and deployment of anchors will exclude users of the sea from a further area of 0.84km2 however this will be for a limited time period, while this has the potential to impact on other sea users in close proximity to the RSC the impact is not significant.

A small area of seabed will be impacted by the positioning of the modu and and the discharge of cuttings from the tophole section. given sediment movement and the residual current in the area, it can be expected that over time the recovery of seabed sediments should occur. WBM are water-soluble and are expected to dissolve, dissociate and disperse during settlement through the water column.

Offshore registered chemicals will be used and discharged during the drilling of the well. The use and discharge of the chemicals have been risk assessed and modelled in accordance with other regulatory requirements. The use and discharge modelling shows a low risk to the environment from the chemicals. Use and discharge of chemicals is not expected to have a significant impact on the environment. LTOBM will be skipped and shipped to shore for treatment and disposal.

The impacts of drilling discharges on water quality and benthic fauna is predicted to be minimal as affects will be localised and short-lived. Moreover, given that recovery of the seabed and the associated benthic communities is likely to begin once drilling has been completed, the environmental impact of the discharged chemicals and cement, within the impacted area, can be considered not significant.

Atmospheric emissions associated with the project will result from power demand for the proposed operations and an extended well test. Although there will be a short term and localised increase in emissions from the proposed operations, the total emissions will contribute a small percentage to the offshore and UK total CO2e emissions (<0.23% and <0.008%, respectively). It is expected the emissions will be rapidly dispersed and are not likely to have a significant impact.

In the event that an unlikely and unplanned accidental spill scenario from a well blow-out was realised the total volume of oil that would be released from the well has been estimated at 392m3. The modelling suggests that beaching of oil could occur and but that a major environmental incident would be unlikely. All drilling activities will be carried out in accordance with the Offshore Safety Directive as per the operator's Well Examination Scheme and Guidance Document. An approved Oil Pollution Emergency Plan to manage hydrocarbon releases will be in place prior to activities being undertaken. There are no planned expected transboundary impacts because of the project.

The drilling operations are consistent with the East Offshore Marine Plan.

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