

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5895U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1314610



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

SHELL U.K. LIMITED  
SHELL CENTRE  
LONDON  
SE1 7NA

Registered No.: 00140141

Date: 13th December 2023

Department for Energy Security &  
Net Zero

AB1 Building  
Crimon Place  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]

Fax [REDACTED]

[www.gov.uk/desnz](http://www.gov.uk/desnz)  
[OPRED@energysecurity.gov.uk](mailto:OPRED@energysecurity.gov.uk)

Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING  
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS  
2020  
FRAM G6 TIE IN - PIPELINE PL6420**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PL/2437/0 (Version 2), dated 6th December 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](mailto: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**

**FRAM G6 TIE IN - PIPELINE PL6420**

**PL/2437/0 (Version 2)**

Whereas SHELL U.K. LIMITED has made an application dated 6th December 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/4833.

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5895U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1314610



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning



## **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 20 January 2024 until 31 December 2024.

#### **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](mailto:OPRED@energysecurity.gov.uk)

#### **3 Nature of stabilisation or protection materials**

Grout bags deposits

PL6420 - 15 tonnes of grout contained within 25 kilogramme capacity biodegradable bags.

PLU6421 - 15 tonnes of grout contained within 25 kilogramme capacity biodegradable bags.

(The number of bags deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus bags must be returned to land).

Concrete mattress deposits

PL6420 -20 [Number] concrete mattresses, each measuring 6 metres x 3 metres x 15 centimetres.

PLU6421 -20 [Number] concrete mattresses, each measuring 6 metres x 3 metres x 15 centimetres.

(The number of mattresses deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus mattresses must be returned to land).

#### **4 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials**

at the locations detailed in the PL SAT.



## **5 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.

## **6 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.

## **7 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

## **8 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.

## **9 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.

## **10 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.

## **11 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).

## **12 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.

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5895U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1314610



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning



## 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

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 by OPRED 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 has 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 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

Installation of 6" production jumper (PL6420) and 6" hydraulic jumper (PLU6421) from Fram manifold and G6 well;  
Associated stabilisation/protection materials upto 20 6 x 3m concrete mattresses and 600 x 25kg grout bags (PL6420) and upto 20 6 x 3m concrete mattresses and 600 x 25kg grout bags (PLU6421);

as detailed under PA/4833

#### Description of the Project

The Fram field consists of existing 2 producing wells and ties in to the existing Starling manifold located in Block 29/3 ( *approximately* 15 km north) *via* the installation of subsea infrastructure. The Starling manifold is tied back to the Shearwater complex, which comprises Shearwater A, the well-head platform and Shearwater C, a normally manned integrated Process, Utilities and Quarters (PUQ)



platform. This screening direction is for the installation of the 45 metre 6" production jumper (PL6420) and the 60 metre 6" hydraulic jumper (PLU6421) from the Fram manifold to the new Fram G6 well. The project involves the deposit of stabilisation/protection materials. The grout bags and concrete mattresses will be deposited from a vessel. The project activities are scheduled to occur between January and December 2024 and will last upto 10 days.

No significant cumulative interactions are foreseen with any other existing or approved projects. There is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health. There is no credible potential for a major accident or disaster to affect this project. No significant impacts are anticipated.

### **Location of the Project**

Having regard 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 Fram Field is located in Blocks 29/3c, 29/8a, 29/4c and 29/9c of the Central North Sea (CNS) *approximately* 220 km east of Aberdeen , 50 km from the UK/Norway median line, and in a water depth of 97 m and the seabed type is characterised as predominately comprising Atlantic offshore circalittoral mud. Water circulation in the project location is driven by the influx of North Atlantic water through the Fair Isle Channel moving southwards along the Scottish coast. Within the region, the mean significant wave height ranges from 2.11m to 2.40 m. Seabed sediments in previous surveys of the Fram area have been described as fine silty sand with occasional clay outcrops and areas of numerous clay outcrops. The project location is not within any protected areas, with the closest UK area, the East of Gannet and Montrose Fields Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (ncMPA), designated for ocean quahog (and supporting habitat) and offshore deep sea muds habitat being approximately 6 km distant. The epifauna observed in the survey area were dominated by polychaetes and molluscs. Sea pens were identified during the survey, with elements of the OSPAR habitat 'sea pens and burrowing megafauna communities' identified intermittently. It could therefore be considered representative of a 'sea pens and burrowing megafauna community. Two areas of potential Methane Derived Authigenic Carbonate (MDAC) were observed approximately 7km north of the Fram manifold. While several areas of coarse material were identified, these did not meet the criteria for Annex 1 stony reef habitat.. Ocean quahog were identified in the survey area, however these were noted as present but not abundant.

The project works and timing will take place at a time when a number of fish species may be found to use the area as spawning, juvenile or nursery locations. Sightings of cetaceans are most common between the months of July and October. Seals are not expected to be seen at the remote location. Seabirds sensitivity in Block 29/3 and adjacent blocks is low throughout the year. The project area is used for fishing, but with a very low historical effort. Shipping intensity at the project location is very low. The surrounding area is not within a military activity zone, with no



telecommunications cables, marine aggregate sites or renewable energy locations in proximity.

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 project were assessed, with focus on the predominant impacts resulting from physical presence of the vessel, atmospheric emissions from vessel use, chemical discharges and sea bed disturbance from deposit of protective materials.

The project vessel has the potential to cause interference to other users of the sea, namely fishermen and vessel traffic, however they will be located in the Fram and Starling safety zones. Their presence within the safety zones means only authorised vessels would be allowed within the 500 m radius of the project locations, therefore excluding other users of the sea. Given the relatively low importance of the fishing area, the low vessel traffic, and that the project is a temporary activity - the impact is deemed insignificant.

The areas of seabed disturbance from the placement of the jumpers and protective materials are 1, 055m<sup>2</sup> for temporary impact (sediment disturbance) and 375m<sup>2</sup> for permanent impact (mattress and grout bag placement). The main receptors impacted by seabed disturbance will be the benthic communities. Physical disturbance can cause mortality or displacement of benthic species in the impacted zone. The impacts to sessile benthic communities are expected to be at individual-level, rather than population-level. Therefore, the impact on benthic communities will not be significant.

Offshore chemicals will be used and discharged during the project. The use and discharge of the chemicals will be risk assessed and modelled in accordance with other regulatory requirements.

Emissions to air will occur from combustion plant used on the vessels. The quantity of carbon dioxide equivalent from the vessels amounts to 0.0040% of the 2018 total CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from offshore oil and gas activity. The impact of the vessel emissions will be mitigated by optimising vessel efficiency and hence minimising fuel use and avoiding the unnecessary operation of power generation/combustion equipment. The environmental effects from emissions to air are not expected to have a significant impact on the environment.

The release of diesel fuel from the project vessel is considered a low risk due to the controls in place. If diesel is released to the marine environment, it is a non-persistent hydrocarbon and will rapidly disperse and evaporate. In the event of a diesel release the vessels would respond in accordance with their shipboard oil pollution emergency



plan (SOPEP). There is no major environmental incident potential associated with the project.

There are no planned expected transboundary impacts because of the project. The operations described in the application are in accordance with the Scottish National 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