



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

ES/2023/007

NEO Energy (ZEX) Limited
The Silver Fin Building
455 Union Street
Aberdeen
AB11 6DB

27 March 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

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

NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 12(1)

BUCHAN REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Further to the Notice under Regulation 12(1) dated 22 March 2024, The Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning ("OPRED") wish to provide additional clarity to comment 13. The comment as set out in the Regulation 12(1) Notice is:

13. Table 4-2 - Summary description of the different environmental surveys identified in Figure 4-1 - i) Regarding the Benthic Solutions Ltd 2021 survey, please clarify if metals levels would be expected to cause environmental impacts. ii) a) Regarding the Benthic Solutions Ltd 2019a survey, please clarify if the heavy metals levels exceeded the OSPAR approximate environmental effects threshold (50ppm). b) Please provide further information on the metals which exceeded ERL values and the stations proximity to proposed infrastructure, where necessary including an impact assessment.

For clarity, the comment should read:

13. Table 4-2 - Summary description of the different environmental surveys identified in Figure 4-1 - i) Regarding the Benthic Solutions Ltd 2021 survey, please clarify if metals levels would be expected to cause environmental impacts. ii) a) Regarding the Benthic Solutions Ltd 2019a survey, please clarify if the total hydrocarbon levels exceeded the OSPAR ecological effects threshold (50ppm). b) Please provide further information on the metals which

**Department for Energy Security &
Net Zero**

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

Tel [REDACTED]

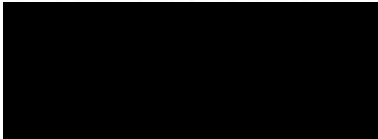
www.gov.uk/desnz
OPRED@Energysecurity.gov.uk

exceeded effects range low (ERL) values and the stations proximity to proposed infrastructure, where necessary including an impact assessment.

Your response to the Regulation 12(1) Notice (as clarified above) will be reviewed, and consideration given as to whether the information provided ought to be made public because the information is directly relevant to reaching a conclusion on whether the project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. If so, OPRED will notify NEO Energy (ZEX) Limited under Regulation 12(3), and NEO Energy (ZEX) Limited will have to take further steps to publish information and make provision for further public consultation under Regulations 12(5) to 12(9).

OPRED looks forward to receiving your response so that we can progress our consideration of the ES. Please note that OPRED intends to publish this clarification on the project specific page for the Buchan Redevelopment ES on the GOV.UK webpage.

Yours sincerely



.....



Environmental Manager

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