

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-6165U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1335499



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

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Registered No.: 00862823

Date: 4th April 2024

Department for Energy Security &  
Net Zero

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[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**

**HEWETT, Hewett 48/29 AP Platform, Valaris 72 DRILLING OTHER WELL  
48/29-A8**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2469/0 (Version 2), dated 2nd April 2024 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**

**HEWETT, Hewett 48/29 AP Platform, Valaris 72 DRILLING OTHER WELL  
48/29-A8**

**DR/2469/0 (Version 2)**

Whereas ENI UK LIMITED has made an application dated 2nd April 2024, 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/16307/0/WT/1(V1) and WONS/16356/0/rc/1(V1).

Effective Date: 4th April 2024

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# **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 4 April 2024 until 30 April 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](mailto: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:

Based on the information provided, OPRED are content for the proposed explosive use to be undertaken without the need for marine mammal mitigation due to the depth the charge(s) will be placed below the seabed.

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]

Fax [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 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 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**

Perforation of the 9 5/8" casing of the 48/29A-8 Well at the depth of 3500 ft  
3 X 8-hour (24 hours in total) injectivity testing using nitrogen

#### **Description of the project**

Eni UK have been granted a Carbon storage licence (CS008) in order to reuse and repurpose depleted hydrocarbon reservoirs in the Hewett field. To ensure that the Hewett field reservoir integrity is suitable for the long-term storage of carbon dioxide, Eni UK need to conduct tests to collect necessary data through fluid sampling and injection testing. This will be conducted in the 48/29A-8 Well, for approximately 9





days between 4th April 2024 and 15th April 2024, prior to Plug and Abandonment of this well which is subject to a Marine Licence.

In order to obtain reservoir fluid samples, Eni UK are proposing to perforate one foot of the 9 5/8" casing of the 48/29A-8 Well at the depth of 3500 ft, which is in the fluid bearing part of the Upper Bunter reservoir.

Nitrogen injectivity test will be conducted through the perforations and into the reservoir. A three-rate test with each rate lasting for a period of 8 hours will be conducted, giving a total of 24 hours of nitrogen injection. The nitrogen for these tests will be transported to the rig in four purpose-built ISO Tanks and stored in these tanks located in an insulated/ bunded area as liquid nitrogen on the Valaris 72 rig. This will then be pumped by a nitrogen converter which converts the liquid nitrogen into gas form and injects it into the well and down into the reservoir.

### **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 48/29-A platform is located in UKCS Block 48/29, approximately 27.6km from the Norfolk coast and 88.6km west of the UK / Netherlands median line. Water depths at 48/29-A8 well injectivity test operations are approximately 22.5 metres (m) at Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT).

The primary seabed sediments identified in the vicinity of the 48/29-A platform are fine to coarse grained sand with shell fragments with a mean particle size ranged from 258  $\mu$ m to 435  $\mu$ m. Predominantly south-west/north-east orientated sand waves occur throughout the survey area. The sand waves have heights of up to 4 m and wavelengths of approximately 120 m.

The following European Nature Information System (UNIS) seabed classifications identified within Block 48/29 are circalittoral coarse and deep circalittoral coarse sediment. The former characterised by infaunal polychaetes, mobile crustacea and bivalves. Certain species of sea cucumber (e.g. *Neopentadactyla*) and lancelet *Branchiostoma lanceolatum*. The latter characterised by *Modiolus*.

Of note is that the 48/29-A8 Well Injectivity Test operations are located within the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC, which has been designated for the protection Annex I habitat, namely *Sabellaria spinulosa*. Tube remains of the riss worm *S. spinulosa* were observed during the survey at platform 48/29-A; however, no live worms or reefs were observed. A visual inspection for *S. spinulosa* reefs around the platform will be carried out prior to rig arrival.

The 48/29-A8 Well Injectivity Test operations are located within ICES Rectangle 35F1 lies in an area of low probability of juvenile fish for sole, Norway pout, hake, haddock, cod, anglerfish, mackerel and blue whiting and moderate probability for



whiting, sprat, plaice, horse mackerel and herring.

Low to moderate densities of harbour porpoise have been recorded in the area from February to September and in December, with high densities being recorded in July. The 48/29-A8 Well is within the Southern North Sea SAC identified as an area important for harbour porpoise.

The distribution of grey and harbour seals is low at the 48/29-A platform location of the proposed injectivity testing.

The 49/28A platform Injectivity Test operations lie adjacent to several Special Protection Areas (SPAs) on the Norfolk coastline, which have been designated for the protection of breeding colonies of seabirds. Given the proximity to the coastline (27.6km), the 48/29-A8 well Injectivity Test operations lies within the maximum breeding and foraging ranges of most seabirds, including common eider, fulmar, Manx shearwater, storm petrel, gannet, cormorant, Arctic skua, great skua, black-headed gull, common gull, herring gull, lesser black-backed gull, kittiwake, sandwich tern, roseate tern, common tern, Arctic tern, guillemot, razorbill and puffin. The most abundant species likely to be present in the vicinity of the platform is guillemot, with kittiwake and razorbill more abundant during breeding and winter seasons. A nesting bird survey conducted on the 24th of April 2023 confirmed that no nesting birds were present on the Hewett field.

Activity associated with fishing is not significant in the immediate vicinity of the platform location.

Shipping density is considered to be very high in Block 48/29, although it should be noted that the proposed operations will take place within the 500m safety exclusion zone surrounding the 48/29-A platform.

The Hewett field is located in a region well developed by the oil and gas industry. There are no 3rd party platforms situated within UKCS Blocks 48/29, 48/30 and 52/05. The closest platform to the 48/29-A8 Well Injectivity Test operations is the 48/29-Q platform located 0.07km south-east.

The nearest wind farm areas to the 48/29-A8 Well Injectivity Test operations are the active Dudgeon windfarm located 32.5km to the north-west. There are no offshore aggregate, dredging areas or known dumping areas, military activity or marine archaeology sites in the vicinity of the operations.

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 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 of the project on population and human health.

It is predicted that the atmospheric emissions generated during the proposed Injectivity Test operations will disperse rapidly to background levels a few tens of metres from their source and therefore considered not likely to have a significant impact.

The main sound sources during the Injectivity Test operations at Hewett will be the use of explosives to perforate the well 48/29A-8. Underwater noise modelling was undertaken to determine the impact of such downhole explosives within the 48/29A-8 well. The noise emissions predicted to be generated during the operations at 48/29A-8 will disperse rapidly through the water column, and the noise created from the use of explosives will likely be reduced due to the positioning of the explosives being against the internal conductor. Therefore, the noise generated is likely to be absorbed into the seabed. The impacts to marine mammals, seabirds, fish and plankton arising from the noise emissions from the use of explosives downhole are unlikely to cause significant impacts.

The 48/29A platform is located within the SNS SAC which is recognised as important for harbour porpoises and underwater noise generated by the proposed injectivity test operations will not have a significant impact on harbour porpoise or the SNS SAC. The 48/29A platform is also located within the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC and it can be concluded that no significant impacts on the benthic environment or qualifying species, namely *Sabellaria spinulosa* will result from the injectivity test operations.

## 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:

It has been concluded there are no significant effects that require mitigation.