Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-6064U
UKOP Doc Ref:1335378

Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

CHRYSAOR PETROLEUM COMPANY U.K. LIMITED
23 LOWER BELGRAVE STREET
LONDON
SW1W 0NR

Registered No.: 00792712

Date: 4th April 2024

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [redacted]
Fax

www.gov.uk/desnz
opred@energysecurity.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2020
TALBOT PIPELINE PL6390

I refer to your amended application dated 3rd April 2024, reference PL/2458/1 (Version 1).

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 [redacted] on [redacted] or email the Environmental Management Team at opred@energysecurity.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

Signature Not Verified

Digitally signed by Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Date: 2024.04.04 09:55:04 BST
Reason: On behalf of the Secretary of State
Location: Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning

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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

TALBOT PIPELINE PL6390

PL/2458/1 (Version 1)

Whereas CHRYSAOR PETROLEUM COMPANY U.K. LIMITED has made an application dated 3rd 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 PA/4667.

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 21 March 2024 until 6 March 2025.

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 Nature of stabilisation or protection materials

Rock deposits

111239 tonnes of clean, inert rock material, containing minimal fines, (The quantity of rock deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary stabilisation or protection, and any surplus rock must be returned to land).

Sand deposits

600 tonnes of clean sand material.

Grout bags deposits

63 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

426 concrete mattresses, each measuring 6 metres x 3 metres x 30 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).

Concrete Plinth

5 concrete plinths measuring 8 meters x 2 meters

Glass Reinforced Plastic Cover

1 Glass Reinforced Plastic Cover measuring 9 meters x 9 meters

4 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials

at the locations detailed in the premit application.

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 Piling Operations

Marine mammal mitigation measures

i) All piling should be undertaken in accordance with the relevant sections of the current Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) 'Statutory nature conservation agency protocol for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from piling noise', and must be undertaken in accordance with the following conditions:

a) Prior to the commencement of piling operations a pre-piling marine mammal search must be undertaken, to determine whether any marine mammals are located within 500 metres (m) of the piling location. The duration of the pre-piling search must be at least 30 minutes in water depths of less than 200m, and at least 60 minutes in water depths of greater than 200m. (Further information can be found in the JNCC guidelines).

b) Following completion of the pre-piling search, a 'soft start' must be undertaken, to

reduce the possibility of causing injury to marine mammals. The duration of the soft start must be a minimum of 20 minutes. If any marine mammals are detected within 500m of the piling location during the pre-piling search, the soft start must be delayed until it has been confirmed that the marine mammals have moved out of the 500m zone. (Further information can be found in the JNCC guidelines).

c) If any marine mammals are detected within 500m of the piling location during the pre-piling search, piling operations must be delayed until it has been confirmed that the marine mammals have moved out of the 500m zone. (Further information can be found in the JNCC guidelines).

d) If piling operations are suspended for any reason for a period of more than 10 minutes, a marine mammal search must be undertaken prior to the resumption of the piling operations. The duration of the search must be at least 30 minutes in water depths of less than 200m, or at least 60 minutes in water depths of greater than 200m, or for the duration of the suspension if piling operations can be resumed in less than 30 minutes. If any marine mammals approach within 500m of the piling location during the search, the resumption of piling operations must be delayed until it has been confirmed that the marine mammals have moved out of the 500m zone. In any event a further soft start (minimum duration of 20 minutes) must be undertaken prior to the resumption of the piling operations. (Further information can be found in the JNCC guidelines). If piling operations are suspended for a period of more than 30 minutes the resumption of piling operations must be delayed until a pre-piling search and soft-start have been undertaken in accordance with conditions 7 i) (a) and 7(b).

e) A MMO must be available to undertake visual monitoring during any pre-piling search or soft start procedure undertaken during the hours of daylight. Piling operations must be delayed if poor visibility prevents the visual monitoring. The MMO may not have a dual role during any periods of visual monitoring required as a condition of the consent, e.g. undertaking the duties of a Fisheries Liaison Officer. (Further information can be found in the JNCC guidelines).

f) MMOs must be trained marine mammal observers and must be familiar with piling mitigation techniques and the requirements of the JNCC guidelines and reporting forms; and must be aware of the marine mammal species likely to be encountered in the area. (Further information can be found in the JNCC guidelines).

g) A proven PAM system, i.e. one that has been successfully demonstrated to be able to detect vocalising marine mammals, must be available on the source vessel to undertake acoustic monitoring if any search or soft start procedure is undertaken during the hours of darkness or during periods when visual observations are not effective because of the weather conditions or sea state. (Further information can be found in the JNCC guidelines).

h) PAM operatives must be familiar with acoustic monitoring techniques and the requirements of the JNCC guidelines and reporting forms. (Further information can be found in the JNCC guidelines).

i) Agreed lines of communication must be established between MMOs, PAM operatives, the piling contractor and the vessel's officers and crew, as appropriate, to facilitate the visual and/or acoustic monitoring of marine mammals in accordance with the consent conditions. (Further information can be found in the JNCC guidelines).

j) A report of the visual and/or acoustic monitoring undertaken during the course of the piling must be completed and submitted by email to the Environmental Management Team Mailbox: OPRED@energysecurity.gov.uk, and copied to JNCC at seismic@jncc.gov.uk, within 6 weeks of the date of expiry of the completion of piling activities. The report must be compiled using the current JNCC Reporting Forms and must include the Department's reference number and the Marine Mammal Recording Form in its original format (i.e. as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and not converted to an Adobe Portable Document Format file). (Further information can be found in the JNCC guidelines).

ii) Commencement and Completion of Operations

The holder of the consent must notify the Department within 2 days:

(a) of commencement of operations and

(b) of completion of the operations.

Notification should be sent by email to the Environmental Management Team

Mailbox: OPRED@Energysecurity.gov.uk

iii) Survey Log

A record of the piling operations authorised under the screening direction must be maintained on board the vessel(s) undertaking the operations covered by the screening direction, and made available for inspection upon request by any person authorised to act on behalf of the Secretary of State. The record must include the following information:

a) the date and time of commencement and completion of piling activities;

b) the date and time of commencement and completion of any marine mammal visual or acoustic searches;

c) the date and time of commencement and completion of any soft start procedures;

d) the quadrant and block location of the piling vessel on each day that the piling operations are undertaken, using the form available on the gov.uk website at https://www.gov.uk/oil-and-gas-offshore-environmental-legislation, noting this form is intended for geological survey reporting; and

e) details of any problems encountered during the course of the piling activity, including information relating to the physical injury of any marine mammal or conflict with fishing gear or fishing operations.

8 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

9 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.

10 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.

11 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.

12 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).

13 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]

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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 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:

The operations involve the installation of a new 15.5 km long 12"/18" Pipe-in-Pipe (PIP) pipeline and a 15.9 km Electro-Hydraulic Controls umbilical between the Talbot Drill Centre Manifold and the Judy platform.

A subsea manifold structure (Talbot Drill Centre combined manifold) will be installed fixed to the seabed with piles at the Talbot field location adjacent to the existing Talbot drilling template.

A Subsea Isolation Valve (SSIV) manifold structure will also be installed and fixed to the seabed with piles within the Judy platform 500 m exclusion zone.

Talbot will be tied into the Judy platform via the existing PL1000 12" Joanne production pipeline. A section of the Joanne pipeline located within the Judy 500 m exclusion zone will be cut out and a mechanical connector used to tie in the Talbot pipeline.

Description of Project

This screening direction (PL/2458/1 (version 1)) was submitted to allow the inclusion of conditions in the permit related to noise from the piling operations on the SSIV and Talbot manifold. No changes were made to the content of the application.

This project consists of the installation of the following infrastructure:

PLU6392 - a 15.9 km; 7" services umbilical from Talbot Topside Umbilical Termination Units to Talbot combined manifold;

PL6390 - a 15.5 km; 12" x 18" PiP from Talbot combined manifold to Judy platform; and

PLU6391 - a 269 m umbilical from Talbot Break-out Box to Talbot SSIV.

In addition, the following flanges and control jumpers will be installed between the Talbot combined manifold and the Talbot well trees:

PL6387 - a 111 m; 6" Talbot tie in flange for well 1;

PL6388 - a 132 m; 6" Talbot tie in flange for well 2;

PL6389 - a 158 m; 6" Talbot tie in flange for well 3;

PLU6393 - a 131 m long, multicore control jumper to Tree 1;

PLU6394 - a 175 m long, multicore control jumper talbot combined manifold to Tree 2; and

PLU6395 - a 153 m long, multicore control jumper talbot combined manifold to Tree 3.

An SSIV will be installed in the Judy 500m zone and a manifold at the Talbot drill centre.

There will also be the installation of permanent seabed deposits in the form of rock and sand deposits, grout bags and mattresses. Temporary deposits will also be made on the seabed to facilitate the operations.

The cumulative impacts have been assessed by the applicant and are not deemed to be significant.

Given the nature of the operations proposed there is no risk of a Major Accident Hazard and thus Major Environmental Incident as the operations do not involve well activities.

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.

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 Judy platform is in Block 30/07a in the Central North Sea (CNS) approximately 263 kilometres (km) from the Scottish coast of the UK and 13 km from the UK/Norway median line, in an approximate water depth of 76 metres (m). The Talbot development lies approximately 15km to the south east in Block 30/13.

Sediments in the Judy field are categorised as ' Offshore Deep Circalittoral Sand ' with the National Marine Plan interactive indicating the Priority Marine Feature (PMF) habitat 'Offshore Subtidal Sands and Gravel' occurs within the wider Judy field. Surveys in the area have shown local sediments to consist of silty fine to medium sand with shell fragments.

The benthic assemblage identified from site surveys undertaken in the J-area indicate a community typical of the sediments identified. Observed macrofauna included polychaete annelids (bristle worms), arthropods (including shrimps and crabs), molluscs (including bivalves and snails), echinoderms (including star fish and brittle stars).

Surveys of the Talbot area to the south identified the presence of horse mussel at all stations, along with bacterial mats. The biogenic reefs formed by horse mussel are listed under Annex I of the Habitats Directive and is classified as a threatened and/ or declining habitat. However, the criteria for positive identification of the biogenic reef were not fulfilled for the Talbot survey area. No other potential Annex I habitats have been identified in the J-area.

The closest area protected for Annex I habitat is the Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Southern North Sea SAC. These are located over 100 km to the south of the J- Area. The Talbot development lies within the boundary of the Fulmar Marine Conservation Area (MCZ) designated for protection of broad-scale habitats of subtidal mud, subtidal sand and subtidal mixed sediments, as well as the protection of ocean quahog.

The PMF species Ocean quahog, which is also on the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species, were identified during site surveys of the J-area in low densities, although there are no recordings of Ocean Quahog within Block 30/07 in the National Marine Plan interactive.

Seabird oil spill vulnerability for Block 30/07 is low year-round. In Block 30/13 u=it is low with the exception of May and June when sensitivity is very high. Adjacent blocks show sensitivities for short periods ranging from medium to very high, but overall are considered low. Block 30/08 shows extremely high vulnerability in May and June.

Atlantic white-sided dolphin, Common dolphin, Harbour porpoise, Minke whale and

White beaked dolphin have been observed in the area between the months of May and November. Common dolphin has been observed in low densities in the area whereas the other species identified have been observed in moderate densities. Grey and harbour seals are not frequently sighted within the area with individual densities of both ranging from 0-1 individuals per 25 per square km.

The proposed operations lie within International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 42F2. The area is a spawning and nursery ground for several species throughout the year. Many of the species identified are Scottish Priority Marine Features.

Fishing effort in ICES rectangle 42F2 for 2021 and 2022 was disclosive. However, the data for 2020 indicated the ICES rectangle 42F2 was primarily targeted for shellfish species. Fishing effort in the area is low.

The pipeline is not located within a Ministry of Defence (MoD) training range.
The proposed operational route is crossed by the JUDY-CULZEAN cable and the TAMPNET CLYDE-JUDY cable. There are two additional submarine cables within 40 km of the proposed operations.

The closest wreck is an unknown non-dangerous wreck located approximately 1.8 km to the southwest of the Judy platform. There are a number of other unknown wrecks within 15 km of the proposed operations, however the only known wreck in the area (i.e., within 15 km) is the Devotion non-dangerous wreck, located approximately 12 km to the northeast of the Judy platform.

There are no shellfish water protected areas or active aquaculture sites in the vicinity of the Judy field. The closest active aquaculture sites are located on the Aberdeen coast >250 km to the west of the Judy field.

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 physical presence, seabed disturbance, atmospheric emissions, planned discharges and accidental spills. There is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

The installation of the DC1 manifold will involve the use of piling. This noise impact will be of short duration and the impacts demonstrated to be minor. Mitigation measures will be in place to minimise the impacts on cetaceans.

The navigational control measures are contained within the Consent to Locate which has been submitted for the fixed infrastructure of the pipeline etc Fishing and shipping activity in the area is low.

There will be localised impact on the seabed and benthic fauna from the physical siting of the pipeline, manifold and SSIV structures. The total seabed impact predicted is 0.066 square km. Low densities of ocean quahog were recorded during the surveys in the vicinity of the Judy field however due to the localised impact of the proposed operations, a significant impact is not anticipated on the population of the species. Considering the wider area of similar seabed habitat in the region this disturbance represents a very small overall impact.

The proposed operations overlap with the Fulmar MCZ which is designated for the protection of the Priority Marine Feature offshore deep-sea muds and OSPAR threatened and/or declining species ocean quahog aggregations. However, the proposed operations are expected to impact an area (0.066 0.5 km2) of which, only a small area overlaps the Fulmar MCZ (0.016 0.11 km2).

The cumulative impact on the MCZ, when considering deposits from other oil and gas operations is estimated to be 0.017 square km (between 2011-16) equating to 0.00007% of the MCZ area.

Most sightings of bottlenose dolphins and harbour porpoise (which are Annex II species) occur between May and November at moderate density and the proposed operations are unlikely to have a significant impact on these species. Due to the distance of the operations from shore (263 km), harbour and grey seals (Annex II species and PMFs), are not likely to be encountered regularly or in great numbers in the area of the well.

The discharge of chemicals in the installation of the pipeline and associated infrastructure have been assessed and are not considered likely to have a significant impact on the marine environment.

The proposed operations will result in an increased atmospheric emission within the localised area. Contribution of which amount to approximately 0.061% of the total atmospheric emissions associated with UK offshore activities in a year. Therefore, the impact has not been assessed as significant.

There are no expected significant transboundary effects from the operations despite the proximity of the UK/Norway boundary line.

There is no operational renewable energy site, nor any under construction and there are no known wrecks of historical importance or military activity within the vicinity of the proposed operations. The pipelay operations are in accordance with the National Marine Plan for Scotland's objectives and policies. It is considered that the installation of the Talbot to Judy pipeline and associated infrastructure will not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea and no cumulative impacts are expected to occur.

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:

Not applicable.