

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE**

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

#### **Murlach Field Development**

BP Exploration Operating Company Limited (“**BPEOC**”) has made an application for consent to the North Sea Transition Authority (“**NSTA**”) in relation to the above project.

#### **Summary of Project**

The Murlach oil field lies within UKCS Block 22/24h of the central North Sea, approximately 203 km east of the Aberdeenshire coastline, Scotland. It is located approximately 27 km from the UK / Norway median line in a water depth of approximately 93 to 95 m.

The proposed Murlach Field Development project, for which an environmental statement has been submitted under the Regulations above, is a two production well tieback development. In summary it involves the drilling of two production wells tied back to a new manifold, installation of a c. 7 km gas lift flowline from the existing Eastern Trough Area Project (“**ETAP**”) platform to the new Murlach manifold and tie-ins to the repurposed Heron A production flowline, Heron to Seagull wash water flowline system and existing Seagull umbilical. Produced fluids will be processed at the ETAP central processing facility before onward export via the Forties Pipeline System and Central Area Transmission System. Subsea facility installation and first drilling operations are currently due to commence at the Murlach field in 2024. First oil is expected in 2025. Field life is estimated to be 11 years.

#### **Environmental Impact Assessment and Consent Process**

In accordance with the above-mentioned Regulations, the project is subject to an environmental impact assessment procedure and Regulation 13 applies as the project could have a significant effect on the environment of Norway.

The NSTA is responsible for deciding whether or not to grant consent for the project, but agreement to the grant of consent must be obtained from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“the Secretary of State”) prior to consent being granted. The Secretary of State’s decision on whether to agree to the grant of consent is based on the environmental impact assessment for the project.

The range of possible decisions in response to the application of consent is:

- a) the Secretary of State agrees to the NSTA’s grant of consent following the Secretary of State’s conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, and the NSTA grants consent, so the project may proceed;
- b) the Secretary of State refuses to agree to the NSTA’s grant of consent following the Secretary of State’s conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, so the project may not proceed; or
- c) the Secretary of State agrees to the NSTA’s grant of consent following the Secretary of State’s conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, but the NSTA does not grant consent, so the project may not proceed.

Where the Secretary of State agrees to the grant of consent, conditions that BPEOC must comply with may be attached to the agreement, including environmental conditions to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment, and measures to monitor such conditions.

Notice of the decisions of the Secretary of State and NSTA decisions for the project will be published at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-2020-eia-regulations#environmental-impact-assessments-eia> where information on the Secretary of State's decision to agree to or refuse to agree to the grant of consent will also be made available.

### **Access to Further Information**

Copies of this notice, the summary of the project and the Environmental Statement can be viewed and downloaded at [www.bp.com/environmentalstatementsuk](http://www.bp.com/environmentalstatementsuk) and at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-2020-eia-regulations#environmental-impact-assessments-eia>. Access shall remain at least three months after the date on which the Secretary of State publishes the notice under Regulation 16(1) (publication of consent decisions).

A copy of the Environmental Statement and summary of the project may also be obtained by post or email. Requests should be made by 23/05/2022 to:

FAO North Sea HSE&C Team  
BP Exploration Operating Company Limited  
1 Wellheads Avenue  
Dyce  
Aberdeen  
AB21 7PB

By email: [REDACTED]  
By phone: [REDACTED]

### **Public Consultation**

Representations, comments or questions relating to the project may be made to the Secretary of State by 23/05/2022. All representations should quote reference number ES/2022/002 and may be made by letter or by email to:

Business Support Team  
Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
AB1 Building  
Crimon Place  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1BJ

BST@beis.gov.uk

## **Judicial Review**

A person aggrieved by the grant of consent for a project may apply to the Court for leave / permission to apply for judicial review of the relevant decision or decisions. The United Kingdom has three separate legal systems; one each for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The rules for any application for leave / permission to apply for judicial review may vary depending on where that application is made, but it is important to note that there are time limits for making any application and judicial review may only be available if the applicant has standing / a sufficient interest in the subject matter of the application. Further information about the process for seeking judicial review can be obtained from the Administrative Court (for England and Wales), the Court of Session (for Scotland) or the Judicial Review Office (Northern Ireland).