

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE

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

Murlach Field Development

As advised in the public notice published on 21/04/22, 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. The NSTA is the business name of the Oil and Gas Authority (“OGA”) (<https://www.nstauthority.co.uk/>). This public notice, which contains a more detailed summary of the project and clarifies that the NSTA is the business name of the OGA, supersedes the public notice published on 21/04/22.

Summary of Project

The developer of the Murlach Field Development Project (the “Project”) is BPEOC, as operator on behalf of itself and NEO Energy Central North Sea Limited. The environmental statement for the Project is dated April 2022. The essential nature of the Project is the drilling of the Murlach wells, the installation and commissioning of the required subsea infrastructure and the operation of the wells and infrastructure for the extraction and production of hydrocarbons from the Murlach field. The Project is located in UKCS Block 22/24h (Licence P2452) of the Central North Sea. The water depth at the proposed location is approximately 93 to 95 m. The Murlach field is located approximately 203 km east of the Aberdeenshire coastline, Scotland and approximately 27 km from the UK / Norway median line. BPEOC proposes to develop the Murlach Field via a two production well subsea tie-back to the Eastern Trough Area Project (“ETAP”) Central Processing Facility (“CPF”) by tying into infrastructure associated with the Seagull and Heron fields (the Heron field has ceased production). Produced fluids will be exported via the existing Heron A production flowline to the ETAP CPF where these will be processed before onward export via the Forties Pipeline System and Central Area Transmission System. This is a new project (for the purposes of the above-mentioned Regulations) to redevelop the field formerly known as Skua. The proposed development can be summarised as follows: (a) the drilling of two production wells tied back to a new manifold; (b) the installation of: (i) a c. 7 km gas lift flowline from the ETAP CPF to the new Murlach manifold; (ii) a 100 m tie-in from the Murlach manifold to the repurposed Heron A production flowline; (iii) a 300 m tie-in from the repurposed Heron to Seagull wash water flowline system to the Murlach manifold; and (iv) a 500 m umbilical connecting the existing Seagull umbilical to the Murlach manifold; and (c) processing and export of the Murlach hydrocarbons at the ETAP CPF. ETAP is an integrated development of seven different reservoirs. Six separate fields are operated by BPEOC, namely Marnock, Machar, Madoes, Mungo, Monan and Mirren. One field, Seagull, is currently operated by Neptune E&P UK Limited and is expected to come online in 2023. The ETAP CPF is a fixed manned installation that lies in UKCS Block 22/24a over the Marnock field located approximately 207 km east of the Aberdeenshire coastline, Scotland and approximately 35 km from the UK / Norway median line. The Murlach Field is located approximately 7 km south of the ETAP CPF. The planned schedule of activities is as follows: (a) drilling of wells 1Q 2024 to 4Q 2024; (b) subsea installation 3Q 2024 to 4Q 2024; (c) well tie-in and commissioning 1Q 2025; and (d) first production 2Q 2025.

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 OGA 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 OGA’s grant of consent following the Secretary of State’s conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, and the OGA grants consent, so the project may proceed;
- b) the Secretary of State refuses to agree to the OGA’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 OGA’s grant of consent following the Secretary of State’s conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, but the OGA 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 OGA 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 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 30/05/2022 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 30/05/2022. 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).