

Our Ref: 01.08.06.15/597C
UKOP Doc Ref:1371531



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

CHRYSAOR NORTH SEA LIMITED
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Registered No.: 00958880

Date: 25th November 2024

Department for Energy Security &
Net Zero

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opred@energysecurity.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020
HAWKINS FIELD PRODUCTION 2025 TO 2027**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2520/0 (Version 3), dated 19th November 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.

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**

HAWKINS FIELD PRODUCTION 2025 TO 2027

PR/2520/0 (Version 3)

Whereas CHRYSAOR NORTH SEA LIMITED has made an application dated 19th November 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 PCON/8023/0 (version 3) .

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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

This screening direction shall be valid from 1 January 2025.

2 Production level(s)

The holder of the screening direction shall ensure that the level(s) of production do not exceed the level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction, and in the application for consent relating to the approval for the getting of petroleum issued under the relevant production licence Model Clause.

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, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms.

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:

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]



SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION DECISION REASONS

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:

the information provided by the developer;

the matters listed in Schedule 5 of The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Regulations 2020) (the Regulations);

The results of any preliminary verifications or assessments of the effects on the environment of the project; and

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

Development and Production Consent for the Hawkins field for 2025 to the end of 2027.

Description of the project

The project is an update to the Development and Production Consent (PCON) reference PCON/8023/0 (version 3) for the Hawkins field for 2025 to 2027. This is a continuation of production at the field. Compared to the production figures for 2024 (which represent the baseline in the proposed consent) there will be an increase in the rate of oil and gas production during 2025 to 2027 as averaged over that period. The increase in forecasted oil and gas production rate is expected following a removal of a plug in the A11 well. The well intervention works are planned to take place in the first quarter of 2025.

The requested increase in rate of production is not expected to result in an increase in the total quantity of oil and gas to be extracted over the lifetime of the Hawkins field.

No cumulative impacts are expected to occur with any other existing or approved projects currently.



There is no change to the assessment of a major accident. The Developer has control measures in place to reduce the risk of a major accident occurring and the probability of such an event occurring is very low.

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters.

Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

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 Hawkins Field is located in the Central North Sea (CNS). It is produced through the Armada platform in Block 22/05. Water depth at the platform is approximately 89m of water. Consequently the impacts from this increase in production arise at the Armada installation. The Armada platform is 220km west south west of the nearest Scottish coastline, and 4 km from the UK/Norway line.

The predominant regional currents are the coastal and Atlantic water inflow of the Fair Isle/Dooley Current. This current flows around the north of Orkney, and then flows south until it reaches the 100 m contour of the Fladen Ground, where it turns east and circulates in the northern North Sea. The second current influencing the area is the East Shetland Atlantic Inflow, which flows just north of the Fair Isle/Dooley Current. Typical current speeds for both water bodies are 0.1 m/s.

Surveys indicate that sediments in the area comprise an intermittent veneer of shelly sand. In a wider context, the data from seabed sediments analysis indicate the Armada platform is situated within an extensive area of "sand and muddy sand". The EUNIS Habitat A5.27 "Deep Circalittoral Sand" is applicable to the Armada area.

The fauna present was found to be characteristic of that of the intermediate depths of the central North Sea with the overall community found to be dominated by the juvenile polychaete *Dorvillea rubrovittata* and the common burrowing brittle star, *Amphiura filiformis*.

No Annex I or environmentally sensitive habitats have been recorded in the area during survey works. The Norwegian Boundary Sediment Plain Nature Conservation and Marine Protected Area lies 5km to the North of the Armada installation.

Armada is located in International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 44F1 with peak spawning for cod/ Norway pout (February, March), Norway lobster (April to June) and mackerel (May to July). The Armada platform lies within nursery areas for anglerfish, blue whiting, cod (high), European hake, haddock, herring, ling, mackerel, Nephrops, Norway pout, plaice, sandeel, spotted ray, spurdog and whiting. The area is mainly targeted for shellfish followed by demersal species and fishing effort would



be considered low. The operations take place in an established 500m zone and thus fishing activity will not be impacted.

The most abundant seabird species found in the wider area are northern fulmar, black-legged kittiwake and common guillemot which are likely to be present for most the year. Northern gannets and Atlantic puffins are present in the summer months, whilst herring gulls, glaucous gulls and great black-backed gulls are known to use the area in winter. Manx shearwaters and European storm petrels may also be present between September and November. Great skuas, lesser black backed gulls and little auks may be generally present in the region in low densities for much of the year. The arctic skua, common gull, Iceland gull, arctic tern and razorbill are also known to use the central North Sea most of the year. Seabird sensitivity to oil spill in the area is predominantly low.

Species of national interest (formerly Annex II) include harbour porpoise and white-beaked dolphin are present in the vicinity, with seasonal Minke whales and Atlantic white sided dolphin recorded in high to low density. Grey and harbour seal species of national interest (former Annex II) are not expected due to distance from shore.

The Armada installation is in an area with major oil and gas developments and infrastructure and there are several oil and gas fields nearby. Within the vicinity of Seymour there are no Ministry of Defence restrictions, marine cables, historic marine protected areas or war graves. Shipping density in the area is low.

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.

The proposed increase in oil and gas production from the Hawkins field will be the result of interventions to remove a plug within the well A11. The increase is within the design capacity of the existing Armada facilities. There will be only minor changes to the operating mode, emissions or discharges from the Armada platform. Flaring and venting operations will remain unchanged as result of the increase in production and therefore no significant change in the atmospheric emissions or environmental impacts are expected.

The increase in production will result in a small increase in chemical use and discharge. A minor contribution to declining oil in produced water discharges is



expected though the quality of the produced water will not be affected in relation to oil in water concentration. Marine discharges have been risk assessed and this demonstrated there would be no significant environmental impact.

It is clear that the expected oil and gas production as applied for under the original Environmental Statement have not been achieved to the extent that this current increased production does not result in greater total oil and gas production than has already been assessed.

It is very unlikely that the increase in production will result in an impact on the Norwegian Boundary Sediment Plain Nature Conservation and Marine Protected Area.

There are no expected transboundary impacts as a result of the project and no cumulative impacts have been identified given the other known existing and approved projects in the wider area.

It is considered that the increase in production from the Seymour field is not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea, the seabed, marine life or cetacean species and no cumulative impacts are expected to occur. The development is in line with the policies of the Scottish Marine Plan.

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

Not applicable.