

Our Ref: 01.08.06.15/488C
UKOP Doc Ref:1372076



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

BP EXPLORATION OPERATING COMPANY LIMITED
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Registered No.: 00305943

Date: 28th November 2024

Department for Energy Security &
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Dear Sir / Madam

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

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2497/0 (Version 3), dated 1st October 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**

MIRREN

PR/2497/0 (Version 3)

Whereas BP EXPLORATION OPERATING COMPANY LIMITED has made an application dated 1st October 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/8113/0 (version 1).

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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 Change to production level(s)

The holder of the screening direction shall ensure that the change in the level(s) of production do not exceed the amended 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 Mirren field for 2025.

Description of the project

The project is an update to the Development and Production Consent (PCON) reference PCON/8113/0 for the Mirren field for 2025. 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 gas production but a decrease in the rate of oil production during 2025. The increase in forecasted gas production rate is expected to occur following the drilling of the W152 ST as a sidetrack of 22/25b-8 well. The well intervention works are planned to take place in the during 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 Mirren 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 Mirren Field is located in the Central North Sea (CNS) in block 22/25b. It is produced through the Marnock platform in Block 22/24b. Water depth at the platform is approximately 93m. Consequently, the impacts from this increase in production arise at the Marnock installation. The Marnock platform is 207km from the nearest Scottish coastline, and 35 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.

The predominant sediments within the area are sandy mud, with sand in the north and east of the Block. The sediment in the area is homogenous. The survey area was classified as the European Union Nature Information System (EUNIS) biotope 'circalittoral muddy sand', which falls within the broad habitat Priority Marine Feature (PMF) 'offshore subtidal sands and gravels'.

The fauna present was found to be characteristic of that of the intermediate depths of the central North Sea. Elements of Seapen and burrowing megafauna communities habitat has also been found in the Marnock survey area.

The nearest UK protected area is the East of Gannet and Montrose Marine Protected Area which lies 7km west of the Marnock installation.

Marnock is located in International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 43F1 which is a high intensity nursery ground for cod. The Marnock platform lies within nursery areas for numerous other fish. The area is mainly targeted for demersal and shellfish species demersal species though fishing effort would be considered low. The operations take place in an established 500m zone and thus fishing activity will not be impacted.

The following bird species have been recorded within the area; northern fulmar, European storm-petrel, northern gannet, Arctic skua, great skua, black-legged



kittiwake, great black-backed gull, lesser black-backed gull, herring gull, Arctic tern, common guillemot, razorbill, little auk and Atlantic puffin. Seabird sensitivity to oil spill is in the area is predominantly low.

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

The Marnock 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 Marnock there are no Ministry of Defence restrictions, marine cables, historic marine protected areas or war graves. Shipping density in the area is very 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 gas production from the Mirren field will be the result of the drilling of a sidetrack to an existing well. The increase is within the design capacity of the existing Marnock facilities and there will be no changes to the operating mode from the Marnock platform though increased throughput will result in increased loading of the systems and a corresponding increase in power demand and thus atmospheric emissions. Flaring and venting operations will remain unchanged as result of the increase in production.

The extension and increase to the gas production will not result in changes to produced water or chemical discharges. The platform has a 100% produced water re-injection practice.

It is very unlikely that the increase in production will result in an impact on the East of Gannet and Montrose 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 Mirren 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.