

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-6348U
UKOP Doc Ref:1372221



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

SERICA ENERGY CHINOOK LIMITED
H1 BUILDING
HILL OF RUBISLAW
ANDERSON DRIVE
ABERDEEN
AB15 6BY

Registered No.: SC335305

Date: 29th November 2024

Department for Energy Security &
Net Zero

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]

Fax [REDACTED]

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

Dear Sir / Madam

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

Production from Evelyn Field

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2496/0 (Version 2), dated 22nd 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**

Production from Evelyn Field

PR/2496/0 (Version 2)

Whereas SERICA ENERGY CHINOOK LIMITED has made an application dated 22nd 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/8093/0.

Effective Date: 29th November 2024

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-6348U
UKOP Doc Ref:1372221



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning



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.

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-6348U
UKOP Doc Ref:1372221



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning



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

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 (PR/2496/0)

Continued production of oil and gas from the Evelyn EV-01 well during 2025
Increase in production during 2025 following the drilling and tie back (to Triton Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO)) of Evelyn EV-02 pilot & EV-02Z sidetrack well (referred to below as EV-02).

The requested increase in rate of production and extension to 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 Evelyn field.

Description of the project



This project consists continued production at the Evelyn Field from the EV-01 well and production of the second well EV-02 once drilled. The total increase in oil production of less than 500 tonnes per day and gas production of less than 500,000 cubic meters per day when compared to the 2024 baseline figures. This meets the definition of "project" under the Offshore EIA regulations (2020). The existing production consent includes production from the EV-01 well is valid until the end of 2024. The second phase subject to this application includes the drilling of the EV-02 well and production from both EV-01 and EV-02 wells during 2025. The drilling activities are covered by a separate consent.

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

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.

These operations have previously been included in an approved Environmental statement Evelyn Field Development (D/4250/2020).

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 EV-01 and EV-02 wells in the Evelyn Field are located approximately 165 km from the Scottish coastline and 92 km west of the UK/ Norwegian median line in UKCS block 21/30. Water depth at the field is 95 metres. The Evelyn Field is tied back and produced from Triton FPSO.

Winds predominate from a south-west and north-north-east direction averaging 11 m/s with gales greater than 17.5 m/s between November and March. The mean spring tidal range is between 1.1 and 2m and mean significant wave height 2.1 to 2.4m. The central North Sea (CNS) has weak semi-diurnal tidal current of 0.4m/s with local current of 0.18 m/s with a north north-easterly movement.

Predictive seabed mapping indicates low energy deep circalittoral sand to be present. Survey results confirm homogenous sandy mud or muddy sand with varying shell content, classed as 'deep circalittoral sand'. Results confirm fine to very fine sand with shallow seabed depressions where shell material was found and seabed scars.



The benthic community associated with these sediments are dominated by polychaete worms and bivalve molluscs, confirmed by survey along with burrowing sea urchins and brittle stars in the wider area. Epifauna include sea pen, anemones, hermit crab and starfish with tracks and burrows indicating the potential Norway lobster. Sponges and faunal turfs with faunal tracks were observed in shelly courser sediment areas.

Seabird oil sensitivity in the vicinity of the Evelyn field is low throughout the year with no data recorded for November.

Atlantic white-sided dolphin, Bottlenose dolphin, Common dolphin, Minke whale, White-beaked dolphin and Harbour porpoise have all been recorded in the vicinity of the Evelyn area. Densities of the species are categorised as low to moderate with highest densities recorded in May, July and August.

The nearest Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA) is the Central Fladen NCMPA which is located 12 km away from Evelyn field. This site is designated for the presence of ocean quahog aggregations, a low/limited mobility, large long-lived bivalve mollusc considered to be threatened and/or declining across the northeast Atlantic, and also for a smaller area of deep-sea mud habitat. A pipeline route survey carried out prior to the development of the EV-01 well did not record the presence of ocean quahog. The increase in production is not expected to cause an impact to the NCMPA.

Evelyn Field lies within ICES rectangle 43F0 which includes a spawning area of Cod, Lemon Sole, Nephrops, Norway pout and Sandeels and in Nursery grounds of Anglerfish, Blue whiting, Cod, European hake, Haddock, Herring, Lemon sole, Ling, Mackerel, Nephrops, Norway pout, Plaice, Sandeels, Sprat, Spurdog and Whiting. The main targeted fishing during 2022 in this area was Demersal fisheries. The increase of production will not result in any impact to fishing activities.

Evelyn is located within an area of maturely developed oil and gas infrastructure and there are numerous offset wells, pipelines and platforms in the region. The nearest installations include Gannet A and Anasuria FPSO located approximately 18 km and 24 km from Evelyn Field. Evelyn is within an area of low vessel traffic, the majority of traffic associated with offshore support vessels at the numerous installations.

Block 21/30 is not in a designated area of Ministry of Defence, and there are no military practice or exercise areas in the vicinity of the well. The nearest submarine cable is the North Sea Link Interconnector, located at least 32 km away and there is an out of use power line cable which runs through Block 21/30, however this is not at the Evelyn well location.

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 oil and gas production including the increase in production following the drilling of the EV-02 well in the Evelyn field is the result of one new producing well (EV-02) coming online in 2025 and the existing EV-01 producing well. Both wells are tied back and produced from Triton FPSO. The increases are within the design capacity of the existing Triton facilities. There will be only minor changes to the operating mode, emissions and discharges from the Triton FPSO and therefore the environmental impacts are expected not to change significantly. Projected production figures for 2025 are also lower than those described in the ES.

No increase in produced water discharge volumes and discharged oil is expected and there are no requirements for an increase in chemicals due to the increase in production.

The probability of an accidental event leading to a release from the platform or a loss of the inventory will not increase as a result of the revised production.

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 Evelyn 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

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:

N/A