

Our Ref: 01.01.01.0-1U
UKOP Doc Ref:1399823



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment
& Decommissioning

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

Registered No.: SC335305

Date: 16th June 2025

Department for Energy Security &
Net Zero

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AB10 1BJ

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Dear Sir / Madam

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

PIPELINE PL6612, PL6611, PL6615, PL6614 and PLU6613

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PL/2561/0 (Version 2), dated 5th June 2025 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**

PIPELINE PL6612, PL6611, PL6615, PL6614 and PLU6613

PL/2561/0 (Version 2)

Whereas SERICA ENERGY CHINOOK LIMITED has made an application dated 5th June 2025, 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, PA/5349.

Effective Date: 16th June 2025

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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

The screening direction shall be valid from 16 June 2025 until 30 May 2026.

2 Commencement and completion of the project

The holder of the screening direction must confirm the dates of commencement and completion of the project covered by the screening direction. Notification should be sent by email to the Environmental Management Team Mailbox: opred@energysecurity.gov.uk

3 Nature of stabilisation or protection materials

Rock deposits

20,800 tonnes of clean, inert rock material, containing minimal fines, (The quantity of rock deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary stabilisation or protection, and any surplus rock must be returned to land).

Grout bags deposits

77 tonnes of grout contained within 25 kilogramme capacity biodegradable bags. (The number of bags deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus bags must be returned to land).

Concrete mattress deposits

145 concrete mattresses, each measuring 6 metres x 3 metres x 15 centimetres. (The number of mattresses deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus mattresses must be returned to land).

4 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials

Within an area bounded by the coordinates detailed within the application.

5 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.

6 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.

7 Monitoring

The results of any pre or post-placement surveys carried out to confirm the necessity for the deposits covered by the screening direction and/or to confirm the accurate positioning of the stabilisation or protection materials, should be forwarded to the Department following completion of the surveys

8 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.

9 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.

10 Deposit returns

The holder of the screening direction shall submit a report to the Department following completion of the deposit covered by the screening direction, confirming the quantity of materials deposited and the estimated area of impact, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting form. Where no deposits are made, a 'nil' return is required.



11 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).

12 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

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 assessments 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 Assessment 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

The installation new pipelines and umbilical to allow production to commence from the Belinda field by:

Install new 8" 5km rigid steel production pipeline

Install a new 3" piggybacked ridged steel gas lift pipeline
New 7km service umbilical
New Belinda gravity based valve skid (BEVS)
Local spools/jumper for tie in at Triton FPSO
Protective materials (Permanent deposits: rock, concrete mattresses, biodegradable grout bags)
Temporary deposits:
 Turning bollards
 Clump Weights
 Tool/construction subsea basket

The tie-in spools and some mattresses may be wet stored in preparation of work activities within the 500m exclusion zone for a few hours.

Description of project

Serica is currently developing the Belina field. Petrofac have drilled the BE01 well approved under separate drilling application (DRA/1097). To allow for production from the BE01 well, Serica will install a new 8" production pipeline and a 3" piggyback gas lift pipeline, between the Triton FPSO (operated by Dana) and a new Belinda valve skid (BEVS). The pipelines will cross the existing Evelyn umbilical (operated by Serica) on the approach to the Triton FPSO and the Bittern lines (operated by Dana) within the Triton FPSO 500m exclusion zone.

Serica will further install a new umbilical running from the BEVS to the existing Evelyn valve skid. This umbilical will cross the Bittern lines in its approach to the Evelyn Valve skid and the new Bittern replacement water injection pipeline (covered under PLA/1133).

A 500m exclusion zone from the BEVS will be in place.

The BEVS will be a gravity based structure rather than a piled structure. The Belinda pipelines and umbilical will be installed by reel lay and be trenched using jet trenching techniques. Both pipelines and umbilical trenches will be mechanically backfilled with seabed sediment.

Seven vessels will be required for these operation (Light construction vessels x2, Umbilical vessel, Reel lay vessel, Trenching vessel, Rock placement vessel and Dive support vessel).

Protective materials (rock, mattresses, biodegradable grout bags) will be used at various locations where required for e.g. trench transitions, crossings, spot locations along pipeline and umbilical routes (to mitigate against upheaval buckling/where required burial depth has not been achieved).

The operations include permanent deposits of 145 concrete mattresses, 3,080 bio-degradable grout bags (25kg each), 20,800 tonnes of protective rock material and a gravity-based valve skid. It also include the temporary deposit of 13 turning



bollards, two clump weights and 45 deployments of subsea baskets over three locations, as well as seabed disturbance from jet trenching (73,200m²). The total area expected to be impacted by the proposed operations is 81,246m², of which 32,354.5m² is expected to be permanent.

At cessation of production of the Belinda field, decommissioning of the surface and sub surface infrastructure will be carried out, in accordance with the requirements of the applicable international and domestic law in force at the time.

The operations are expected to take 54 days to complete, with the earliest start date of 15th of June 2025 and completed by 30th of May 2026.

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 project

Having regard, in particular, to the matters identified in Schedule 5 2(a) to (c) of the Regulations, the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the project has been considered as follows.

The location of the project in the Belinda Field are located approximately 171 km from the Scottish coastline and 85 km west of the UK/ Norwegian median line in UKCS block 21/30i. Water depth at the field is 95 metres. The Belinda Field will be tied back and produced from Triton FPSO.

Winds predominate from a south-west and north-north-east direction with a mean wind speed range between 10.1 to 10.5 m/s. The mean spring tidal range is between 1.31 and 1.35m and mean significant wave height 2.0 to 2.25m. The central North Sea (CNS) has weak semi-diurnal tidal current of 0.4m/s with local current of 0.2 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 2024 and 2021 survey within the Belinda area, including pipeline and umbilical range, found the benthic community to be relatively evenly distributed of the most dominant taxa. The most dominant taxa as *Paramphinoe jeffreysii* and annelid. Epifauna include sea pen, anemones, hermit crab and starfish with tracks and burrows indicating the potential Norway lobster.

Seabird oil sensitivity in the vicinity of the Belinda 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 Belinda area. Densities of the species are categorised as low to moderate with highest densities recorded in May, July, August and September.

The nearest Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA) is the East of Gannet and Montrose Field NCMPA which is located 6 km away from the Belinda 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. The survey carried out during 2021 did not find any Ocean Quahogs however the 2024 pipeline route survey identified 71 individuals composing of 3 adults and 68 juveniles. The laying of the pipeline and the umbilical is not expected to cause an impact to the NCMPA.

Belinda 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. Norway pout and Sandeels although recorded within ICES rectangle 43F0 does not extend into the area where the operations are due to take place. The main targeted fishing during 2023 in this area was Demersal fisheries although Pelagic fisheries increased a lot in 2023 compared to 2021 and 2022. Overall, ICES rectangle 43F0 represents a small percentage of the overall UK total for landings (0.04-0.06% for weight and 0.02-0.06% in value).

Belinda field 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 Triton FPSO and Gannet A located approximately 5 km and 16 km from Belinda Field. Operations are to take place in an area of low vessel traffic, the majority of traffic associated with offshore support vessels particularly to Triton FPSO.

The nearest submarine cable is the North Sea Link Interconnector, located at least 29 km away and there is an out of use power line cable which runs through Block 21/30, however not in the project location.

Belinda lies within the Ministry of Defence (MoD) practice area D613B (Air Force) however MoD interests have not been noted for Block 21/30.

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.

Seabed disturbance will occur in the form of the temporary disturbance of an area of seabed (up to 0.07km²), the permanent disturbance of an area of seabed (up to 0.03km²). With a total disturbance of 0.01km². With the exception of the introduction of new hard substrate at certain locations around the pipeline and umbilical route corridor, the seabed disturbance is expected to be temporary and not result in any significant changes to the sediment characteristics.

The disturbance of the seabed will result in the smothering and mortality of benthic fauna which will result in some short-term temporary impacts. None of the disturbance events are expected to cause significant impact to benthic receptors with a large area of similar seabed in the project area. It is expected that the benthic communities will regenerate in the area over time.

Fish, marine mammals and benthic species (which may be PMFs, Annex II species and EPSs) are not considered to be significantly impacted. Underwater noise from operations is considered to have a negligible impact on marine mammals and fish species as the majority of noise is of low frequency. Birds are not considered to be significantly impacted.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the operations.

Atmospheric emissions associated with the operation of the vessels for 54 days has been assessed with total emissions representing a small proportion 0.0007% of what was emitted from all UK sources in 2024.

The emissions may result in a deterioration of the local air quality, but due to the distance to the coastline and the relatively short duration of the work, and that the exposed conditions in the area will rapidly disperse the emissions, it is not anticipated that there will be a significant impact.

Navigational impacts due to the presence of vessels and the installation of a new 500m safety zone have an impact of excluding fishing vessels although the area has a low level of fishing activity the impact is expected to be low on fishing activity further more all infrastructure is designed to be over-trawlable, and measures will be taken to reduce any potential snagging hazards for fishing activities. Therefore, the impacts are not considered significant.

The discharge of small amounts of offshore chemicals which has been risk assessed and the impacts determined to be negligible. The main risk of accidental release of hydrocarbons is resulting from a loss of diesel inventory from a vessel. The assessment showed that the probability of a diesel spill from a vessel involved in the

project is very low, with numerous mitigation measures and procedures in place. All infrastructure / deposits will be lowered to the seabed and placed carefully into position during installation operations, minimising the risk of a dropped object on live infrastructure.

Cumulative impacts of the project with other activities has been assessed and is not considered significant.

The project is in accordance with the National Marine Plan for Scotland's objectives and policies.

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:

Not Applicable.