

Our Ref: 01.08.06.15/585C
UKOP Doc Ref:1426844



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment
& Decommissioning

NEO ENERGY RESOURCES UK LIMITED
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Registered No.: 00825828

Date: 9th December 2025

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
AUK Change to production 2026**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2611/0 (Version 2), dated 24th November 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**

AUK Change to production 2026

PR/2611/0 (Version 2)

Whereas NEO ENERGY RESOURCES UK LIMITED has made an application dated 24th November 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, PCON/8423/0 (Version 4).

Effective Date: 9th December 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

This screening direction shall be valid from 1 January 2026.

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 Extension of production duration

This screening direction shall only be valid for the period covered by the request for extension of production specified in the application for 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.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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.

7 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.

8 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).

9 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 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

- Increase of oil production at the Auk field and extension of production to 31st December 2026.

Description of the project

This project consists of an increase in oil production of less than 500 tonnes per day at the Auk field, due to a well intervention undertaken in 2025 on the AA11 (A17z) well. This intervention was intended to acidify areas of the wellbore formation at different depths to increase production. The production consent in 2025 was revised

downwards in November 2025 to reflect reduced production levels. The increase applied for in 2026 returns production to previously consented levels. The project has not been included in a previous ES / Screening Direction.

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

The assessment of a major accident has been assessed and considers the worst case well blow out from well AA11 (A17z). The Developer has confirmed that a well blow out at the Auk field does have the potential to result in a Major Environmental Incident (MEI) but has adequate control measures in place to reduce the risk of a major accident occurring.

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

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 Auk field is in UKCS Block 30/16 in the Central North Sea. The proposed project is located 248 km east of the English coastline, and 40 km west of the UK/Norway median line. The water depth at Auk is 85 m.

Oil from Auk is exported to Fulmar Alpha, from where it passes into the Norpipe system. Only oil will be produced from Auk with all gas production flared.

Seabed sediments in the vicinity of Auk comprise sediments with very little hard substrata. EUNIS habitat 'circalittoral sandy mud' (A5.35) is predicted to be present in the proposed project area.

The proposed operations will coincide with the spawning and/or nursery of fish species. Species that have been identified as spawning in the area include cod, lemon sole, mackerel, plaice, sandeel, sprat and whiting. It is also an area for year-round nursery grounds for anglerfish, blue whiting, cod, European hake, haddock, herring, ling, mackerel, Norway pout, plaice, sandeel, spotted ray, sprat, spurdog and whiting.

Seabird sensitivity to oil pollution (where data is available) is low throughout the year in block 30/16 and surrounding blocks. Consent for production has been applied for to the 31st December 2026, however, cessation of production is expected in Q1 2026.

The following cetacean species occur in the proposed project area: Minke whale,



Common dolphin, White-beaked dolphin, Atlantic white-sided dolphin and Harbour porpoise. Densities range from very high to low and sightings are mainly recorded in Spring, Summer and Autumn periods.

Grey seals occur in the area throughout the year at low densities and Harbour seals are not recorded in the area.

The proposed project area is located within the Fulmar MCZ and it is designated for subtidal sand, subtidal mixed sediments, subtidal mud and Ocean Quahog.

The fishing effort in the proposed project area is considered to be low.

The shipping density in the proposed project area is considered to be low.

The closest telecommunications cable is 14km from block 30/16.

There are no operational offshore wind farms (OWFs) within the immediate vicinity of Block 30/16.

There are no carbon capture and storage (CCS) areas within the immediate vicinity of Block 30/16.

The Auk field is not located within a military exercise area.

There are no active licensed dredging areas or dredge disposal areas within the Block 42/30.

There are no scheduled ancient monuments, historically significant shipwrecks or protected wreck sites within 40 km of the platform. There are several charted wrecks located within the Auk area but none of these wrecks are in the immediate vicinity of the Auk field.

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 power generation philosophy is to use power generation via the Fulmar interconnector with diesel engine back up. It is not anticipated that emissions from diesel consumption at Auk will change significantly. There will be no changes to plant

as a result of the project. Auk is currently anticipated to cease production in Q1 2026.

All releases of greenhouse gases contribute to global warming potential, however, the contribution made by the project is within the envelope of the original field life production expectations.

There is no anticipated change to produced water volumes and no anticipated change to level of oil in produced water or chemicals used.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the operations.

It is considered that the increase in oil production from the Auk field is not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea, the seabed, designated conservation areas, atmospheric emissions, marine life or cetacean species and no cumulative impacts are expected to occur.

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