

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7020U
UKOP Doc Ref:1427047



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment
& Decommissioning

UK NORTH SEA LIMITED
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Registered No.: 16203210

Date: 10th December 2025

Department for Energy Security &
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www.gov.uk/desnz
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Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020
PIERCE PRODUCTION CHANGE
2026-28**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2619/0 (Version 1), dated 9th December 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**

**PIERCE PRODUCTION CHANGE
2026-28**

PR/2619/0 (Version 1)

Whereas UK NORTH SEA LIMITED has made an application dated 9th December 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/8410/0 (Version 2).

Effective Date: 10th 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 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

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 by OPRED to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for this project. It summarises the information considered, the potential impacts and sets out the main reasons for the decision made.

Characteristics of the Project

Having regard to the matters identified at paragraphs 1(a) to (g) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the characteristics of the project are as follows.

Summary of the Project

Extension and change to production consent resulting in an increase of oil production and decrease of gas production compared with 2025 levels.

Description of project

This project consists of an increase in oil production of less than 500 tonnes per day and gas production of less than 500,000 cubic meters per day at the Pierce field, partly due to the gas injector to producer project. This meets the definition of "project" under the Offshore EIA regulations (2020).

The production consent is proposed for the years 2026 to 2028.

Location of the Project

Having regard 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 Haewene Brim installation and associated Pierce development is located within Blocks 23/22 and 23/27 of the Central North Sea (CNS), approximately 247km from the UK coastline and approximately 2km from the UK/Norwegian median line. Water depth at the project location is approximately 85m. The prevailing current is to the southeast.

Sediments within the Pierce area comprise silty, muddy sand.

There are no Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation

(SACs), Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) or Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) within 40 kilometres (km) of the project location. The closest protected area is the East of Gannet and Montrose Field Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA) which is located approximately 43 km to the west. This site is designated for offshore deep-sea muds and *A. islandica* aggregations (including sands and gravels as their supporting habitat). Occurrences of *A. islandica* have been found in the Pierce field area.

Evidence of the OSPAR habitat 'sea pens and burrowing megafauna communities' has been identified within the project area. Areas of Methane Derived Authigenic Carbonates (MDAC) have been identified in the Pierce field area but not in the vicinity of the project.

The project will be undertaken at a time when several fish species may be found to be spawning or using the area as nursery locations.

Seabird distribution and abundance in the area is generally low throughout the year, while within adjacent blocks May and June have medium density and September and October have high density.

White beaked dolphin and Atlantic white-sided dolphin are present in the area in high numbers, while Harbour porpoises may be present in the area with a moderate density and Risso's dolphin and minke whale may be present with a low density. Seals are not expected in any significant number around the area of the project due to the distance from shore.

The project area is in a well-developed area for oil and gas. The closest installation is the Lomond platform which is located approximately 13km north.

Shipping density in the area is classed as low.

There are no wrecks or existing or proposed renewable energy developments within the vicinity of the project.

Fishing activity within the area is very low (ICES rectangle 43F2). The project will take place onboard the Haewene Brim FPSO and so will not impact commercial fisheries.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c) (i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) or (viii) of Schedule 5 have not been given regard with respect to 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 impacts on the environment from the atmospheric emissions activities and marine discharges associated with the project were assessed. Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact arising from



the project on population and human health.

Regarding physical presence, the Haewene Brim FPSO location with its existing safety zone is already in place and no significant impact is expected. The project will not have any physical interaction with the seabed and therefore no impacts are expected.

There are no additional power requirements at the Haewene Brim because of the increase in production. It is anticipated that flaring and venting will remain within the current consented levels. The developer considered the need for an assessment of scope 3 emissions in line with OPRED's scope 3 emissions guidance and concluded that no scope 3 emissions assessment was required because there is no increase to the total amount of hydrocarbons expected to be produced over the field life as a result of this change to production.

There will be an initial increase in produced water discharge associated with the project with a decline in successive years. Similarly chemical dosages are expected to increase initially and then decline in successive years. No significant impact is expected from the initial increase to produced water discharge volumes.

There is no change to the potential for a of a major accident because of this project.

The Developer has control measures in place to reduce the risk of occurrence of a major accident which would result in a Major Environmental Incident, and a response document in the form of an oil pollution emergency plan is in place. The probability of such an event occurring is very low. The existing oil release spill modelling is applicable, and no significant impact would be likely to occur from any such event.

While the project location is located approximately 2km from the Norwegian median line there are no transboundary impacts identified. There are no known cumulative impacts with other projects in the area.

Decision

Taking all the above determinations 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