

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-2940U
UKOP Doc Ref:1444561



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment
& Decommissioning

SERICA ENERGY (UK) LIMITED
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Registered No.: 04073712

Date: 29th April 2026

Department for Energy Security &
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opred@energysecurity.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

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

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2645/0 (Version 3), dated 17th April 2026 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**

BRUCE

PR/2645/0 (Version 3)

Whereas SERICA ENERGY (UK) LIMITED has made an application dated 17th April 2026, 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/8711/0 (Version 1).

Effective Date: 29th April 2026

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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 2027.

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:

There are no comments at this time.

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 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

An extension of the production consent up to 2029, associated with the proposed infill well campaign on Bruce.

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 Bruce field, due to the proposed infill well campaign at the Western Area Development (WAD). This meets the definition of "project" under the Offshore EIA regulations (2020).

Location of 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 Bruce field location lies within a seaward licenced area, which has been licenced for the exploration and extraction of hydrocarbons. The project is located 157 km east from the Shetland coastline in Scotland and 16 km to the UK/Norwegian median line. Water depths along the approximately 6.4 km umbilical cable route are generally consistent, ranging from approximately 118 m to 125 m Lowest Astronomical Tide. The tidal currents in the NNS area are generally weak and are readily influenced by other factors such as winds and density driven circulation. This results in a relatively atypical pattern to the tidal currents. The project location is not within any protected areas, with the closest being 80 km away.

Site-specific surveys identified the seabed as comprising of sand with areas of muddy sand to the north and southwest of the development. The sediment type is described as circalittoral mud. The seabed along the umbilical route is dominated by widespread offshore circalittoral mud (SS.SMu.OMu) with some limited mixed sediment patches in the wider area. Benthic communities are typical of NNS muddy sands, dominated by polychaete worms with moderate diversity. Annex I habitats and Priority Marine Features such as; stony reef habitat, seapen and burrowing megafauna habitat, and ocean quahog beds were not found to occur within the installation footprint, only isolated individuals in the wider area.

The project works and timing will take place at a time when a number of fish species may be found to be spawning or using the area as juveniles or nursery locations. Sightings of cetaceans are most common during the months of June and July. Seals are not expected to be seen at the remote location. The predicted at-sea seabird density predicts a density of less than 3 seabird per kilometres squared (km²) during the breeding Season (March - September), and less than 2 seabirds per km² in winter (November - March). The project area is primarily used for demersal fishing, but with a very low historical effort. Shipping intensity at the project location is also very low. The surrounding area comprises other oil and gas infrastructure within 40 km, but is not within a military activity zone, with no telecommunications cables, marine aggregate sites or renewable energy locations or charted or protected wrecks in proximity.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi) or (vii) of Schedule 5 have not been given particular 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 activities associated with the project were assessed, with particular focus on atmospheric emissions, planned discharges to sea from produced water and chemical use, and accidental events such as an oil spill. Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any



significant impact from the change to the project on population and human health.

Planned upgrades at the Bruce installation are expected to result in a net reduction in carbon emissions. Although gas production will increase once the infill wells come online, overall combustion-related emissions are forecast to decrease over the remaining field life, with no change in venting arrangements.

Produced water discharges will not significantly increase as a consequence of the infill wells coming online. Also, PWRI is scheduled for operational use from 2027. Oil in water concentrations are monitored daily and operations likely to result in higher oil in water concentrations are carefully managed to ensure compliance.

Chemical usage and discharge will not significantly change due to bringing the infill wells online. MEG will be required for hydrate inhibition, this is likely to require an extra 120 m³ of MEG. There are no increases in the volumes of use and discharge of existing chemicals required as a result of the revised production consent.

There are no changes to the forecasted worst case blow out rate and total spill volume detailed in the approved field OPEP and therefore no change to the potential environmental impact due to accidental events.

It is considered that the extension of production due to the drilling of the Bruce WAD infill wells is unlikely 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 works will not contradict the policies and objectives of the Scottish National 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:

Not applicable