

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE

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

#### Montrose Infill Project

NEO NEXT+ Energy Resources UK Limited has made an application for consent to the Oil and Gas Authority ("the OGA") for the above project. The OGA now operates under the business name of the North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA).

#### Summary of Project

**Location of Project:** The Developer and Operator, NEO NEXT+ Energy Resources UK Limited (hereafter referred to as NEO NEXT+), propose developing the Montrose field located within Quadrant 22, Blocks 22/17N and 22/18n, in the Central North Sea. It is located approximately 190 kilometres North-East of the Scottish coastline, Peterhead, and approximately 46 kilometres from the UK/Norway median line. The water depth at the proposed drill centre is approximately 91 metres LAT. Drilling is proposed at 5 locations all in close proximity to 57°27'30.053" N, 01°23'15.503" E. This is approximately 0.7 km north-west of the Montrose Bridge Linked Platform (BLP).

**Project Activities:** NEO NEXT+ propose the drilling of up to five production wells from a single subsea drill centre, and installation of subsea infrastructure to support tie-back of the wells to the existing Montrose Bridge Linked Platform (BLP), including: an 8" production flowline, 3" gas lift flowline, and an Electro-Chemical-Hydraulic Control umbilical for well control between the BLP and the manifold. Further, installation of a manifold, drilling template, if used, Xmas trees and wellhead protection structures and associated spools and umbilical jumpers between each production well and the manifold. The project also requires modification to the facilities at Montrose BLP: one individual modular structure to receive the development production.

The Montrose Alpha Platform comprises two component platforms processing hydrocarbons from the following: The Montrose BLP: Cayley and Shaw fields, and Montrose Platform: Montrose and Wood fields. The Montrose platform also processes hydrocarbons from the Arbroath Platform: Arbroath, Arkwright, Brechin, Carnoustie and Godwin fields. Processed oil and gas from both platforms export via the Forties Pipeline System (FPS) and Central Area Transmission Systems (CATS) routes respectively.

Aspects of this development were previously consented (within the NSTA Field Development Plan Addendum (FDPA) 2012 – Talisman Energy and the associated Environmental Statement, D/4124/2011) however the Montrose Infill development was not progressed at that time. A new Environmental Impact Assessment and revised FDPA have been developed to reflect the current NEO NEXT+ Montrose Infill proposal.

Production of the infill development at the Montrose BLP platform will be via the existing topside process comprising crude separation and stabilisation, gas compression and gas lift facility, produced water discharge and export of hydrocarbons infrastructure.

Montrose BLP topside modification is expected to commence ahead of drilling completion. Drilling is anticipated commencing Q3 2027 for approximately 1 year. Following this, installation of the subsea infrastructure is anticipated Q4 2028. Well tie-in and commissioning are also anticipated Q4 2028. First oil will occur following completion of the above anticipated Q4 2028.

#### Environmental Impact Assessment and Consent Process

In accordance with the above-mentioned Regulations, the project is subject to an environmental impact assessment procedure and regulation 13 applies as the project could have a significant effect on the environment of Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Germany and Sweden.

The OGA is responsible for deciding whether or not to grant consent for the project, but agreement to the grant of consent must be obtained from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero ("the Secretary of State") prior to consent being granted. The Secretary of State's decision on whether to agree to the grant of consent is based on the environmental impact assessment for the project.

The range of possible decisions in response to the application of consent is:

- (a) the Secretary of State agrees to the OGA's grant of consent following the Secretary of State's conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, and the OGA grants consent, so the project may proceed;
- (b) the Secretary of State refuses to agree to the OGA's grant of consent following the Secretary of State's conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, so the project may not proceed; or
- (c) the Secretary of State agrees to the OGA's grant of consent following the Secretary of State's conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, but the OGA does not grant consent, so the project may not proceed.

Where the Secretary of State agrees to the grant of consent, conditions that NEO NEXT+ Energy Resources UK Limited must comply with may be attached to the agreement, including environmental conditions to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment, and measures to monitor such conditions.

Notice of the decisions of the Secretary of State and OGA decisions for the project will be published at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-2020-eia-regulations#environmental-impact-assessments-eia> where information on the Secretary of State's decision to agree to or refuse to agree to the grant of consent will also be made available.

#### Access to Further Information

Copies of this notice, the summary of the project and the Environmental Statement can be viewed and downloaded at: [www.neonextplus.com/infrastructure](http://www.neonextplus.com/infrastructure) and at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-2020-eia-regulations#environmental-impact-assessments-eia> Access shall remain at least three months after the date on which the Secretary of State publishes the notice under Regulation 16(1) (publication of consent decisions).

A copy of the Environmental Statement and summary of the project may also be obtained by post or email. Requests should be made by 05/07/2026 to: NEO NEXT+, 163 Holburn Street, Aberdeen, AB10 6BZ or by email to [environmentmgr@neonextplus.com](mailto:environmentmgr@neonextplus.com), or by telephone +44 (0)1224 352500.

#### Public Consultation

Representations, comments or questions relating to the project may be made to the Secretary of State by 05/07/2026. All representations should quote reference number **ES/2023/006** and may be made by letter or by email to:

Business Support Team  
Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning  
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero  
AB1 Building  
Crimon Place  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1BJ  
[OPRED@Energysecurity.gov.uk](mailto:OPRED@Energysecurity.gov.uk)

Representations may be published on gov.uk. Any responses published will be redacted to remove individuals' names and personal information. Personal data of respondents is processed as for consultation responses. For further information please see the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero privacy notice DESNZ privacy notices - GOV.UK.

#### Judicial Review

A person aggrieved by the grant of consent for a project may apply to the Court for leave/permission to apply for judicial review of the relevant decision or decisions. The United Kingdom has three separate legal systems; one each for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The rules for any application for leave / permission to apply for judicial review may vary depending on where that application is made, but it is important to note that there are time limits for making any application and judicial review may only be available if the applicant has standing / a sufficient interest in the subject matter of the application. Further information about the process for seeking judicial review can be obtained from the Administrative Court (for England and Wales), the Court of Session (for Scotland) or the Judicial Review Office (Northern Ireland).