Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7201U
UKOP Doc Ref:1449219

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

NEO NEXT + ENERGY RESOURCES UK LIMITED
30 ST. MARY AXE
LONDON
EC3A 8BF

Registered No.: 00825828

Date: 11th June 2026

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [redacted]
Fax

www.gov.uk/desnz
opred@energysecurity.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2020
CLAYMORE, WELL 14/19-C77Z (NW MAC)

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2651/0 (Version 3), dated 10th June 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

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Date: 2026.06.11 11:03:46 BST
Reason: On behalf of the Secretary of State
Location: Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning

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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

CLAYMORE, WELL 14/19-C77Z (NW MAC)

DR/2651/0 (Version 3)

Whereas NEO NEXT + ENERGY RESOURCES UK LIMITED has made an application dated 10th June 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, WONS/16655/0/GS/1 Version 1 and WONS/16723/0/GS/1 Version 1.

Effective Date: 11th June 2026

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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 11 June 2026 until 30 November 2026.

2 Commencement and completion of the project

The holder of the screening direction must notify the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (hereinafter called the 'Department') of commencement and completion of the project within two days:

a) of commencement of the project and

b) of completion of the project.

Notification should be sent by email to the Environmental Management Team Mailbox: opred@energysecurity.gov.uk

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, extended well test emissions or flaring and venting emissions relating to a well test, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms. In the case of atmospheric emissions relating to drilling projects undertaken from a fixed installation, they should be included in the annual EEMS reporting forms for the fixed installation.

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]

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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 by OPRED 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 has 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 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 project is the drilling of the 14/19-CHK sidetrack well from the Claymore platform. Following short term abandonment (under WIA/1912), the C77 well will be re-entered and permanently abandoned by placement of a cement plug.

-Abandonment of the C77z well with cement plug and cutting and recovery of tubing.

-Slot recovery using a Water Based Mud (WBM) system

- Drilling of Claymore 14/19-CHK water injection well (sidetrack from the donor 14/19-C77z platform well) in the following sections:

- 12 1/4" section using a Low Toxicity Oil Based Mud (LTOBM)

- 12 1/4" section contingency mechanical sidetrack using a LTOBM.

- 8 1/2" section using a LTOBM. A contingency is also described to reduce this to 6" in the event of problems encountered with drilling the 8 " section.

- 8 1/2" fallback sidetrack to a new target which will be an 8 1/2" section using a LTOBM. A contingency is also described to reduce this to 6" in the event of problems encountered with drilling the 8 1/2" section.

- Testing of the cement unit

- Cementing of the well

- Wellbore clean-up.

- Well perforation, completion and installation of Xmas tree.

Description of the Project

The sidetracking of the Claymore 14/19-CHK well has been the subject of a previous application under the EIA Regulations (DRA/1075) but the well was not drilled at this time and is now being re-applied for. The plugging and suspension of the existing wellbore was subject to well intervention applications under WIA/1912.

This project is for the drilling of a sidetrack (14/19-CHK) to the existing 14/19-C77 well from the Claymore platform. No MODU will be utilised as the drilling package on the platform will be used. There is an existing surface 500m safety zone surrounding the platform.

The project will take up to 103 days to drill and complete. Impacts have been assessed between May 2026 and November 2026, to account for potential operational delays. The main wellbore C77 will first be abandoned with a mechanical plug and cement plug, before cutting and removing the tubing. A slot recovery operation will then be performed using WBM and no cuttings will be generated as part of the slot recovery operation.

The sidetrack will be drilled as a 12 1/4" and 8 1/2" sections using LTOBM and all mud and cuttings will be skipped and shipped to shore. A contingency is included to drill an additional 12 1/4" section as a worst case, in the event of any issues encountered whilst drilling. The 8 1/2" section may be drilled as a 6" section. A fallback sidetrack to a different target is also included in the application. This will also be drilled as an 8 1/2" section with the option to drill the 8 1/2" section as a 6" section in the event problems are encountered. Following drilling of the 12 1/4" section, a 9 5/8" production liner will be cemented in place. Following drilling of the 8 1/2" section or the fallback sidetrack 8 1/2" section, 7" production liners will be cemented in place. In the event either of the 8 1/2" sections are drilled as 6" sections, 4 1/2" production liners will be cemented in place.

Following drilling of the well, a wellbore clean up operation will be performed (on the

final option only) with initial visibly oily returns skipped and shipped to shore and visibly clean fluids directly discharged via the Claymore produced water system. The application includes a contingency direct discharge (not via the produced water system) in the event the produced water system is not operational. A contingency allowance of up to five well volume circulations is applied for.

The well will then be completed by perforating the well using explosives and installing a new Xmas tree.

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 project is in an offshore oil and gas licensed area, approximately 130 km east from the Aberdeen coastline in Scotland and 102 km west of the UK/Norway median line, in an area where water depth is approximately 111 m, and the seabed type is broadly characterised as offshore circalittoral mud. Water circulation in the project location is driven by the influx of North Atlantic waters through the Fair Isle Channel moving southwards along the Scottish coast. Within the region, the mean significant wave height is 2.32 m.

The project is not located within any protected areas. The closest UK protected area is the Central Fladen Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA) which is designated for the protection of features such as burrowed mud (sea pens and burrowing megafauna and tall sea pen components) and sub-glacial tunnel valley representative of the Fladen Deeps. This NCMPA is located ~43 km away.

The application draws on regional survey data and more recent ROV surveys around the Claymore platform. Observed flora and fauna are considered typical of this area of the North Sea. The epifauna observed in the survey area were dominated by polychaetes. Regional surveys identify the potential presence of the OSPAR listed threated and / or declining habitat 'Seapens and burrowing megafauna communities' and *Arctica islandica,* but published data does not indicate these species are present at the Claymore platform. Recent ROV survey footage around the Claymore platform also did not identify any species of conservation concern.

The project will take place during a period when a number of fish species use the area as spawning, juvenile or nursery locations. Sightings of cetaceans occur in all months of the project but are recorded in highest numbers during the months of May to August. Seals are not expected to be present in significant numbers at this remote location. Seabirds are most common in the area during the months of May and June. The project area is used for fishing, with highest activity recorded between July and October. Shellfish are the most targeted species and trawls are the predominant gear type. Other oil and gas infrastructure is present in the wider area, with the closest development within 19 km. The closest renewable energy project is located ca 23 km from the platform and is not expected to be impacted. There are no marine

aggregates licences, scheduled monument wrecks or Historic Marine Protected Areas within 40 km of the platform.

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, noise 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. It is not considered likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters and no nuisances are foreseen from the project.

The operation will occur from Claymore platform that has been in situ since 1976 and is surrounded by a 500 m safety zone for which vessels are not allowed to enter hence it would not be expected that shipping in the area would be significantly impacted by the drilling operations at the platform.

There is not expected to be significant seabed impact as the drilling operations are to be carried out from the Claymore platform and no additional drilling rig is required. The initial slot recovery at the well be undertaken using WBM and no cuttings will be generated from this section. The well is to be drilled using LTOBM with all cuttings contained and therefore zero discharge to the seabed. Any discharge to sea during cementing and wellbore clean up are expected to disperse and biodegrade rapidly and are therefore not expected to have significant effect on the marine environment.

Offshore registered chemicals will be used and discharged during the drilling of the well. The use and discharge of the chemicals have been risk assessed and modelled in accordance with other regulatory requirements. The use and discharge modelling shows a low risk to the environment from the chemicals. Use and discharge of chemicals is not expected to have a significant impact on the environment. Synthetic oil waste streams are included as a contingency resulting from wellbore clean-up. These will be discharged to sea and will quickly disperse in the offshore waters and the oil content is expected to break down through the natural biodegradation process.

Emissions to air will occur from support vessels and helicopters. The quantity of carbon dioxide equivalent from the drilling of this well and support vessel use amounts to 0.019% of the 2023 total emissions from offshore oil and gas activity. The support vessel emissions will not have a detrimental effect to local air quality over the long-term, nor are they expected to inhibit the ability to reach wider climate change goals. The environmental effects from emissions to air are not expected to have a significant impact on the environment. The vessel used will be MARPOL compliant.

The risk of a major accidents and environmental effects from major accidents, such as a well blowout has been assessed. In the event that an unlikely and unplanned accidental spill scenario from a well blow-out was realised the worst case volume of oil that would be released from a platform well at Claymore is from well 14/19-C90 (CAS), which has been estimated at 2,264.1 m3/day declining to 29.6 m3 per day after 175 days. A well blowout from this well is assessed as having the potential to result in a Major Environmental incident (MEI). All drilling activities will be carried out in accordance with the Well Examiner certification scheme and risk assessments, following engineering best practices, codes, standards, procedures; as well as implementing planned preventative maintenance regimes and mitigation control measures. An approved Oil Pollution Emergency Plan to manage hydrocarbon releases is also in place. The Developer has control measures in place to reduce the risk of a major accident occurring and the probability of such an event occurring is very low. It should be noted that the well is drilled as a water injection well.

There are no planned expected transboundary impacts as a result of the project.

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

The drilling operations are in accordance with the National Marine Plan for Scotland's objectives and policies. It is considered that the drilling of the 14/19-CHK well is not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea 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