

Our Ref: 01.08.06.15/346C
UKOP Doc Ref:1458182



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment
& Decommissioning

NEO NEXT+ ENERGY E&P UK LIMITED
30 ST. MARY AXE
LONDON
EC3A 8BF

Registered No.: 00811900

Date: 3rd September 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
ELGIN**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2671/0 (Version 1), dated 22nd July 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**

ELGIN

PR/2671/0 (Version 1)

Whereas NEO NEXT+ ENERGY E&P UK LIMITED has made an application dated 22nd July 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/8361/1 (Version 1).

Effective Date: 3rd September 2026

Our Ref: 01.08.06.15/346C
UKOP Doc Ref:1458182



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment
& Decommissioning



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 15 December 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.

Our Ref: 01.08.06.15/346C
UKOP Doc Ref:1458182



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment
& Decommissioning



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:

No comments.

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





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, 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

- The project is located at the Elgin field within the Central North Sea (CNS).
- This screening direction concerns an update of the Elgin production consent to 2030, including a production increase in years 2028-2030.
- The primary impacts to the marine environment as a result of the project will be increased discharges to sea and atmospheric emissions.

Description of the project

This project consists of an increase in oil and gas production of less than 500 tonnes per day in the case of oil and less than 500,000 cubic metres per day in the case of natural gas at the Elgin field. There are increases in oil and gas production from 2028 to 2030 associated with a planned project, as defined under Offshore EIA regulations

(2020), to drill planned infill wells.

The potential for cumulative impacts to occur from any other existing or approved projects is considered to be low. It is unlikely that the project will be affected by natural disasters.

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.

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 Elgin field is located within United Kingdom Continental Shelf (UKCS) Blocks 22/30b and 22/30c, in the Central Graben Area (CGA) of the Central North Sea (CNS). The Elgin complex consists of central processing facilities located on the Elgin Process, Utilities and Quarters (PUQ) platform which is bridge-linked to two Well Head Platforms (WHPs), Elgin WHP A and Elgin WHP B. The Elgin complex is within a 500 m safety zone. The Elgin PUQ receives well fluids from WHP A, WHP B and the Normally Unattended installation (NUI) at Franklin approximately 5.5 km south south east of Elgin in Block 29/5b. Elgin WHP A produces fluids from the Elgin and Glenelg reservoirs and the Elgin WHP B receives fluids from the West Franklin field.

The Elgin and Franklin fields are located approximately 200 km from the Scottish coast and approximately 33 km from the UK/Norwegian median line. The Elgin PUQ and WHPs are located in a water depth of approximately 93 m

Tidal current velocities in the vicinity of Elgin are consistent with wider CNS currents at 0.14 m/s. The prevailing winds in the CNS are from the south-west and north-north-east. Wind strengths in winter are typically in the range of Beaufort scale force 4 - 6 (6 - 11 m/s) with higher winds of force 8 - 12 (17 - 32 m/s) being much less frequent. The annual mean wave height in the CNS region ranges from 1.51 - 2.40 m, with slightly higher wave heights in the northern region of the CNS.

Benthic habitats in the Elgin area are predominantly flat and sandy with occasional patches of coarser material, likely to be accumulations of shells and shell fragments. Surveys undertaken for the Central Graben Area have not identified any Annex I habitats features that could be designated within a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The closest Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA) to the Elgin field is the East of Gannet and Montrose Field NCMPA, which is located 13 km west. This NCMPA is designated for the features offshore deep sea muds and Ocean Quahog. There are no designated SACs within 40km of the development. The Fulmar Marine Conservation Zone is approximately 45 km away and is designated for offshore sands and gravels that support a number of burrowing species including sea pens and ocean quahog



The Elgin field lies within International Council of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 43F1. These areas lie within the spawning grounds for lemon sole, mackerel, sandeel, *Nephrops*, Norway pout and cod. The following species listed are also listed as Scottish Priority Marine Features: anglerfish, blue whiting, cod, herring, mackerel, Norway pout, sandeel, spurdog and whiting.

Seabird oil sensitivity for Block 22/30 is predominantly low with a similar pattern also observed in adjacent blocks, though Block 23/26 has high sensitivity in September and October.

Surveys identified five species of cetacean likely to be present in the area at low densities throughout the year: common dolphin, harbour porpoise, white-beaked dolphin, minke whale and white-sided dolphin. The proposed operation is located approximately 224 km offshore thus grey seals may be encountered from time to time but it is not likely that they use the area with any regularity or in great numbers.

Block 22/30c is identified as having a Marine Scotland 'period of concern' for seismic activities from May to August. However, no seismic activities are planned as part of the operations.

ICES rectangle 43F1 is predominantly targeted for shellfish and pelagic species but the value and weight of landings and fishing effort are well average when compared to overall UKCS activity.

There are a number of oil and gas installations in the vicinity of Elgin, including the Franklin and West Franklin installations of the Elgin Franklin complex, and Shearwater which is 7km away.

The closest windfarm to the project area is the Cenos windfarm currently in preplanning phase located 16 km northwest of the production operations. In addition, Culzean Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Pilot Project is located approximately 19 km northeast and is currently in the construction phase.

There are no submarine cables in the immediate vicinity of Elgin. There are no Historic Marine Protected Areas (HMPAs), scheduled monuments (including wrecks) or war graves located within Block 22/30. There are no pending or active marine licence areas within the production project area, and no aggregate extraction or carbon capture and storage areas within the project. There are no military areas or danger areas within the vicinity of the Elgin area. There are no active aquaculture or shellfish protected waters in the vicinity of the production operations

Given the location of the project, it is not likely that the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c) (i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) or (viii) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations will 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 to the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, with 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.

The predicted change in fluid volumes associated with the production increase is within the capacity of the existing facilities of the Elgin platform, and as such no hardware modifications will be necessary.

Changes covered in the proposed Elgin Production Consent application could result in an increase of produced water rate up to 8.3% compared to the produced water rates associated with the current maximum Production Consent. The produced water will be condensed water associated with the produced gas and measures have been taken during well planning and design to minimise the potential for formation water.

The production increase proposed in the Elgin Production Consent application could increase fuel gas consumption rate up to a maximum of 3% in 2029. The production increase proposed in the Elgin Production Consent application is not predicted to result in additional flaring compared to the flaring rates associated with the current maximum production consent. The production increase proposed in the Elgin Production Consent application could increase the venting rate up to a maximum of 7.5% compared to the venting associated with the current maximum production consent.

Chemical usage and discharge will change due to commencing production of the new wells associated with the production increase. The chemical usage could increase by up to 8.3% compared to usage rates associated with the current maximum Production Consent.

There are no changes to the approved field OPEP and therefore no change to the potential environmental impact due to accidental events.

The production increase does not contradict any of the Scottish marine plan objectives or policies.

It is considered that the increase in oil and gas production from the Elgin field 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.

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.