Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7414U
UKOP Doc Ref:1463714

Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment
& Decommissioning

NEO NEXT+ ENERGY E&P UK LIMITED
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Registered No.: 00811900

Date: 16th November 2026

Department for Energy Security &
Net Zero

AB1 Building
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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, Elgin Wellhead Platform B, Shelf Drilling Fortress DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 22/30c- EIH planned well

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2694/0 (Version 1), dated 19th October 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

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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

ELGIN, Elgin Wellhead Platform B, Shelf Drilling Fortress DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 22/30c- EIH planned well

DR/2694/0 (Version 1)

Whereas NEO NEXT+ ENERGY E&P UK LIMITED has made an application dated 19th October 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/19220/0/GS/1 (Version 1).

Effective Date: 16th November 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 18 November 2026 until 1 December 2027.

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 assessments undertaken by OPRED.

To determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for this project.

This document 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 the 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 the sidetrack and drilling of the 22/30c-EIH development well from the Shelf Drilling Fortress jack-up rig at Elgin Wellhead Platform B. The proposed operations covered by this screening direction relate to Part 1 of the well programme, comprising the 17 1/2" section only.

- The 22/30c-EIH well will be sidetracked from the recovered slot of the existing 22/30c-B1 well, using slot C2 and the pre-existing 30" conductor and 20" surface casing.

- The 17 1/2" section will be drilled to a target measured depth of 3,929 m Measured Depth Below Rotary Table using 1.60-1.70 sg low toxicity oil-based mud (LTOBM).

- Drilling fluid will be fully contained and cuttings will be processed through a Rotomill thermomechanical cuttings cleaner (TCC).

- A 13 5/8" x 14" intermediate casing string will be installed and cemented, after which the well will be suspended. Lower sections and completion will be addressed through a future variation.

- Following TCC treatment, powder and water containing residual LTOBM will be discharged overboard.

- In the event that the TCC unit is non-operational, the LTOBM cuttings will be skipped and shipped to shore, with no discharge to the marine environment.

- Operations are planned to commence on 18 November 2026 and expected to take approximately 45 days, with permit validity extended to 1st December 2027 to account for operational and/or weather delays.

Description of the Project

The Elgin Franklin Further Development Environmental Statement D/4111/2011 covered the installation of Elgin Wellhead Platform B and developmental drilling including infill wells. This screening direction considers the proposed 22/30c-EIH development well 17 1/2" sidetrack drilling scope. All drilling operations will be undertaken within the established Elgin 500 m exclusion zone.

The project is to sidetrack and drill the 17 1/2" section of the 22/30c-EIH well using the Shelf Drilling Fortress mobile offshore drilling unit at Elgin Wellhead Platform B. The sidetrack will use the recovered 22/30c-B1 slot C2 and the pre-existing 30" conductor and 20" surface casing.

The 17 1/2" section will be drilled using LTOBM under full containment. Contaminated cuttings will be processed offshore through the Rotomill thermomechanical cuttings cleaner and discharged overboard. If the treatment system is unavailable, cuttings will be contained and shipped to shore. The 13 5/8" x 14" casing will then be cemented and the well suspended.

Potential cumulative effects from operational discharges, atmospheric emissions, physical presence and accidental events have been considered. Given the temporary nature of the works, the dispersive offshore environment and the absence of other expected drilling activity during the operations, significant cumulative effects in combination with existing or approved projects are not expected.

It is not considered likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters.

As only the upper sections of the proposed well will be drilled and no entry into the

reservoir will occur, a loss of well control is not considered possible for this phase. The principal accidental hydrocarbon risk is a diesel spill during bunkering or rig operations, which is expected to evaporate quickly and is not expected to present a significant environmental risk.

Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact of 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 proposed drilling project is located at Elgin Wellhead Platform B in the Elgin field, Central North Sea, Block 22/30c, approximately 224 km east of the Scottish mainland and 34 km from the UK/Norway median line. The water depth is approximately 93 m, the annual mean wave height in the area is 2.11-2.40 m, and residual currents are approximately 0.14 m/s.

The seabed in the Elgin field area is predominantly muddy sand with occasional patches of sand and slightly gravelly muddy sand. Previous surveys recorded evidence of existing oil and gas disturbance, including cuttings piles, spud can depressions, trawl and anchor scars and disturbed sediments. No potential Annex I habitats were identified. Offshore subtidal sands and gravels are present in the wider area, and ocean quahog have been recorded at low densities within the Elgin field.

There are two protected sites in the vicinity of the Elgin field: the East of Gannet and Montrose Fields NC MPA approximately 13 km away and the Fulmar MCZ approximately 45 km away. The project is within the Scottish National Marine Plan area.

Atlantic white-sided dolphin, common dolphin, harbour porpoise, minke whale and white-beaked dolphin have been recorded in the vicinity of the Elgin field. Harbour and grey seals may be encountered from time to time, but the area is not expected to be used by seals with any regularity or in significant numbers.

Seabird sensitivity in Block 22/30 is low throughout the year, with no data available for November. The operations are located approximately 224 km offshore and are therefore remote from sensitive coastal seabird breeding areas.

The proposed operations are within an area used as spawning and/or nursery grounds by a range of fish and shellfish species, including anglerfish, blue whiting, cod, herring, mackerel, Norway lobster, Norway pout, sandeels, spurdog and whiting. Fishing activity in ICES rectangle 43F1 is below the UKCS average and is mainly associated with demersal species.

There are several oil and gas installations and pipelines in the wider vicinity. The

nearest submarine cable is approximately 9 km from the proposed operations. There are no Ministry of Defence practice areas in the vicinity. The closest windfarm is the Cenos windfarm, currently in pre-planning, approximately 16 km northwest of the proposed operations; the Culzean Offshore Floating Wind Turbine Pilot Project is approximately 19 km northeast.

The INTOG E2 lease area is approximately 92 km from the proposed operations, and Elgin is located within INTOG area E-a where projects targeting oil and gas decarbonisation are being considered.

Within a 20 km radius of the proposed operations there are 21 wrecks, four of these are non-dangerous and all these wrecks are unidentified. Shipping activity in the area is moderate, with vessel traffic associated with nearby oil and gas infrastructure and support vessel movements.

Given the location of the project, it is not likely that the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) 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 on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, including impacts arising from atmospheric emissions, seabed disturbance, physical presence, planned discharges 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.

The well will be drilled from the Shelf Drilling Fortress jack-up rig positioned alongside Elgin Wellhead Platform B, within the existing 500 m safety exclusion zone. Given the established exclusion zone, moderate shipping activity, and below-average fishing effort in ICES rectangle 43F1, impacts on other users of the sea are not considered significant.

The physical presence and seabed disturbance associated with the Shelf Drilling Fortress, spud cans and anchors were assessed under PRA/141 and CL/192/39. The 22/30c-EIH sidetrack uses existing conductor and surface casing, and no further seabed disturbance is associated with this drilling scope. Treated cuttings powder and process water from the Rotomill will be discharged at low residual oil concentrations; previous modelling and field observations indicate that deposited particles will be thinner than the natural sedimentation rate, and no significant effects on seabed features or benthic organisms are anticipated.

Discharges associated with LTOBM cuttings treatment, cementing, routine cement clean-up, any potential aborted cement discharge and treated slops have been assessed and are not considered likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The majority of products are PLONOR, OCNS E category or Gold HQ

band chemicals. Any discharges are expected to be localised, dilute and disperse rapidly, and contingency arrangements are in place to ship contaminated cuttings to shore if the Rotomill is unavailable.

Fish, marine mammals, seabirds and benthic species, including Priority Marine Features and European Protected Species where present, are not considered likely to be significantly impacted. Routine drilling and vessel noise is not expected to result in significant adverse effects.

The emissions associated with these drilling operations may result in short-term deterioration of local air quality within the vicinity of the well location; however, in the exposed offshore environment, emissions are expected to disperse rapidly and are not considered likely to have a significant impact. CO2e emissions from the operation of the rig and support vessels are estimated to be approximately 2,396 tonnes, representing approximately 0.013% of annual emissions associated with UK offshore activities.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the planned drilling operations. The nearest boundary, the UK/Norway median line, is located approximately 34 km east of the operations.

As only the upper sections of the well will be drilled during this phase and no entry into the reservoir will occur, a well blowout is not considered possible. The principal accidental hydrocarbon risk is a diesel spill, which is expected to evaporate quickly and present no significant environmental risk. Control measures will be in place to minimise the likelihood of accidental chemical releases.

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 22/30c-EIH 17 1/2" section is not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea, and no significant cumulative impacts are expected.

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