

(NUI) will be installed—essentially a proppant separation and containment system, metering equipment and an overpressure protection system. The NUI will export gas unprocessed at Easington through a new 11.7 kilometre, 8" tie back to the existing 24" West Sole export gas pipeline. Power and production chemicals will be supplied via the West Sole Alpha platform through a 12 kilometre umbilical.

The new well and original vertical bore will undergo two short well tests for not more than 24 hours each. Produced fluids will be predominantly gas with small quantities of condensate, negligible quantities of water and some condensed water.

The identified hazards were screened on a qualitative basis and a list of key environmental issues produced, namely: seabed disturbance during pipeline installation, drilling discharges, hydrocarbon spills, physical presence of the platform and VOC emissions from platform.

There were no major objections to this proposed development. No significant impacts were identified and it is unlikely to affect any potential future SAC that may be identified.

Following the provision of further information, the Secretary of State is of the view, having regard to the environmental statement prepared in respect of the project and the comments received from those consulted, that the project is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. (1006)

Conoco (UK) Limited

OFFSHORE PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND PIPE-LINES (ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS) REGULATIONS 1999

LICENCES P450, P451, P452 AND P691—LICENCES HAVING EFFECT UNDER THE PETROLEUM ACT 1998

THE CMS III FIELD

Pursuant to Regulation 5(8) of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry gives notice that, being content that the requirements of the above Regulations have been satisfied, he has pursuant to Licences P450, P451, P452 and P691, granted a consent to Conoco (UK) Limited to the getting of petroleum and the construction of installations in relation to the development of the CMS III gas field. The consent for the CMS III field took effect from 19 June 2001.

The proposed project will involve the initial development of up to five gas fields: Errol, McAdam, H, Q and possibly K, in the southern North Sea: with all the fields tied back to the existing Caister Murdoch System. Six wells may be drilled with each having a protected subsea wellhead. Well cleaning will be conducted but there will be no well testing.

Three new pipelines will be installed to connect the fields to the existing CMS MC and MD complexes. In all a total of 45 kilometres of pipeline will be installed.

A number of modifications to CMS MC and MD may be required; these could include:

- Installation of two new risers and a new riser tower;
- Installation of an additional gas-driven turbine and compression train;
- Installation of an additional accommodation platform.

The Environmental Statement also includes an application for a permit under the Offshore Combustion Installations (Prevention, and Control of Pollution) Regulations 2001. This is being dealt with separately.

The proposed project involves the drilling of 6 wells, one of which will be on the North, shallow sandbanks (Dogger Bank) in approximately 20 metres of water. This is a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC). Following a review of all the information provided and the introduction of additional mitigation measures, we are satisfied that the drilling is not likely to adversely affect the integrity of this habitat. JNCC agree.

There were no major objections to this project and no significant impacts were identified. The Secretary of State is of the view, having regard to the environmental statement prepared in respect of the project and the comments received from those consulted, that the project is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. (1005)

Environment



Environmental Protection

Volker Dredging Limited (VDL)

DIRECTIVE 85/337/EEC AS AMENDED BY DIRECTIVE 97/11/EC, ARTICLE 7: NOTICE OF FURTHER INFORMATION RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF AN APPLICATION FOR A GOVERNMENT VIEW ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

PROPOSED DREDGING FOR SAND AND GRAVEL, AREA 461, MEDIAN DEEP

The Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions hereby gives notice that he received an application from Volker Dredging Limited (VDL) on 1 February 1999 for a Government View on a proposal to extract marine sand and gravel from Area 461, Median Deep, approximately 40 kilometres south of the East Sussex coast, and that further information is available in relation to the environmental statement which had already been provided. A favourable Government View of the proposed project would enable VDL to apply to the Crown Estate Commissioners for a production licence.

It is anticipated that statutory regulations for the control of marine dredging will be introduced shortly to replace non-statutory Government Review procedure, under the forthcoming arrangement, if it is decided that the application should be granted, a dredging permission would be issued rather than a favourable Government View as present.

In accordance with his obligations under Article 7 of the Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (as amended by Directive 97/11/EC) the secretary of State has sent copies of this further information to the following EEA States:

France, Belgium, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.

to whom copies of the Environmental Statement had previously been sent. He has invited them to confirm whether any concerns expressed about the application at the earlier consultation stage have been resolved and, if they have any unresolved concerns, to advise him of these in writing not later than 21 August 2001. The Secretary of State will make no decision on the application by VDL until after this date.

A copy of the further environmental information and report on the earlier consultation stage prepared by the Environmental Resources Management Limited for VDL may be inspected at the department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday until 21 August 2001. To arrange to inspect it please telephone Matthew Louis, on 020-7944 3877. Copies of the further environmental information and the report on consultation may also be purchased direct from Dr Peter Hughes, Environmental Resources Management, Eaton House, Walbrook Court, North Hinksey Lane, Oxford at a cost of £40.

Comments on the further environmental information should be made in writing to the Secretary of State at:

Minerals and Waste Planning Division, Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, Zone 4/B1, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU.

no later than 21 August 2001.

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