

Offshore Petroleum Production and Pipelines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999 (as amended) – The Offshore EIA Regulations

Niobe Exploration Well (12/27-KA)

Suncor Energy UK Limited has applied to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for consent to drill an exploration well in relation to the Niobe Prospect located approximately 25 miles to the southeast of the Caithness coastline (latitude and longitude coordinates 58° 06' 42.82"N, 02° 41' 43.39"W). The proposed exploration well is being drilled to fully evaluate the Niobe prospect for hydrocarbon-bearing potential. Drilling activity is expected to commence in Q2/Q3 2015 using a jack-up drilling rig.

In accordance with the above-mentioned Regulations (as amended), this application is accompanied by a PON16 and an Environmental Statement, copies of which may be inspected between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on business days at 28b Albyn Place, Aberdeen, Scotland AB10 1YL until close of business on 05/01/15. Copies of the Statement may be obtained from 28b Albyn Place, Aberdeen, Scotland AB10 1YL (subject to a payment of £2 by P.O. or cheque made payable to Suncor Energy UK Limited) or may be viewed at the company website (<http://www.suncor.com/en/about/3989.aspx>).

Members of the public have until 05/01/2015 to make representations in relation to the application to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. All correspondence should refer to W/4171/2014. Representations may be made by email, letter or fax and should be marked for the attention of:

EIA Co-ordinator
Environmental Management Team
Energy Development Unit
Department of Energy and Climate Change
4th Floor, Atholl House
86 – 88 Guild Street
Aberdeen, AB11 6AR
Email: EMT@decc.gsi.gov.uk
Fax: 01224 254019

Copies of representations received may be made publicly available. Following receipt of all views and representations the Secretary of State will either grant or refuse consent for the proposal (with or without conditions). Notice of the Secretary of State's decision will be published in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes, and on the Department of Energy and Climate Change, Energy Development Unit website.

Rights of aggrieved persons

Within six weeks from the date of publication of the details of the consent or approval, any person aggrieved by the decision may apply to the Court. The Court may grant an order quashing the approval or the granting of consent, where it is satisfied the granting of the approval/consent was done in contravention of the requirement to consider the Environmental Statement, any relevant information and any representations received from environmental authorities or other interested parties. The court may also grant such an order where the interests of the aggrieved person have been prejudiced by a failure to comply with any other requirement of the Regulations. Pending determination of the application by an aggrieved person, the court may by interim order, stay the operation of the consent/approval.