

# **THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2020**

## **Avalon Field Development**

Ping Petroleum UK PLC has made an application for consent to the Oil and Gas Authority (“the OGA”) in relation to the above project. The OGA now operates under the business name of the North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA).

### **Summary of Project**

Ping Petroleum UK PLC (PPUK) propose to develop the Avalon field which will comprise two production wells (Well 21/6b-J and Well 21/6b-K) and associated subsea infrastructure which will be tied-back to a Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessel, the Excalibur FPSO.

Export of the Avalon hydrocarbons will be via shuttle tanker which will transport the offloaded hydrocarbons from the Excalibur FPSO to shore.

The proposed development will use all Avalon produced gas for FPSO power generation. When the FPSO becomes gas deficient, the use of Floating Offshore Wind, as an alternative to additional diesel consumption, is currently being evaluated. As part of this evaluation, a Crown Estate Scotland INTOG application is presently underway to permit placement of a floating Offshore Wind Turbine (OWT) at the Avalon site. If the floating OWT is sanctioned, a power cable between the floating OWT and the FPSO will be installed and may be up to 25 km in length depending on the final location of the floating OWT.

PPUK proposes to commence drilling operations in Q3 of 2023 with first oil anticipated in Q3 2025. The Avalon Field Development is expected to produce hydrocarbons for 15 years.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment and Consent Process**

In accordance with the above-mentioned Regulations, the project is subject to an environmental impact assessment procedure and regulation 13 applies as the project could have a significant effect on the environment of Norway and Denmark.

The OGA is responsible for deciding whether or not to grant consent for the project, but agreement to the grant of consent must be obtained from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“the Secretary of State”) prior to consent being granted. The Secretary of State’s decision on whether to agree to the grant of consent is based on the environmental impact assessment for the project.

The range of possible decisions in response to the application of consent is:

- (a) the Secretary of State agrees to the OGA's grant of consent following the Secretary of State's conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, and the OGA grants consent, so the project may proceed;
- (b) the Secretary of State refuses to agree to the OGA's grant of consent following the Secretary of State's conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, so the project may not proceed; or
- (c) the Secretary of State agrees to the OGA's grant of consent following the Secretary of State's conclusion regarding the environmental effects of the project, but the OGA does not grant consent, so the project may not proceed.

Where the Secretary of State agrees to the grant of consent, conditions that Ping Petroleum UK PLC must comply with, may be attached to the agreement, including environmental conditions to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment, and measure to monitor such conditions. Notice of the decisions of the Secretary of State and OGA decisions for the project will be published at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-2020-eia-regulations#environmental-impact-assessments-eia> where information on the Secretary of State's decision to agree to or refuse to agree to the grant of consent will also be made available.

### **Access to Further Information**

Copies of this notice, the summary of the project and the Environmental Statement can be viewed and downloaded at [www.pingpetroleum.com](http://www.pingpetroleum.com) and at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-2020-eia-regulations#environmental-impact-assessments-eia>. Access shall remain at least three months after the date on which the Secretary of State publishes the notice under Regulation 16(1) (publication of consent decisions).

A copy of the Environmental Statement and summary of the project may also be obtained by post or email. Requests should be made to Office Manager, by email to [info@pingpetroleum.com](mailto:info@pingpetroleum.com) or by telephone 07825 382195 by 17/01/2023.

### **Public Consultation**

Representations, comments or questions relating to the project may be made to the Secretary of State by 16/02/2023. All representations should quote reference number ES/2022/005 and may be made by letter or by email to:

Business Support Team  
Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
AB1 Building, Crimon Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1BJ

[BST@beis.gov.uk](mailto:BST@beis.gov.uk)

Regulation 11(3)(c)(viii) permits Ping Petroleum UK PLC to set out any other arrangements made for consulting the public. Where relevant, Ping Petroleum UK PLC must also provide this information within this Public Consultation Notice.

## **Judicial Review**

A person aggrieved by the grant of consent for a project may apply to the Court for leave / permission to apply for judicial review of the relevant decision or decisions. The United Kingdom has three separate legal systems; one each for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The rules for any application for leave / permission to apply for judicial review may vary depending on where that application is made, but it is important to note that there are time limits for making any application and judicial review may only be available if the applicant has standing / a sufficient interest in the subject matter of the application. Further information about the process for seeking judicial review can be obtained from the Administrative Court (for England and Wales), the Court of Session (for Scotland) or the Judicial Review Office (Northern Ireland).