

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE

Oil / Gas Field Development / Gas Storage Project / Carbon Storage Project / Drilling project

The following template should be completed by the developer submitting the Environmental Statement and published in accordance with Regulation 11.

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

Buchan Redevelopment Project

NEO Energy (ZEX) Limited (NEO Energy) 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

The Buchan Horst Field lies within UKCS Blocks 20/5 and 21/1 in the Central North Sea, approximately 115 km northeast of the Aberdeenshire coastline and approximately 103.5 km west of the UK/Norway median line in a water depth of approximately 111 m. The proposed Buchan Redevelopment Project comprises the development of the Buchan Horst Field (formerly known as the Buchan Field).

The proposed Project would involve the drilling of five production wells and two water injection wells tied back to a redeployed Floating Production Storage Offloading vessel (FPSO). NEO Energy plan to reuse the Western Isles FPSO, which will be upgraded before mobilisation to the Buchan Horst Field. From the FPSO, oil will be exported via shuttle tanker whilst gas will be exported via a new gas export pipeline tied back to either the SAGE (Scottish Area Gas Evacuation) pipeline system or to the Frigg UK Association pipeline system.

Offshore drilling activities are anticipated to commence in the second quarter of 2025; and subsea installation activities in the second quarter of 2026. Production is anticipated to commence in November 2026. Upgrades to the FPSO will be carried out in port and will commence in the last quarter of 2024. The FPSO upgrades will include making the vessel ‘electrification ready’ to receive power from a third-party supplier as soon as it is available (earliest anticipate date is the start of 2030).

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 Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

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 Energy Security and Net Zero (“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 NEO Energy 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 <https://www.neweuropeanoffshore.com/buchan-redevelopment-project-environmental-statement/> 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:

FAO Buchan Redevelopment Project
NEO Energy
The Silver Fin Building (7th Floor)
455 Union Street
Aberdeen
AB11 6DB

By email: buchanproject@neweuropeanoffshore.com
By telephone: 01224 659120

by 01/03/2024.

Public Consultation

Representations, comments or questions relating to the project may be made to the Secretary of State by 01/03/2024. All representations should quote reference number ES/2023/007 and may be made by letter or by email to:

Business Support Team
Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

OPRED@Energysecurity.gov.uk

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).