

Sea Lion Environmental Impact Statement: what next?

FOLLOWING the Executive Council decision on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sea Lion Development, we answer some questions on the decision and some of the next steps.

What was does the Executive Council decision mean?

The ExCo decision acknowledged that the EIS satisfies the requirements of the Offshore Minerals Ordinance 1994. That legislation requires that an EIS be submitted for any application to drill a well. The Sea Lion Development falls under that definition, although obviously it is a more complex and longer-term operation than a single well. The equivalent application for a development is in fact that which is made as part of a Field Development Plan, which is explained further on.

The Offshore Minerals Ordinance also includes broad requirements as to what type of environmental impacts and information are to be addressed in the EIS.

In considering the EIS, ExCo acknowledged that the environmental risks and impacts arising from the Sea Lion development have been identified and assessed in accordance with those legal requirements. The decision also acknowledges that EIS has been

subject to a public consultation process as required by the legislation.

Thus the decision acknowledges that three key legal prerequisites have been met: that the likely environmental impacts be assessed; that an EIS to that effect be submitted to Executive Council; and that the EIS be subject to the required consultation.

The decision was however subject to conditions. Under the terms of the recommendations made to ExCo, any eventual drilling or development consent falling under the EIS would be subject to a range of conditions, including: a requirement for an environmental monitoring and management plan and an oiled wildlife response plan to be approved by ExCo and agreement of an annual amount to be paid to the Falkland Islands Environment Trust to offset residual impacts.

What does the decision not do?

Crucially, it does not constitute a final decision on whether the associated environmental risks of the project are acceptable, merely that they have been identified according to the relevant legal requirements.

As the ExCo paper itself explains, ExCo will need to con-

sider that acceptability and any other documentation provided in considering a Field Development Plan and grant an application to drill: "The final development consent may still be refused for a number of reasons, including if ExCo considers the environmental risks to be too high," the paper said.

Similarly, the decision does not constitute approval of any inshore transfer operation or any onshore base, which is subject to approvals under maritime and planning legislation (though the impacts of those operations were addressed in this EIS).

What are the next steps?

The EIS decision is major step towards a final decision on the project itself, but there are many other approvals required prior to that. Many of these simply relate to specific management of certain areas of the project, such as a waste management plan, biosecurity plan or maritime traffic management plan, for example.

Legislation currently being drafted will further require an Environment Plan to be submitted. That document will go beyond the EIS and set out binding environmental performance standards and outcomes, as well as monitoring and reporting requirements

and associated management systems.

Ultimately, the final approval is the Field Development Plan. A licence requirement, the Field Development Plan is a document that sets out how the operator proposes to develop a field. It covers a wide range of subject areas, including geology and reservoir management, as well as technical and engineering aspects of the facility.

In addition any facility drilling development wells will be subject to its own safety approvals, as will the wells themselves.

What about the production installation itself?

Much like any drilling rig, the production installation will require an associated Safety Case; essentially a demonstration that all major accident risks are addressed

The process for a production installation, however, differs in that it is subject to a design notification. As the name suggests, that is an early notification of the proposed design of the facility. It marks the beginning of long process between the operator and regulator subject matter experts from a range of disciplines to ensure that safety issues are addressed at the design stage.

Nicole hovers in for drone workshops

NICOLE Durfee, an expert on unmanned aerial vehicles from the University of Oregon, will over the coming weeks hold a series of workshops and public talks across East and West Falklands focusing on the use of drones. The project is a Shackleton Scholarship funded initiative in conjunction with the SAERI Coastal Habitat Mapping Project, itself a Darwin Initiative funded project.

According to press release made this week, the workshops aim to react to the increased interest in the use of personal drones, which has increased globally as technology has made them more affordable and accessible.

"This new and emerging technology can have a wide variety of uses across the Falkland Islands; including for agriculture and land-management purposes," said the press release.

"However, with an abundance of rare wildlife vulnerable to disturbance, and potential hazards from the large number of small airfield used regularly by FIGAS, low flying military aircraft and minifields, it is important that islanders are attuned to safety considerations when using drones, as well as embracing opportunities for how best to use this new technology."

A brief overview of the workshops is given below. Numbers for some of the workshops are strictly limited and subject to weather conditions, to sign up are visit the SAERI Facebook events page. More information available

from Neil Golding on ngolding@env.institute.ac.fk or Nicole Durfee on nicole.durfee@oregonstate.edu

Monday 26 November: Theory drone workshop covering different types of sensor, uses, safety and practical applications. Location: Lighthouse Seaman's Mission, 09:00hrs - noon. Numbers strictly limited, sign up required.

Tuesday 27: Public talk at the Chamber of Commerce titled "Drones as a tool for our future", followed by a short update on the Darwin Initiative funded Coastal Habitat Mapping project. Location: Chamber of Commerce, Stanley - 17:00 to 18:00hrs.

Wednesday 28: IJS&CE Year 6 sessions

Thursday 29: Practical drone workshop based around using drones in the field. Location Surf Bay, time TBC. Numbers strictly limited, sign up required.

Friday 30: Have-a-go drop in session at Stanley Leisure Centre gym, 17:00. Numbers strictly limited, sign up required.

Sunday 2 December: Public talk at Hill Cove Social Club, "Drones as a tool for our future and practical demonstration followed by an update on coastal habitat mapping project. 17:00 - 18:00, (Camp Time)

Monday 3 December: Public talk at Hill Cove Social Club, "Drones as a tool for our future and practical demonstration followed by an update on coastal habitat mapping project. 17:00 - 18:00, (Stanley Time).



Ecolog Falklands Limited Warehouse Operative

We are looking for an experienced Warehouse Operative for our Operations in Mount Pleasant, Falkland Islands. Primary responsibilities will be as follows:

- Prepare and complete orders for delivery or pickup according to schedule (load, pack, wrap, label, ship)
- Receive and process warehouse stock products (pick, unload, label, store)
- Perform inventory controls and maintain quality standards
- Keep a clean and safe working environment and optimise space utilisation
- Report any stock / inventory discrepancies
- Communicate and cooperate with Operations Management and co-workers
- Follow quality service & food safety standards and comply with all company procedures, rules and regulations.

The ideal candidate must have the below skills and/or experience as a prerequisite:

- Relevant experience preferably within an FMCG warehouse operation
- Working knowledge of Health and Safety and Quality Assurance Practices
- Working knowledge of a Warehouse Management System; SAP
- Forklift License (Mandatory for Warehouse Operators)
- Food Safety Certification - Minimum Level 1 (Mandatory for Warehouse Operators)
- Willing to work in Mount Pleasant, Falkland Islands.

We offer an attractive salary package, accommodation, food, transportation and annual leave allowances. All applicants must have a basic knowledge of written and verbal English.

Please forward your application with an updated CV to: Claire Whitehead, Office/HR Compliance Manager at email claire.whitehead@ecolog-international.com