North Sea Transition Authority

North Sea Transition Authority
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
www.nstauthority.co.uk

Alex Clayton
By e-mail: alex.clayton@winacc.org.uk

Our ref: FOI-2023-0036

23 August 2023

Dear Mr Clayton,

Thank you for your e-mail of **27 July 2023** requesting the following:

> *"Please may I request any information regarding the requirements of past, current or future licences for operation at PEDL070.*
>
> *Please can you provide any details relating to flaring or venting at the site, and the mitigation requirements required of the licensee."*

We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (**FOIA**) and, where relevant, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (**EIR**).

Please find attached the vent consents held by the NSTA in respect of PEDL070.

You will note there are redactions in some of the information provided. The redacted information is being withheld under Section 40 FOIA and Regulation 13(1) EIR. An explanation of the reliance on the exemption/exception is set out below.

Section 40 FOIA and Regulation 13(1) EIR (Personal Data)

The redacted information relates to names, contact details and signatures of a number of individuals. Section 40(2) provides that personal data is exempt from disclosure if one of the conditions in Section 40(3A) is satisfied. One of the conditions in Section 40(3A) is a breach of any of the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 2018. The data protection principles include that any processing of personal data must be fair and lawful. The provisions of Regulation 13(1) EIRs mirror those of Section 40(2).

The NSTA considers that disclosure of the names, contact details and signatures of the individuals would breach the principles of fairness and lawfulness. The individuals whose

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details have been withheld have and are entitled to an expectation of privacy. In any event, the relevant individuals have not consented to their personal data being disclosed.

As such, disclosure would meet neither the fair nor lawful processing principles. In light of this the personal data is being withheld under Section 40 FOIA and Regulation 13(1) EIR.

There is no flaring at Avington.(which is the site covered by PEDL070). The most recent consent was issued on 1 January 2023 which expires on 31 December 2023 for a daily rate that does not exceed 0.118 tonnes.

Production, Flare and Vent data can be downloaded via our NSTA open data site at NSTA Field Production, PPRS (WGS84) | NSTA Field Production, PPRS (WGS84) | opendata (arcgis.com) and can also be viewed via our UKCS production dashboard found at North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA): Production - NSTA Open Data - Data centre (nstauthority.co.uk). Included in this response is the latest available dataset which covers the period January to April. Column AH shows the volume flared. (Please note that there is a delay of three months in publishing this material, from the end of the last complete month of data, for reasons of commercial confidentiality. Please also note that you will need to increase the size of the PDF to 100% (in the panel at the top) in order to view the document due to its size and format.).

Regarding the mitigation requirements required of the licensee. The Environment Agency ('EA') is the lead regulator for environmental regulation for onshore England and has published guidance on waste gas management at onshore oil and gas sites [Heading 1 (publishing.service.gov.uk)]..

This concludes the NSTA's handling of your request.

Appeals Procedure
If you are unhappy with the way the NSTA has handled your request, you may request an internal review. A request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your request and should be addressed to: FOI Manager, NSTA, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT. E-mail: foirequests@nstauthority.co.uk Please quote the reference number above in any future communications regarding this request.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of the internal review, you may contact the Information Commissioner at www.ico.org.uk or at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

FOI Officer

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