EXPLORATION IN THE BLACK SEA
Shell & TPAO

Shell Upstream Turkey BV (SUT) and Türkiye Petrolleri Anonim Ortaklığı (TPAO) propose to drill an exploration well offshore Turkey in License Block 3920 part of the Western Black Sea acreage. The exploration well (named ‘Sile 1’) is to be located approximately 100km offshore north of Istanbul in 2,093m water depth. The project activities are planned for late 2014/early 2015.

The well will be drilled by the Noble Globetrotter II (NGTII) drillship supported by three Platform Support Vessels (PSVs) and an onshore supply base located at Haydarpaşa Port in Istanbul. The drilling operations will be subject to a 500m safety exclusion zone. Additionally, helicopters operating out of Istanbul Airport will be used for crew transfer. It is anticipated that up to 180 personnel will be on the drill ship with approximately 20 to 50 personnel located at the onshore supply base during drilling. The project is planned to take place over a period of eight months.

This is an early exploration project. The first step in developing oil and gas resources is to collect and analyse as much data as necessary to identify the best possible location for an exploration well. Shell and TPAO have gathered 3D seismic data which has allowed us to identify reasonable opportunities to drill an exploration well.

A single exploration well will be drilled to identify whether a significant oil or gas reservoir is present beneath the seabed. Depending on the results of the exploration well, it may be several years before we understand the potential in this part of the Black Sea and any decisions are made about establishing oil or gas recovery.

Oil Spill Prevention and Response

Shell and TPAO take oil spill risk very seriously and take great care in minimising the chance of an accidental spill in the design of all projects. There are two key aspects to managing potential oil spills.

Prevention through controls and barriers which ensure:
- Project activities stay within safe operational control limits; and
- The likelihood of a spill is mitigated.

Oil spill response measures which address consequences if there is a spill including:
- Emergency response to stop the leak and contain oil; and
- Plans for containment of the areal extent of the spill and clean-up of oil spilled.

Shell and TPAO are developing an Oil Spill Response Plan to meet Turkish national requirements and industry best practice. We will work with the Turkish authorities to finalise this plan prior to commencement of the Project.

We have submitted our application for the Project to the authorities for review and approval. The approved application will be made available on the Turkish Environment Ministry website. We have completed an independent impact assessment process and developed an Environmental and Social Management Plan to address the impacts we have identified and maintain open communication with anyone who may be affected or takes interest.

Contact Information

Comments or queries should be sent to Shell at the address or e-mail address shown below.

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BENTHIC COMMUNITIES

Below 150-200m water depth the Black Sea is oxygen deprived ("anoxic"). As a result no benthic (bottom living) communities are expected to be present at the well location and therefore no impacts to benthic communities are predicted.

MARINE MAMMALS

The levels of noise expected from project vessels will be similar to other marine activities such as shipping and is therefore not expected to impact Black Sea cetaceans (e.g. dolphins). The risk of collision with dolphins is also considered low given the low intensity of project related traffic and the moderate speed at which the vessels will travel.

SEABIRDS

Individual or small groups of seabirds may be disturbed by helicopters used for crew transfers. Helicopters will reach and maintain cruising altitude as soon as it is safe to do so to avoid flying low over birds particularly during migration or roosting periods.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The management of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes will follow the principles of the waste hierarchy where practicable (i.e. reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and disposal). Wastes that are not re-used or incinerated on board the NTGII will be transferred to shore for disposal to suitably licensed waste facilities in Turkey.

SEAWATER QUALITY

Effluents will be handled in compliance with national regulations and the relevant annexes of MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships). Ballast water will be managed and exchanged in compliance with the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) Ballast Water Management Convention 2004. The water based muds are made up of primarily water and inert weighting agents and are therefore non-toxic; they are not expected to cause any contamination even if discharged to sea at the seabed. Synthetic Oil Based Mud (SBM) will not be discharged. It will be separated from cuttings onboard the NTGII and reused; cuttings separated from the SBM will be shipped to shore for disposal at suitably licensed waste facilities.

FISH and FISHERIES

The risk of impact on fish and the fishing industry is considered low given the well will be located 100km offshore and that fishing will be prohibited within the 500m safety exclusion zone enforced around the NTGII. The disruption offshore will therefore be minimal. The project supply vessels will not impact the existing marine traffic through the Bosphorus.

AIR QUALITY

The emission of pollutants is expected to be below limits required by national legislation and international standards (e.g. MARPOL) for emissions from ships. Additionally emissions from vessels will typically take place offshore in good dispersive conditions and are not expected to have a significant impact on air quality.