

The Minister
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
29 - 31 Adelaide Road
Dublin D02 X285

Date: 13th October 2021

Re: Seven Heads Plan of Development

1. Application for approval of an addendum to Plan of Development in accordance with Sections 13 and 13A of the Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act 1960, as amended, to decommission certain facilities; and

2. Application for consent under Section 5(2) of the Continental Shelf Act 1968, as amended, to alter certain facilities in a designated area

Dear Minister

Pursuant to section 13 of the Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act 1960 as amended (the "1960 Act"), a petroleum lease was granted in respect of the Seven Heads gas fields and facilities on 13th November 2002 (the "Seven Heads Petroleum Lease"). Pursuant to the terms of the Petroleum Lease, a Plan of Development for Seven Heads (the "Seven Heads Plan of Development") was submitted and agreed with the then Minister in respect of the Seven Heads gas field.

The Seven Heads gas field and facilities form part of the greater Kinsale Area gas fields and facilities. PSE Kinsale Energy Limited (Kinsale Energy) is completing the decommissioning of the Kinsale Area gas fields and facilities, which have come to the end of their productive life, having been in production since 1978. The Kinsale Area gas fields and facilities are made up of (1) the Kinsale Head gas fields and facilities and (2) the Seven Heads gas field and facilities. Together, the decommissioning of the entirety of the Kinsale Area gas fields and facilities is collectively referred to as the Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project (KADP). The Kinsale Area gas fields and facilities are located in the Celtic Sea, between approximately 40 and 70km off the County Cork coast and onshore at Inch, Co. Cork.

On 28th June 2018 Kinsale Energy submitted an application to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment (the "Minister") for an addendum to the Seven Heads Plan of Development, which was submitted to and agreed with the then Minister under the terms of the Seven Heads Petroleum Lease under section 13 of the 1960 Act, for the decommissioning of certain facilities (subsea wells and subsea infrastructure) as set out in the Decommissioning Plan – Seven Heads Petroleum Lease – Consent Application No.1 ("Consent Application No. 1"). Consent Application No. 1 was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report, which were prepared to assess the environmental impacts of the entirety of the KADP, including the decommissioning of the Inch onshore gas terminal. Following a request for further information from the Minister, and a second request for supplementary information, both of which were formally responded to by Kinsale Energy, Ministerial consent for Consent Application No. 1 was received on 26th April 2019.

This application now seeks approval as follows:

1. Application for approval of an addendum to Seven Heads Plan of Development under Section 13 of the 1960 Act

Pursuant to Section 13 of the 1960 Act, PSE Seven Heads Limited, a subsidiary of PSE Kinsale Energy Limited is hereby applying to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications (the “Minister”) for approval for an additional addendum to the Seven Heads Plan of Development. This addendum is seeking consent for the decommissioning of certain facilities set out in the Decommissioning Plan – Seven Heads Petroleum Lease – Consent Application No.2 (“Consent Application No. 2”), a copy of which is enclosed with this application and the scope of which is summarised below.

In accordance with Section 13A of the 1960 Act, this application is accompanied by the EIAR which was submitted with Consent Application No. 1 along with:

- i) an addendum to the EIAR to reflect the additional information provided to the Minister on 14th November 2018 during the Consent Application No. 1 process, and additional relevant environmental information which has been published since the preparation of the EIAR (“EIAR Addendum No 1”).
- ii) a further addendum to the EIAR to reflect additional relevant environmental information which has been published since the preparation of the EIAR and EIAR Addendum No 1 (“EIAR Addendum No 2”).

In addition, the application is accompanied by the AA Screening Report which was submitted with Consent Application No. 1 along with:

- i) an addendum AA Screening Report to reflect the additional information provided to the Minister on 14th November 2018 and 12th December 2018 during the Consent Application No. 1 process, and additional relevant environmental information which has been published since the preparation of the AA Screening Report (“AA Screening Report Addendum No. 1”).
- ii) a further addendum AA Screening Report to reflect additional relevant environmental information which has been published since the preparation of the AA Screening Report and the AA Screening Report Addendum No. 1 (“AA Screening Report Addendum No. 2”).

2. Application for Consent under Section 5 of the Continental Shelf Act 1968 (as amended)

Pursuant to Section 5(2) of the Continental Shelf Act 1968, as amended, the consent of the Minister is also sought to alter certain facilities in the area designated pursuant to Article 2 of the Continental Shelf Designated Areas Order 1993 SI 92 of 1993.

3. Scope of Consent Application No. 2

The application covers the decommissioning of certain facilities in the Seven Heads gas field, located within the Seven Heads Petroleum Lease area in offshore petroleum licensing Blocks 48/23 and 48/24. The activities covered by the application are:

- To leave *in-situ* all infield pipelines and umbilicals associated with the Seven Heads gas field
- To use engineering materials (Rock Placement) to protect the pipelines and umbilicals in situ

Further details of the facilities to be decommissioned and the proposed work schedule are contained in the enclosed Decommissioning Plan – Seven Heads Petroleum Lease - Consent Application No.2. Following discussions with DECC regarding potential future use of the facilities, it was the position of the Department that Consent Application No. 2 should be submitted on the basis that arrangements are not to be made to provide for the future use of the pipelines and umbilicals. Kinsale Energy is proceeding with decommissioning on the basis that none of the pipelines or umbilicals will be re-used.

This application covers only the facilities noted above and detailed in Decommissioning Plan – Seven Heads Petroleum Lease - Consent Application No. 2. Consent Application No. 1 covered the plugging of 5 subsea wells, the removal of subsea production structures, wellheads, spool pieces, umbilical jumpers and all associated protection materials. This application covers the remaining facilities to be decommissioned.

4. EIAR and AA Screening Report

The above applications are accompanied by an EIAR, EIAR Addendums, an AA Screening Report and the AA Screening Report Addendums. These documents have been prepared to assess the environmental impacts of the entirety of the KADP, including the decommissioning of the Inch onshore gas terminal.

A public notice will be published in the Irish Examiner on 14 October 2021. Copies of the notice are included with this application.

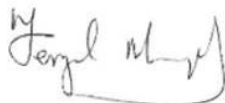
One electronic copy of the following documents is enclosed:

- Cover Letter (this letter)
- Copy of Public Notice
- Decommissioning Plan – Consent Application No. 2
- EIAR & Addendums
- AA Screening Report & Addendums
- Copy Letter to Prescribed Bodies

The application will also be made available for viewing or purchase for a reasonable fee at the PSE Kinsale Energy Limited Office (Mahon, Cork) for a period of one month from the date of publication of the notice.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



FG Murphy
For PSE Kinsale Energy Limited

Encl. CD containing the following.

1. Public Notice
2. Letter to Prescribed Bodies
3. List of Prescribed Bodies
4. Decommissioning Plan
5. EIAR & Addendums
6. AA Screening Report & Addendums