

Ms Morgan

Mr Nugent

An tAire Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide

Decision Sought

The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications (the "Minister") approves:

- *The 'Decommissioning Plan – Kinsale Head Petroleum Lease (OPL 1) – Consent Application No. 3' an addendum proposed by PSE Kinsale Energy Limited ("KEL") to the Kinsale Head Plan of Development, which covers the decommissioning of certain facilities known as the "Kinsale Head Gas Fields", pursuant to Petroleum Lease No.1 dated 7 May 1970 (the "Lease"), which was granted under Section 13 of the Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act, 1960, as amended ("POMDA"); and*
- *That KEL (the "Applicant") may alter certain facilities pursuant to Section 5(2) of the Continental Shelf Act 1968 (as amended) from the area designated pursuant to Section 2 of S.I. No. 92/1993 - Continental Shelf (Designated Areas) Order, 1993.*

1 Background

- 1.1 The Kinsale Head Gas Fields (Kinsale Head Gas Field, which also comprises Southwest Kinsale, and Ballycotton Gas Field) are located in the Celtic Sea approximately 50km off the south coast of Ireland. An indenture of agreement was entered into on 13 January 1959 (the "**Parent Agreement**") between the then Minister for Industry and Commerce and Ambassador Irish Oil Limited ("**Ambassador Oil**") wherein, the Minister, inter alia, undertook to grant Ambassador Oil an exploration licence. The Kinsale Head Gas Fields were subsequently developed by Marathon Petroleum Company (Ireland) Ltd ("**Marathon**") under the Lease. Commercial production commenced in 1978.
- 1.2 The Kinsale Head Gas Fields were enlarged in subsequent years to include the satellite "Ballycotton Gas Field" and the "Southwest Kinsale Gas Field", which are both included by way of amendment to the Lease. An addendum to the Lease dated 29 November 2006 provided for the use of Southwest Kinsale Gas Fields as a gas storage facility. This operation ceased in April 2017 as it was no longer commercially viable.
- 1.3 In 2009, Marathon transferred its entire legal and 100% beneficial interest in the Lease to PETRONAS, Malaysia's national oil company. The Kinsale Head Gas Fields are now operated by KEL, a wholly owned subsidiary of PETRONAS.

- 1.4 At its peak production in the 1990s, the Kinsale Head Gas Fields produced over 300 MMscfd of gas and was the only producing offshore gas field in Ireland until Corrib gas field came on production in late December 2015.
- 1.5 A Cessation of Production application was submitted by the operator on 2 June 2019. The application was subsequently approved by the Minister on 28 November 2019. This allowed production operations to cease on or after 31 March 2020. Gas production from the wells was shut in on 5 July 2020 when all the gas reserves in the various fields were depleted.
- 1.6 Since cessation of gas production, decommissioning of the facilities commenced following receipt of all necessary regulatory and environmental approvals.

2 Previous Applications

- 2.1 The Kinsale Area Gas Fields and facilities are made up of (i) the Kinsale Head Gas Fields and facilities and (ii) 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**") and includes the Relevant Works, as defined below.
- 2.2 On 21 June 2018, the Minister determined, pursuant to Section 13B (2) of the POMDA, that an Environmental Impact Assessment ("**EIA**") was required for the KADP.
- 2.3 This was accompanied by an 'Environmental Impact Assessment Report' ("**EIAR**") including a Non-Technical Summary in accordance with section 13A and 13B of the POMDA 1960, as amended and a 'Report for the Purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening and Article 12 Assessment Screening' ("**AA Screening Report**"). The EIAR and the AA Screening Report both cover the environmental impacts of the entire decommissioning of the facilities for both the Kinsale Head Gas Fields and the Seven Heads Gas Field and all three phases, i.e., they cover the entire KADP.
- 2.4 On 23 April 2019 the Minister of State consented to certain works, namely the plugging and abandoning of wells and the removal of subsea infrastructure in both the Kinsale Head Gas Fields and Seven Heads Gas Field and the removal of the two platform topside structures located in the Kinsale Head Gas Field.
- 2.5 On 24 February 2020, the Minister of State consented to certain further works, namely the complete removal of the offshore platform jackets (legs located in the Kinsale Head Gas Field, in accordance with OSPAR Decision 98/3.

3 Current Application

- 3.1 On 13 October 2021, the Applicant applied to the Minister to decommission certain facilities within the Kinsale Head Gas Fields (**TAB 1**) (the "**Application**").

- 3.2 The underlying details of the Application are set out in the 'Decommissioning Plan – Kinsale Head Petroleum Lease (OPL 1) – Consent Application No. 3' (the "**Decommissioning Plan No. 3**") (**TAB 2**) accompanying the Application.
- 3.3 The scope of work ("**Relevant Works**") involved in the Decommissioning Plan No. 3 is outlined below and has been submitted on the basis that none of the pipelines or umbilicals will be re-used:
- (a) to leave in-situ all infield pipelines and umbilicals associated with the Kinsale Head Gas Fields;
 - (b) to leave in-situ the 24" export pipeline (offshore and onshore section) and to fill the onshore section with grout; and
 - (c) to use engineering materials (Rock Placement) to protect the pipelines and umbilicals in situ (where applicable).
- 3.4 On 13 October 2021, a separate application was made by PSE Seven Heads Limited ("**SHL**") to the Minister to decommission certain facilities within the adjoining Seven Head Gas Field. That application will be the subject of a separate submission and decision.
- 3.5 This was accompanied by an 'Environmental Impact Assessment Report' ("**EIAR**") including a Non-Technical Summary (**TAB 4**) in accordance with section 13A and 13B of the POMDA 1960, as amended and a 'Report for the Purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening and Article 12 Assessment Screening' ("**AA Screening Report**") (**TAB 3**). The EIAR and the AA Screening Report both cover the environmental impacts of the entire decommissioning of the facilities for both the Kinsale Head Gas Fields and the Seven Heads Gas Field and all three phases, i.e., they cover the entire KADP.
- 3.6 On 25 July 2022, the Environment Assessment Unit ("**EAU**") of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (the "**Department**") determined (**TAB 16**):
- (a) that an Appropriate Assessment for the 'Kinsale Head Decommissioning Plan – Kinsale Head Petroleum Lease (OPL1) – Consent Application No. 3' is not required as it can be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information, following screening under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI No. 477 of 2011 (as amended), that the decommissioning works, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site, and;
 - (b) that the assessment for Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) Species has been found to be of an acceptable standard to be satisfied that there would be no significant adverse effects on Annex IV species, should approval be granted for the Application.

4 **Ministerial considerations in assessing the Application**

The Minister must be satisfied with the following as part of its assessment of the Decommissioning Plan No. 3:

- 4.1 Minister to be satisfied with the Decommissioning Plan No. 3 submitted in accordance with the Lease granted under Section 13 of the POMDA.
- 4.2 Minister to be satisfied that the applicant may alter certain facilities from the area designated pursuant to Section 2 of S.I. No. 92/1993 - Continental Shelf (Designated Areas) Order, 1993, pursuant to Section 5(2) of the Continental Shelf Act 1968.
- 4.3 Minister to be satisfied that the application and plans include all information and documents necessary to constitute a full explanation of the programme and its technical details to enable an informed judgement on the programme, in accordance with Clause III(6) (c) of the Lease.
- 4.4 Minister to be satisfied that the Lessee shall conduct its activities in an effective manner in accordance with Good Industry Practice, all provisions of the relevant Rules and Procedures Manual for Offshore Petroleum Exploration and Appraisal Operations and the Rules and Procedures Manual for Offshore Petroleum Production Operations (the "Rules and Procedures"), and all applicable laws in accordance with Clause III (7)(a) of the Lease.
- 4.5 Minister to consider the EIAR under European Union Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (which has yet to be transposed been administratively applied by the Minister since 16 May 2017), and in accordance with the requirements of section 13A and 13B of the POMDA.
- 4.6 In addition to the EIAR, Minister to have regard to relevant matters including the following (to the extent applicable in the context of the KADP and the subject matter of this letter):
 - (a) the particulars submitted with the plan seeking his or her approval for working of petroleum and any other material including maps and plans, in accordance with Section 13B(5)(a) of the POMDA;
 - (b) any additional material submitted in response to a request for further information, if any, in accordance with Section 13B(5)(b) of the POMDA; and
 - (c) any submissions or observations validly made in relation to the effects on the environment of the proposed development including those made by other consent authorities, statutory consultees or members of the public, in accordance with Section 13B(5)(c) of the POMDA.

4.7 Minister to attach such conditions to the decision as the Minister considers necessary to avoid, reduce and, if possible, offset the major adverse effects (if any) of the proposed working, in accordance with Section 13B(6) of the POMDA.

4.8 Minister may have regard to, and adopt in whole or in part, any reports prepared by his or her officers or by consultants, experts or other advisors, in accordance with Section 13B(7) of the POMDA.

5 **Process**

5.1 The Department has engaged Ramboll UK Limited (herein referred to as Ramboll) as independent expert environmental advisors to provide advice to the EAU with regard to the carrying out of statutory environmental assessments of applications for permission to carry out works within an existing petroleum licence, such as the present application by PSE and also took advice on technical matters from Selgovia Limited ("**Selgovia**"), who provide petroleum engineering services to the Department.

5.2 The Application together with the Decommissioning Plan No. 3, EIAR and AA Screening Report were posted on the Department's website on 14 October 2021 and the public were invited to make comments on the submission by 17 November 2021. The Application was also posted in the EIAR portal hosted by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage ("**DHLGH**").

5.3 The Applicant posted notice on 14 October 2021 in the Irish Examiner that it had applied to the Minister for approval for an addendum to the Kinsale Head Plan of Development and to alter certain facilities from the Continental Shelf and that the Application was accompanied by an EIAR and an AA Screening Report. The notices gave information on where the documents could be inspected and how to make submissions or observations to the Minister.

5.4 The Applicant also gave notice of the Application in writing to a list of prescribed bodies¹ as set out in SI 141/1990 (Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act, 1960 (Section 13A)) Regulations, 1990 and a further list of bodies notified by the Minister to the Applicant in accordance with Article 6 of the EIA *Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by the Directive 2014/52/EU* in writing on 14 October 2021.

5.5 Submissions were received from 5 parties (**TAB 5**), with those related to the EIA summarised in this submission.

¹ Cork County Council, the Commissioners of Public Works, An Taisce, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (National Parks & Wildlife Service), the Minister for Rural and Community Development, the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht), Sport and Media, the Minister for Transport, the Health and Safety Authority, the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, the Marine Institute, the Environmental Pillar, the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, the Heritage Council, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

- 5.6 The Applicant submitted additional information on 27 January 2022. The additional information (**TAB 6 A-C**) contained an Addendum to AA Screening, Addendum to EIAR and a Pre and post rock placement Fisheries Assessment.
- 5.7 The additional information was posted on the Department's website on 31 January 2022 and the public were invited to make comments on the submission by 7 March 2022.
- 5.8 The Applicant posted notice on 31 January 2022 in the Irish Examiner that it had provided additional information to the Minister for approval. The notices gave information on where the documents could be inspected and how to make submissions or observations to the Minister.
- 5.9 Submissions were received from [1] party (**TAB 7**), with those related to the EIA summarised in this submission.
- 5.10 Further information was sought by the Department from the Applicant on 11 April 2022 in regard to the reasoning and justification for the screening out of certain effects on receptors, the competency of experts responsible for the preparation of the EIAR Addendum No. 3 and a Non-Technical Summary to reflect EIAR Addendum No. 3. The Applicant responded to the request for further information on 22 April 2022 (**TAB 8**).
- 5.11 The additional information was posted on the Department's website on 26 April 2022 and the public were invited to make comments on the submission by 10 May 2022.
- 5.12 Submissions were received from [3] parties (TAB 9), with those related to the EIA summarised in this submission.
- 5.13 Having reviewed the Application submission and observations submitted to the Minister, EAU made an Environmental Assessment (EIAR) Review Determination (TAB 16) the conclusions of which apply to both the Kinsale Head gas fields and the Seven Heads gas field.

Consultation with the Minister for Transport

- 5.14 On 6 December 2021, the Department consulted (**TAB 11**) with the Minister for Transport on KEL's application to leave in situ to leave in-situ all infield pipelines and umbilicals, to leave in-situ the 24" export pipeline (offshore and onshore section); and to use engineering materials (Rock Placement) to protect the pipelines and umbilicals in situ (where applicable).
- 5.15 The Minister for Transport advised on 21 March 2022 (**TAB 12**) that *"As the majority of the works are being conducted inside the 500m exclusion zone there should not be an adverse effect on the safety of navigation. However in the interests of safe navigation a **Marine Notice** will be required to be issued close to the time of the commencement of the works detailing the scope of the works, the vessels involved and any other information which maybe relevant."*

5.16 It is proposed that the Minister’s consent to the application includes a requirement on the applicant to provide this information to the Minister for Transport at the appropriate time in line with the request.

6 Environmental Impact Assessment

The EAU as part of its Determination considered the works proposed under this application. The Environmental Management Commitments and Mitigation Measures presented within the EIAR and EIAR Addenda are considered to be appropriate and adequate for managing the anticipated effects associated with the decommissioning activities.

EAU have Determined that the application by PSE to carry out the decommissioning of certain facilities in the Kinsale Head and Ballycotton gas fields, located within the Kinsale Head Petroleum Lease area in offshore petroleum licensing Blocks 48/20, 48/25, 49/16 and 49/21 is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures referred to in Section 5 of the Ramboll EIAR Technical Review (the “**Report**”) (TAB 10), which are adopted and set out in Table 1. This decision is contingent on the inclusion of these mitigation measures in any consent that may be granted in respect of this application.

6.1 A detailed Environmental Management Plan (EMP) specific to the requirements of the works the subject of this application will be prepared by the contractors based on the draft EMP and will be provided to the DECC for approval by the Minister before any works take place. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (MHLGH) has set out its requirements in terms of archaeological monitoring and these requirements will be included as a condition of consent. The EAU have determined the exact condition that the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the DHLGH should apply for this phase of decommissioning, which is set out in the conditions to the proposed consent further below

Summary of results of consultation, information gathered and manner dealt with

6.2 Eleven responses were received in the consultation with the public and prescribed bodies, with five of them relevant to the EIAR. A summary of these five relevant responses is set out below:

Observation / Submission	Response
DHLGH Development Applications Unit (DAU) On behalf of National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	
The Department has been engaged in assessing previous iterations of this development, notably in 2018. All previous comments made by the Department remain relevant and should be taken into consideration and enacted as mitigation as previously recommended.	The EIAR assessment by EAU has considered all comments received in relation to the works proposed under this consent application and previous consent applications (Consent Application No. 1 and Consent Application No. 2).

<p>The submitted Cultural Heritage chapters (underwater and terrestrial) and 2018 Cultural Heritage Assessment cite a number of wrecks that are located in close proximity to either well heads or pipelines: ‘The closest of these wrecks is UC42 which is designated by UHO and located within 200m of the export pipeline to the Inch Terminal and 5.5km south east of Roches Point. The shipwreck of the Elizabeth Jane, sunk in 1916, is also noted to be located approximately 560m from the export pipeline. Additionally, a number of other charted shipwrecks are located throughout the wider Celtic Sea area, as are a number of other wrecks, the positions of which are approximate. No prehistoric or archaeological remains are known in the immediate vicinity of the Kinsale Area infrastructure’ (EIAR p. 125). It should be noted that the wreck of the UC-42 (W5519) is not designated by UHO but is afforded statutory protection under the National Monuments Acts (Amended) 1987, as are all wrecks over 100-years old. This wreck, according to the 2018 Cultural Heritage Assessment, is situated only 30m east of the export pipeline and not 200m from it as stated in the EIAR: ‘Wreck W5519 lies only 30m east of the pipeline and is the site of a German submarine, UC-42, which was lost in September 1917 while attempting to lay mines across the mouth of Cork harbour. The submarine measures 5m wide, 45m long, 3.7m in maximum height and lies on its port side, orientated NW-SE, at a depth of 27m. All decommissioning works must avoid all impacts with the charted position’ (p. 6). The 2018 Cultural Heritage Assessment (ADCO Ltd.) notes in relation to the Seven Heads well: ‘There is a small series of four known wrecksites in the wider vicinity, the closest of which, Wreck W11050, lies 2.7km north of the wells. The name and details of the wreck are not known, as are those of the other wrecks that lie at a further remove’ (p. 5).</p>	<p>The EIAR assessment by EAU has considered the observations made in relation to wrecks.</p>
<p>In light of the above there are no objections to the decommissioning works proceeding once the following are included as conditions in any Permit granted for this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The services of a suitably qualified and suitably experienced maritime archaeologist are engaged to monitor all decommissioning works for wreck sites that are less than 300m to proposed decommissioning infrastructure. • The applicant shall engage with the archaeologist by providing specifications in advance of the proposed decommissioning works, to allow the archaeologist to determine any mitigation strategies that may need to be put in place to protect identified shipwreck remains. In particular the wrecks, including the UC-42, that are in closest proximity to the decommissioning works (including any impacts from plant and machinery), shall have an adequate exclusion zone 	<p>The EIAR assessment by EAU has considered all proposed conditions related to archaeological monitoring. Mitigation and management commitments for adherence by the applicant are captured in Section 5 of the EIAR Statutory Environmental Assessment report (TAB 10).</p>

<p>imposed to ensure there is no impact on the known location of the wreck and its immediate environs. The applicant shall be prepared to be advised by the consultant archaeologist and this Department in this regard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision shall be made to accommodate the monitoring archaeologist on board the decommissioning vessels to enable them to successfully carry out their work. • The monitoring archaeologist shall have the power to have works suspended in a particular or for a particular element of the decommissioning programme, should known or previously unknown underwater cultural heritage be identified or impacted. The Underwater Archaeology Unit shall be contacted immediately in this event. • The archaeological monitoring shall be licensed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and a detailed method statement containing the monitoring strategy shall accompany the licence application. • As with previous requirements, the nature and extent of the foreshore decommissioning works are not clear. If there is to be impact along the nearshore and foreshore, then this should be subject to archaeological monitoring, and the methodology shall include details of this. The level and scale of archaeological monitoring for this element of the works can be determined once the scope of the works is clarified. The consultant archaeologist can address this in their method statement. <p>Upon completion of the archaeological monitoring, a detailed monitoring report shall be forwarded to the National Monuments Services' Underwater Archaeology Unit.</p>	
<p>Irish Whale and Dolphin Group</p>	
<p>It is generally recognised from the noise levels supplied with the application that these are not sufficient to pose a serious threat or disturbance to cetaceans, except in the immediate vicinity of activities. However, on pages 187 and 188 (Kinsale Development EIA Volume 2) the claim the Doppler Velocity logs are inaudible to marine mammals is correct because of their high frequency, but the assertion that the USBL systems are “not expected to be discernible from the broadband noise of associated vessels” is either incorrect or else these vessels produce a lot of noise in unusual frequencies which requires strict mitigation. Furthermore, while the frequencies of 20 to 40 kHz for the operating range of USBL systems is roughly correct. The widely used Kongsberg (2016) USBL systems such as HiPAP 502, HiPAP 452 and HiPAP 352 operate between 21 and 31 kHz</p>	<p>EIA Addendum no. 3 Pre/post rock placement surveys (Jan 22 Rev 1), provides further detail on expected sound sources, by detailed potential equipment to be used, e.g. section 5.2.1: <i>No low frequency survey equipment will be used (the lowest frequency source which may be used is the USBL, which typically operates at 20-40kHz); no airgun, sparker (electrostatic discharge) or boomer</i></p>

<p>and the SonarSyne (no date) ROVnav6, chosen as an example in the EIAR operates between 19 and 34 kHz and the Tritech MicroNav from 20 to 28 kHz. Some USBL systems intended for deepwater operation such as the HiPAP102 use frequencies from 10 to 15.5 kHz. Transponder source levels with Kongsberg depend on setup and mode of operation but vary from 190 dB to 206 dB re1μPa@1m and the Sonardyne system operates at 187 to 196 dB re1μPa@1m. The operating source levels of the Tritech system are not available. Therefore, the information on the USBL if based on the Sonardyne system alone and some 10 dB lower than systems that may be used, lacks full consideration of source level impact. 10 dB represents a trebling of sound pressure levels.</p>	<p><i>(accelerated water mass) will be used</i></p> <p>Table 5.1 summarises indicative source characteristics of the survey equipment (and comparable equipment) which will potentially be used in the planned surveys, drawing on results of Crocker & Fratantonio (2016) supplemented by manufacturer specifications where required.</p> <p>In addition to those sources described in Table 5.1, <i>there may be the use of an USBL system to monitor the position of towed equipment. The USBL system consists of a multielement transducer mounted on the hull of a vessel and a transponder attached to the towed equipment (e.g. sidescan sonar).</i></p> <p>It is considered that through EIAR Addendum no. 3 the applicant has adequately considered sound sources with respect to disturbance to marine mammals.</p>
<p>The multi-beam and sidescan sonar systems are stated as having a frequency usage of 200- 400 kHz and 114 or 410 kHz respectively. It should be remembered that these are target frequencies for this equipment and such equipment will produce side lobes of energy in secondary frequencies. These frequencies have only been found below injury levels to date and therefore only represent a possible disturbance threat.</p>	<p>It is considered that through EIAR Addendum no. 3 the applicant has adequately considered sound sources with respect to disturbance to marine mammals</p>
<p>Such decommissioning work has never been carried out in Irish Waters previously. The equipment models to be used are assumed and the frequency range and sound source levels not necessarily completely accurate. While it seems unlikely that sound source levels will reach those high enough to cause temporary threshold shift, disturbance is entirely possible. In order to properly assess the impact of the decommissioning activities there should be acoustic monitoring of activities in the</p>	<p>It is considered that through EIAR Addendum no. 3 the applicant has adequately considered sound sources with respect to disturbance to marine mammals, and no likely significant effect on marine mammals from underwater</p>

<p>frequencies used by marine mammals up to 48 kHz as a minimum, and ideally to 200 kHz. Noise levels encountered in noise monitoring must be explained, with the source identified. The IWDG have called for German regulations for windfarm construction to be implemented, which established noise induced injury prevention thresholds that call for Sound Exposure Levels (SELs) not exceed 160 dB re1µPa2s and a peak-to-peak sound pressure level not exceeding 190 dB re 1 µPa at a distance of 750 m. Similar noise monitoring should also ensure these threshold levels are not exceeded in this operation.</p>	<p>noise is predicted. Therefore it is not proposed to engage a Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) or undertake noise monitoring during the works.</p>
<p>Additionally, a Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) should record all sightings and operations, including activation of all acoustic equipment, and conduct effort watches with detailed recording of marine mammal interactions with survey operations, where these may occur. If operations are occurring in more than one location simultaneously this would require a second MMO. The MMO should be authorised to stop or delay operations where safe to do so, if there is a clear disturbance and conflict with the Habitats Directive Article 12, and report on the rationale for any such decision immediately to the regulator. PAM (Passive Acoustic Monitoring) would greatly assist the correct reporting of noise production activities and allow identification of specific activities and operations which cause disturbance. These could then be more accurately monitored and reported by mitigation monitoring personnel.</p>	<p>As no likely significant effect on marine mammals from underwater noise is predicted, it is not proposed to engage an MMO during the works, or that any specific mitigation is required in relation to underwater noise effects.</p>
<p>SLR Consulting on behalf of Mag Mell Energy Ireland Ltd</p>	
<p>Based on the Consent Application No. 3 submitted by PSE Kinsale Energy Ltd, Mag Mell Energy Ireland Ltd has the following requests for clarification and additional information required to integrate the reuse of the 24" gas export pipeline in the Mag Mell LNG FSRU project engineering design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is indicated that the 24" pipeline has already been filled with inhibited seawater and disconnected from KA platform. Please can this be confirmed. Also, it is unclear where the 24" pipeline has been disconnected from the KA platform (e.g. at the top or bottom of the riser). Please can the point of disconnection be confirmed. • It is not indicated if the connection between the 24" pipeline and the riser/spoolpieces at the base of the KA platform are welded or flanged connections. Please can this be clarified, and if it is a flanged connection, please provide details of the flange type. 	<p>This information is not considered necessary to inform the determination by EAU and therefore this additional information has not been requested from the applicant.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is indicated that no subsea intervention is required if/when the grout plug is pumped in at the onshore end of the 24” pipeline. This infers that there is some type of end fitting already installed on the subsea end of the 24” pipeline. Please can details of this end fitting be provided (e.g. flanged or welded, flange type, valving details, etc). • Please provide details of the chemicals used to inhibit the seawater prior to filling the 24” pipeline (i.e. type, specification/datasheet, dosage, period of time the protection provides, when inhibiting chemicals were introduced, etc). • Is it assumed that the operator has carried out periodic internal in-line inspections (ILI) of the 24” pipeline. Please provide the latest ILI reports and date. In particular, please provide the report and data from the most recent ILI. If possible, please also provide historical ILI so that the rate of any corrosion can be assessed. • It is assumed that the operator has also carried out periodic external survey inspections of the 24” pipeline. Please provide the latest survey reports and data. In particular, please provide the latest report and data from any cathodic protection surveys performed. • The 24” pipeline is reported to have been installed in 1977 and given the timeframe it is assumed that the operator will have been obliged to gain approval of any critical changes in design details and/or operating limitations for the 24” pipeline. Please provide details of any such changes and any safety case submissions required to obtain approval to operate. • It is assumed that an integrity management system was in place by the operator. Please provide the latest annual report/s regarding integrity assessment/s for the 24” pipeline. 	
<p>Environmental Protection Agency</p>	
<p>The Agency advises that two dumping at sea permit applications have been submitted to the Agency for the Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSE Kinsale Energy Limited submitted a dumping at sea permit application (Reg. No. S0034-01) to the Agency on 21st October 2021. The permit application is for the dumping at sea (or leaving in situ) of redundant gas export pipelines, in-field gas pipelines, in-field control umbilicals and umbilical contents associated with the decommissioning of the Kinsale Head gas fields and facilities. The applicant is seeking to leave in place circa 92 km of subsea steel pipelines varying in size from 273–610 mm and 21km of control umbilicals varying in diameter 	<p>EAU have undertaken the EIAR assessment independent of the assessment by the Agency in relation to the dumping at sea permit applications</p>

<p>from 82–98mm. This application is currently under assessment by the Agency. The application and associated documents can be found at the following link: https://epawebapp.epa.ie/terminalfour/DaS/DaS-view.jsp?regno=S0034-01.</p> <p>PSE Seven Heads Limited submitted a dumping at sea permit application (Reg. No. S0035-01) to the Agency on 22nd October 2021. The permit application is for the dumping at sea (or leaving in situ) of redundant in-field gas pipelines, in-field umbilicals and umbilical contents associated with the decommissioning of the Seven Heads gas fields and facilities. The applicant is seeking to leave in place circa 61km of subsea steel pipelines, varying in size from 203–457 mm and 61 km of control umbilicals, varying in diameter from 93.2–123.5mm. The application is currently under assessment by the Agency. The application and associated documents can be found at the following link: https://epawebapp.epa.ie/terminalfour/DaS/DaS-view.jsp?regno=S0035-01.</p>	
<p>The Agency would further advise that in considering and deciding on the application that the proposed activity should not result in a contravention of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC, Bathing Water Directive 73/160/EEC or Environmental Liabilities Directive 2004/35/EC.</p>	<p>The EIAR assessment by EAU has considered compliance with all Directives relevant to the applications.</p>
<p>Sea Fisheries Protection Authority</p>	
<p>SFPA believe that there are no recognisable possible impacts on existing wild fisheries around or adjacent to the proposed area specified in application number FW.8.98 / S0035-01. Kinsale Energy has received consent to decommission the Kinsale Head gas fields and facilities, which are at the end of their productive life. There is no actual material being dumped, instead, the proposed ‘dumping at sea’ activity as described in application number FW.8.98 / S0035-01 is to retain in place the redundant gas export pipeline, the in-field gas pipelines, the in-field umbilicals and umbilical contents at the locations in which they were installed. The gas wells are being plugged, the pipelines filled with seawater and the platforms and subsea structures are being removed. One of the final decommissioning activities will be the placement of rock protection (rock berms) on the ends of the</p>	<p>The EIAR assessment by EAU has considered effects on fisheries.</p>

pipelines and umbilicals which might form a hazard to fishing activities.	
There are no shellfish growing areas within the proposed area or adjacent to the area. SFPA believe that there are no recognisable possible impacts on shellfish growing areas around or adjacent to the proposed area specified in application number FW.8.98 / S0035-01	The EIAR assessment by EAU has considered effects on fisheries.
SFPA believe that there are no recognisable possible impacts on seafood safety due to the activities involved in the process of decommissioning the Kinsale Head Gas fields and facilities described by Kinsale Energy in application number FW.8.98 / S0035-01	The EIAR assessment by EAU has considered effects on fisheries.

Environmental Conditions

- 6.3 Accordingly, having adopted the Ramboll Report and the conclusions reached in that Report, EAU are satisfied and have decided that the application by PSE to carry out the decommissioning of certain facilities in the Kinsale Head and Ballycotton gas fields, located within the Kinsale Head Petroleum Lease area in offshore petroleum licensing Blocks 48/20, 48/25, 49/16 and 49/21 is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures referred to in Section 5 of the Ramboll Report, which EAU adopt and set out in Table 1 of the Determination (below). This decision is contingent on the inclusion of these mitigation measures in any consent that may be granted in respect of this application.
- 6.4 Further, PSE must seek approval from the Department prior to commencement of the proposed activities for the vessel(s) to be used in the decommissioning activities. Confirmation will be required that the survey equipment and methodology are equivalent to that described in the PSE documentation and that the description of the development used to inform the EIAR is still valid. Accordingly, this decision is further contingent on this requirement also being included as a condition of any consent granted in respect of this application.

7 Technical Assessment

- 7.1 On 26 July 2022, Selgovia provided its review (**TAB 13**) of the Application and concluded that
- KEL’s proposed approach to decommissioning the remaining pipeline infrastructure is conventional and consistent with that taken by Operators with similar infrastructure in the UK sector of the North Sea to date.”

and that

Overall, there are no technical concerns with KEL's application that would prevent the Minister from consenting to the Consent Application.

7.2 Selgovia recommended that in granting Ministerial consent the following issues should be addressed through conditions to the Consent:

- (a) Whilst the Applicant does not state how many surveys it intends to conduct over the proposed 10-year post-decommissioning 'monitoring' period, this should be agreed with GSRO prior to the termination of the Lease. Specific requirements should be informed by the pre and post rock placement surveys which are proposed to be carried out under the Application.
- (b) The duration of the post-decommissioning monitoring period together with the type, timing and frequency of surveys planned over the post-decommissioning monitoring period should be explicitly agreed separately with GSRO prior to the Lease termination, provided that such [post-decommissioning monitoring] surveys that may lead to the identification of required rectification works and such works must be carried out by PSE to GSRO's satisfaction. The pre and post rock placement surveys, which form part of this application (Consent Application No. 3), should help inform any requirements or conditions relating to the post-decommissioning monitoring.
- (c) In common with earlier Consent Applications, approval of the Application should be conditional upon all consented activities being completed by the date falling 4 years following the date of the Minister's consent to the Application.
- (d) The Decommissioning Close Out report proposed by KEL in section 7.3 should also explicitly include the following:

- 1. An Operations Report
- 2. A related Verification Report

7.3 The Geoscience Regulation Office ("GSRO") Technical Division have reviewed the application and Selgovia's assessment and have concluded (**TAB 14**) as follows:

GSRO is satisfied that Selgovia Ltd has carried out a comprehensive technical assessment of the Application and that the conclusions and recommendations of Selgovia Ltd are acceptable. From a technical perspective GSRO is satisfied that there is no reason to withhold approval of the Application, subject to the following conditions, which includes the recommendations by Selgovia Ltd:

- 1. The Decommissioning Close Out Report proposed by KEL should also include an Operations Report and a related Verification Report on the decommissioning operations.
- 2. All consented operations should be completed within a defined term, in the order of 3 to 4 years.

3. The duration of the post-decommissioning monitoring period together with the type, timing and frequency of surveys planned over the post-decommissioning monitoring period should be explicitly agreed separately with the Department prior to the termination of the Lease provided that such surveys that may lead to the identification of required rectification works and such works shall be carried out by KEL to the Minister's satisfaction.
4. All operations shall be conducted in compliance with the provisions of the Department's Rules and Procedures Manual for Offshore Petroleum Exploration and Appraisal Operations and the Department's Rules and Procedures Manual for Offshore Petroleum Production Operations ("Rules and Procedures"). In particular, the KEL must comply with reporting procedures of the Rules and Procedures.
5. Daily reporting shall commence from the time the consented operations commence and shall continue until the consented operations are completed.
6. Daily progress reports should be sent to DECC by posting to a designated secure website or by emailing to GSRO@decc.gov.ie before noon of each day. KEL is also required to make weekly progress reports of survey operations and rock placement operations available to the Department each Thursday afternoon for the duration of the operations.

In addition, the following technical conditions contained in previous Ministerial Consents relating to the KADP² should also apply:

7. An initial decommissioning cost estimate should be provided to the Minister prior to commencement of Relevant Works. Subsequent to this, monthly reports should be provided to the Minister including costs, which should distinguish between the petroleum lease granted for the Seven Heads Gas Field and the Lease.
8. Verification reports should be prepared by an independent party acceptable to the Minister.
9. That KEL facilitate any authorised officer appointed by the Minister in accordance with the Rules and Procedures.

In addition, GSRO has carried out a technical assessment of the proposed pre- and post-rock placement surveys to be carried out in connection with Consent Application No. 2 (**TAB 15**). This assessment concludes that the proposed scope and equipment for the pre- and post-rock placement surveys are suitable to meet the objectives set, mainly; to inform the rock placement activities; to confirm the success of the rock placement activity which includes freespan areas and

² Ministerial Consents dated 26 April 2019 to the plugging and abandonment of wells and the removal of subsea infrastructure associated with the Kinsale Head, Ballycotton and Seven Heads gas fields and the removal of platform topsides in the Kinsale Head field.

pipeline/umbilical ends; and to provide information on the status of the pipelines for charting purposes post-decommissioning.

8 Other Relevant Matters

8.1 On 26 July 2022, Selgovia, provided its review (TAB 13) on the Application. Selgovia concluded the following from the Public Consultation of non-Environmental Issues

- i. Although many conceptual schemes for possible re-use of Kinsale area pipeline infrastructure have been proposed in the public domain by third parties, none has been identified to be demonstrably viable. Consequently, there is no reason or cause for KEL to delay decommissioning of the Kinsale pipeline infrastructure. The diligent execution of any consented works is entirely consistent with UK Guidelines (Ref. 4) which states that decommissioning should be executed without delay "...carried out as soon as reasonably practicable following cessation of production." (Ref. 4, Section 5.18).
- ii. Five submissions detailing comments to the Consent Application and related documents were technically reviewed as part of this assessment. Although four of these submissions called for the retention of pipeline infrastructure for potential future use, none was sufficiently mature to warrant a delay to the proposed decommissioning. None of the four had accounted for the fact that the pipelines had already been disconnected and displaced with seawater, nor had they addressed how future maintenance costs and associated liabilities would be met. One submission sought reassurance that any pipeline infrastructure remaining in place would not be re-used for future hydrocarbon production and transportation.

8.2 In accordance with Sections 13A(8) and 13A(8A) of the POMDA, after taking a decision on an application, the Minister shall:

- (a) publish a notice of the decision in the Iris Oifigiúil and in at least one daily newspaper published in the State;
- (b) make the notice and information of the reasons for decision available for inspection on the Department's website and the DHLGH's portal; and
- (c) the notice shall inform the public that a person may query the validity of a decision by way of an application for judicial review, and details where practical information on the review mechanism can be found.

8.3 The EAU has made and published a Determination that no Appropriate Assessment is required.

9 Reasoned Recommendation

- 9.1 A comprehensive due diligence exercise has been carried out by the Department on the application including the receipt of external technical advice and the carrying out of a public consultation, as described above. The matters raised in the public consultation have been carefully considered and an analysis of the responses has been conducted.
- 9.2 In relation to the EIA, EAU have concluded that, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures proposed, referred to in Section 5 of the Ramboll Report, which are adopted and set out in Table 1, and subject to compliance with the Environmental Conditions set out in paragraph 6.5, the proposed Relevant Works associated with the Decommissioning Plan No. 3 will not result in significant adverse effects on the environment.
- 9.3 It is recommended that the Minister grant consent, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures adopted and outlined in Table 1 and section 10.4.

10 Approval Sought

- 10.1 The Minister to confirm that:
- (a) having regard to this submission including the tabs attached to it;
 - (b) having considered the content of the EIAR and the further information provided and having determined that it adequately identifies, describes and assesses the direct and indirect effects of the Relevant Works;
 - (c) having considered the EAU's Determination and that the assessment for Annex IV Species have been found to be of an acceptable standard such that he can be satisfied that there would be no significant adverse effects on Annex IV species, should approval be granted for the Decommissioning Plan No. 3;
 - (d) having considered the reports prepared by GSRO and Selgovia;
 - (e) having regard to the following matters:
 - i. the nature, scale, extent and location of the Relevant Works;
 - ii. the particulars submitted with the Application seeking approval for the Relevant Works;
 - iii. the additional material submitted;
 - iv. the further material submitted in response to the request for further information;
 - v. the submissions and observations made in relation to the effects on the environment of the KADP as described above; and

vi. to any observations made by Public Consultation or State Body consultees

10.2 The Minister to confirm that he is satisfied:

- (a) that the Decommissioning Plan No. 3 is submitted in accordance with the Lease granted under Section 13 of the POMDA;
- (b) for the applicant to alter certain facilities pursuant to Section 5(2) of the Continental Shelf Act 1968 from the area designated pursuant to Section 2 of S.I. No. 92/1993 - Continental Shelf (Designated Areas) Order, 1993;
- (c) that having considered the EIAR Review made by the EAU with conditions that the Relevant Works are not likely to have a significant effect on the environment subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures set out in Table 1 subject to the environmental condition set out below;
- (d) that having considered the AA Screening Determination there will be no significant effects, individually or in combination with other plans or projects on any European sites protected under the Habitats Directive or the Birds Directive, having regard, inter alia, to the European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 473 of 2011) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) (SI 477/2011);
- (e) that the application and plans include all information and documents necessary to constitute a full explanation of the programme and its technical details to enable an informed judgement on the programme, in accordance with Clause III (6) (c) of the Lease;
- (f) that the Lessee shall execute all operations in or in connection with the Leasehold Area in a proper and work-manlike manner in accordance with methods and practice customarily used in good oilfield practice in accordance with Clause (7) (a) of the Lease; and,
- (g) to accept and adopt the content and conclusions of the reports prepared by GSRO and technical consultants Selgovia.
- (h) to accept and adopt the EAU's Determination

10.3 **Being satisfied regarding the matters outlined above, and having consulted with and received the consent of the Minister for Transport in respect of safety of navigation, the Minister approves:**

- (a) **The 'Decommissioning Plan – Kinsale Head Petroleum Lease (OPL 1)– Consent Application No. 3' an addendum proposed by KEL to the Kinsale Head Plan of**

Development, pursuant to the Lease granted under Section 13 of the POMDA as amended which covers the decommissioning of certain facilities in the Kinsale Gas Area; and

- (b) **That KEL may alter certain facilities from the area designated pursuant to Section 2 of S.I. No. 92/1993 - Continental Shelf (Designated Areas) Order, 1993, pursuant to Section 5(2) of the Continental Shelf Act 1968, as amended.**

10.4 In giving such consent it is recommended that the Minister require that:

1. The approval of the Application is conditional on KEL holding all licences, permits, consents and authorisations required by law to carry out any and all of the works, activities and operations contemplated in the Decommissioning Plan No. 3 and that the works, activities and operations shall be conducted at all times in compliance with all applicable laws.
2. The Decommissioning Close Out Report proposed by KEL should also include an Operations Report and a related Verification Report on the decommissioning operations.
3. Approval of the Consent Application No.3 should be conditional upon all consented activities being completed within a defined term, in the order of 3 to 4 years. All operations shall be conducted in compliance with the provisions of the Department's Rules and Procedures Manual for Offshore Petroleum Exploration and Appraisal Operations and the Department's Rules and Procedures Manual for Offshore Petroleum Production Operations ("Rules and Procedures"). In particular, the KEL must comply with reporting procedures of the Rules and Procedures.
4. Daily reporting shall commence from the time the consented operations commence and shall continue until the consented operations are completed.
5. Daily progress reports should be sent to DECC by posting to a designated secure website or by emailing to GSRO@decc.gov.ie before noon of each day. KEL is also required to make weekly progress reports of survey operations and rock placement operations available to the Department each Thursday afternoon for the duration of the operations.
6. Compliance with the conditions outlined in the attached Table 1: Mitigation measures required to be specified in any Consent that may be granted, following the EAU's EIAR Review Determination.
7. As the vessel(s) to be used are not yet known PSE must seek approval from the Department prior to commencement of the proposed activities for the vessel(s) to be used in the decommissioning activities. Confirmation will be required that the survey equipment and methodology are equivalent to that described in the PSE documentation and that the description of the development used to inform the EIAR is still valid.
8. An initial decommissioning cost estimate should be provided to the Minister prior to commencement of Relevant Works. Subsequent to this, monthly reports should be provided

to the Minister including costs, which should distinguish between the petroleum lease granted for the Seven Heads field and the Lease.

9. Verification reports should be prepared by an independent party acceptable to the Minister.
10. That KEL will provide 3 months advance notice to the Department before the commencement of grouting works to the onshore pipeline.
11. That KEL facilitate any authorised officer appointed by the Minister in accordance with the Rules and Procedures.
12. The duration of the post-decommissioning monitoring period together with the type, timing and frequency of surveys planned over the post-decommissioning monitoring period should be explicitly agreed separately with the Department prior to the termination of the Lease provided that such surveys that may lead to the identification of required rectification works and such works shall be carried out by PSE to the Minister's satisfaction.

Garry Dunphy
Geoscience Regulation Office
15 December 2022

Table 1: Mitigation measures required to be specified in any Consent that may be granted

Discipline	Mitigation Measure Proposed	Industry Standard	Project Specific
Compliance assurance	Ensure management of the applications for and monitoring of compliance with the requirements of project environmental permits and consents	X	
	A detailed Environmental Management Plan (EMP) specific to the requirements of the works the subject of this application will be prepared by the contractors based on the draft EMP, and will be provided to the DECC for approval by the Minister before any works take place.	X	
	As part of the EMP, all sources of natural materials to be used in undertaking the KADP (e.g. topsoil subsoil, rock armour/cover) will be sourced from suitably licenced facilities, and evidence of this will be provided to the Minister.		
	The applicant must seek prior Department approval for the vessel(s) to be used prior to commencement of the proposed activities. In this event confirmation will be required that the survey equipment and methodology on the vessel(s) are equivalent to that described in the EIA/AA Screening Reports and that the description of the development used to inform the Environmental Risk Assessment is still valid.	X	
Procurement	Ensure requirement to meet MARPOL standards are included in procurement of vessels and rigs to be used in decommissioning operations.	X	
Contractor Management	All vessels and the rig to be used during decommissioning will be subject to audit.	X	
	Contractor performance will be monitored throughout the decommissioning operations.		X
Activity Planning	Wherever possible, seek to minimise vessel days by making use of vessel synergies and careful activity phasing.		X
Physical Presence: Interaction	Notices to Mariners (NtM) will be issued to cover all phases of decommissioning work associated with each consent application to communicate the nature and timing of the	X	

with other users: decommissioning activities /operations	activities to relevant other users of the sea. Before decommissioning work commences, Kinsale Energy will provide a draft Marine Notices to the Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport, highlighting the nature of the work involved and the approximate length of time the works will last.		
	All vessels used in the decommissioning operations will meet applicable national and international standards (e.g. in terms of signals and lighting) and would follow established routes to ports.	X	
	Lighting and marking of the jackets if left in “lighthouse mode” for a period will be agreed with the Commissioner for Irish Lights to establish new Aids to Navigation (AtoN) to be installed until their removal. An up to date Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA) with traffic analysis will be undertaken to inform the Commissioners of Irish Lights to set the AtoN requirements. Lighting and marking will comply with IALA (International Association of Marine aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authority) Recommendations 0-139, on the Marking of Man-Made Offshore Structures (2013), and NtM will communicate the new lighting and marking arrangements.		X
	Consultation will take place with fisheries organisations and relevant marine authorities in accordance with legislation.	X	
	Guard vessels or standby vessels will be used during well abandonment to monitor statutory 500m zones and to minimise the potential for interaction between decommissioning vessels and other users.	X	X
Physical Presence: Interaction with other users: legacy materials left in situ	Rock cover remediation will be used to reduce the potential snagging risk associated with decommissioning pipelines and umbilicals left in situ, or with any potential protruding jacket leg stumps. The rock will be designed to be overtrawlable.		X
	The following measures will be implemented as part of the rock placement programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remediation of all pipeline/umbilical end sections and freespans using overtrawlable rock 		X

	<p>berms, with the option to rock cover all exposed pipeline sections to further reduce risks to third parties;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate rock-placement will be assured by the use of a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) guided fall pipe system on the rock-placement vessel; • On-going consultation with fisheries representatives and maritime authorities; • All infrastructure decommissioned in situ will be surveyed post-decommissioning to accurately record their location and status. This information will be included on navigational charts and also passed to representatives of the fishing community; and <p>Standard overtrawling surveys will also be undertaken where wellheads, spoolpieces etc. are removed to confirm the area is clear of debris and snagging hazards.</p>		
	<p>An additional survey will be carried out after the completion of the abandonment operations to confirm the integrity of the abandoned wells. The survey will be undertaken no earlier than 6 months, and no later than 24 months, after the completion of well abandonment operations, and the results shall be provided to the Minister.</p>		X
Discharges to sea	<p>To minimise potential effects from discharges to sea associated with the decommissioning works, all activities will be undertaken in accordance with regulatory and policy controls, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing operational controls for the management of routine marine discharges from the decommissioning activities (e.g. adherence to MARPOL standards); and • Ensure that a chemical risk assessment is undertaken as part of final well decommissioning chemical selection and apply for relevant chemical permits. Chemicals selected for use and discharge for well abandonment will be subject to a Permit to Use or Discharge Added Chemicals PUDAC). 	X	

	<p>All potential discharges associated with decommissioning the Kinsale Area facilities (e.g. from pipelines and well abandonment) are considered to be minor. Discharges from well abandonment will be minimal, subject to treatment/filtration, with chemicals being selected on the basis of the lowest hazard quotient for the required technical function.</p>		
<p>Waste: Materials Recycling, Reuse and Disposal</p>	<p>The decommissioning works shall be undertaken in a manner which maximises the potential for reuse and recycling, including source segregating waste where appropriate. Management of all waste will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant waste legislation and only permitted and licensed waste facilities will be used.</p> <p>A draft Resource and Waste Management Plan has been developed to establish the minimum standards that the contractor(s) must apply during the decommissioning works and accompanies Consent Application No. 3.</p> <p>A detailed Resource and Waste Management Plan will be prepared by the contractor(s) based on the draft Resource and Waste Management Plan, and will be provided to DECC for approval by the Minister prior to commencement of the decommissioning works.</p> <p>The draft Resource and Waste Management Plan indicates that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All relevant obligations governing storage, transfer, treatment and disposal of all wastes arising from the Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project will be complied with and the contractor(s) will implement approved method statements and procedures for transporting and managing waste as part of their detailed Resource and Waste Management Plan; • Resource and waste management objectives to be applied to the Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project to maximise the potential for reuse and recycling are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target 90% recycling rate by weight; 	<p>X</p>	

	<p>- Minimise disposal of waste to landfill; and - Minimise environmental impacts of waste management.</p> <p>A fully detailed description of solid waste generation associated with each of the key elements of the Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project will be provided in the detailed Resource and Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>The contractor(s) will put in place all relevant waste authorisations (detailing the name, address and authorisation details of proposed recovery and disposal facilities which will be used for all wastes generated from the decommissioning project) in advance of the removal of any waste and will maintain a register of resource and waste management information throughout the Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project</p>		
	<p>On completion of well abandonment and removal of subsea structures, an ROV survey of each relevant location will be undertaken to ensure that no debris remains in place. The results of these surveys shall be submitted to the Minister in the form of Seabed Clearance Certificates, prior to the relevant rig/vessel leaving the location.</p>	X	
Energy Use and Atmospheric emissions	<p>There is limited scope for mitigation measures to reduce the residual effect on atmospheric Greenhouse Gas (GHG) loading, or any local effects on air quality. There is the potential to minimise time in the field and associated vessel days and related emissions by making use of vessel synergies and careful activity phasing which would form part of standard programme management, and there is the potential to make further emissions reductions during contractor selection (e.g. those using modern efficient vessels); however neither of these are considered to significantly alter the predicted effect.</p>	X	
	<p>Emissions from material flows will be minimised by using a waste hierarchy approach consistent with the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC; establishing where there is scope for equipment and material re-use and recycling, with</p>	X	

	disposal only taking place where no feasible alternative is available.		
Accidental events	<p>To minimise potential effects from accidental events associated with the offshore decommissioning works, all activities will be undertaken in accordance with regulatory and policy controls, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other users of the Kinsale Area, which include fisheries, shipping and other sea users such as recreational sailing and those involved in maritime activities such as surveys, will be alerted to the survey and decommissioning activities via publication of Notices to Mariners detailing rig and vessel positions, activities and timing and by full navigation lighting on the rig and vessels; and • A standby vessel will minimise the potential for interaction between the rig and other users, and much of the decommissioning activity will be within existing exclusion zones thereby further reducing the potential for interaction. 	X	
	Adherence to Kinsale Energy risk management measures and legislative compliance will minimise the risk that an accidental event could occur (noting the already very low frequencies of such incidents relating to oil and gas activities), and therefore minimise the likelihood of any resultant significant effect. This includes measures which will be in place to avoid, as far as possible, spills from bunkering and supply operations, and general rig operations, including processes and procedures (e.g. bunkering procedures with reference to sea-state and daylight hours where practicable; procedure to be agreed with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS)), colour coding of hoses, storage of hoses in a safe area away from risk of physical damage, inspection of hose couplings, critical valves to be locked and controlled by permit, and general good housekeeping).		X
	Accidental events/environmental emergencies at the onshore Inch Terminal site requiring intervention may include uncontained spillage, leak or loss of containment incident	X	

	<p>(contractor inventory only as Inch Terminal will be hydrocarbon free), fire, etc.</p> <p>A list of site emergency contact numbers and the general emergency response actions will be compiled by the contractor(s) and posted at strategic locations throughout the site, such as the site entrance, safety stop-boards and contractor cabins. The emergency contact number list will be updated by each contractor to include their Safety Representative contact name and telephone number.</p>		
Accidental events: dropped objects	All lifting operations will be risk assessed.	X	
	During the removal of topsides, jackets, wellheads, spool pieces and other associated infrastructure, every care will be taken to minimise dropped objects and the generation of debris. Any dropped objects will be recovered during decommissioning operations and an independent seabed debris clearance survey conducted once decommissioning operations have been completed to verify that debris clearance has been completed.		X
Accidental events: loss of diesel inventories	Undertake audit of vessel bunkering procedures.	X	
	With regard to oil discharges (e.g. from machinery space drainage), the vessels will operate to MARPOL requirements for a Special Area, requiring oily water separation and monitoring prior to discharge. Discharges must be 15ppm or less, recorded in the Oil Record Book and only be made when underway.	X	
	All vessels and the rig to be used during decommissioning will be subject to audit and expected to adhere to Kinsale Energy Health, Environment and Safety policy. They will have in place the relevant, current Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plans (SOPEP) in accordance with MARPOL and/or an oil spill contingency plan, which would be implemented in the event of an accidental event.	X	

	Bunkering to be conducted in favourable sea states and during daylight hours so far as practicable. Procedure to be agreed with Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS).	X	
Physical disturbance: sensitive seabed features.	The minimisation of rig and vessel movements which require anchoring, and the use of dynamic positioning (DP) on most vessels, where practicable to reduce anchor deployment and for each option / activity involving rock placement, efforts will be made to minimise the volume of rock deployed, subject to achieving the required technical function. (Note that sensitive features (e.g. wrecks, Annex I habitats) have not been recorded in previous surveys within the working area).		X
	Pipeline decommissioning options (rock placement) which minimise physical disturbance will be selected subject to wider environmental, safety, technical and economic considerations. For each option involving rock placement, efforts will be made to minimise the volume of rock deployed.		X
	<p>The services of a suitably qualified and suitably experienced maritime archaeologist shall be engaged to monitor subsea works for identified wreck sites that are less than 300m to proposed decommissioning works. The archaeologist and archaeological monitoring shall be licensed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A detailed method statement containing the monitoring strategy shall accompany the licence application.</p> <p>Kinsale Energy will provide specifications in advance of the proposed work to allow the archaeologist to determine any mitigation strategies that may need to be put in place to protect identified shipwreck remains. In particular the wrecks, including the UC-42, that are in closest proximity to the decommissioning works (including any impacts from plant and machinery), shall have an adequate exclusion zone imposed to ensure there is no impact on the known location of the wreck and its immediate environs.</p> <p>Kinsale Energy will follow the advice of the archaeologist, including suspension of activities should known or previously unknown underwater cultural heritage be identified or impacted. The Underwater Archaeology Unit shall be contacted immediately in this event. Provision shall be made to accommodate the monitoring archaeologist on board</p>		X

	<p>decommissioning vessels to enable them to successfully carry out their work).</p> <p>Upon completion of the archaeological monitoring, a detailed monitoring report shall be forwarded to the National Monuments Services' Underwater Archaeology Unit.</p>		
Under Water noise	<p>As no likely significant effect on marine mammals from underwater noise is predicted, it is not proposed to engage a Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) during the works, or that any specific mitigation is required in relation to underwater noise effects.</p> <p>Planned pre-and post- rock placement surveys will not include any seismic sources (e.g. airguns), and the location of the offshore surveys means there is not necessary to adhere to the DAHG Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Water (2014). Within the inshore areas, (e.g. within a bay or within 1,500m of the entrance of an enclosed bay), the measures outlined in DAHG (2014) will be adhered to, including the engagement of an MMO.</p> <p>Furthermore, wherever possible, through careful activity phasing, vessel synergies will be sought to minimise vessel days and associated noise emissions which may impact marine mammals and other receptor groups.</p> <p>Any post-decommissioning survey works will require appropriate consent applications which will detail the proposed survey methods and mitigation measures.</p>		X

TAB	Document
TAB 1	PSE KEL Cover Letter for Consent Application No. 3
TAB 2	Decommissioning Plan - Kinsale Head Petroleum Lease OPL 1– Consent Application No. 3
TAB 3	Kinsale Area AA Screening and Article 12 Screening Assessment
TAB 4	Applicant EIAR Non-Technical Summary
TAB 5	Consultation submissions and observations received from 5 parties
TAB 6 (A-C)	Additional Information submitted by KEL - Addendum to AA Screening, Addendum to EIAR and a Pre and post rock placement Fisheries Assessment
TAB 7	NHNA Consultation Submission Received
TAB 8	Document submitted by KEL in response to request for further information from EAU
TAB 9	Consultation Submissions Received from EPA, SFPA and Dept of Transport based on request for further information.
TAB 10	Ramboll EIAR technical review
TAB 11	DECC letter to Dep. of Transport Consent App. No.3 on Navigation and Safety
TAB 12	Department of Transport response to Navigation of Safety
TAB 13	Selgovia Technical Review Kinsale Area Fields
TAB 14	GSRO Technical Recommendation Kinsale Head Consent Application 3
TAB 15	GSRO Technical Recommendation Pre-Post Rock Placement
TAB 16	Environmental Assessment (EIAR) Review Determination EAU
TAB 17	AA Screening Decision EAU Kinsale Head