

North Sea Reporter

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Ithaca seeks consent for Fotla tieback to Harbour Energy Britannia platform

Ithaca Energy has submitted a formal environmental statement (ES) to UK authorities outlining its plan to develop the Fotla oil and gasfield, in block 22/1b in the Central North Sea, as a subsea tieback to the Harbour Energy-operated Britannia platform in block 16/26a.

The Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning, in a notice on 18 December, said that Ithaca submitted the ES for Fotla, which the company operates with a 100% interest, on 15 December. A public comment period on the proposed new development runs until 1 February.

Under the development plan for Fotla, Ithaca plans to drill two horizontal subsea production wells that will be connected to a three-slot subsea manifold and tied back to Britannia via a new 14-km production pipeline.

Output from Fotla will be processed at Britannia through existing topsides facilities currently handling output from the Alder field, in block 15/29a, that will be adapted and upgraded for the new development, according to the ES.

Drilling of the new development's two wells, which will be undertaken by a semi-submersible, is currently expected to take place in 2027. First production could then flow in the fourth quarter of 2027 leading on to a field life of around 15 years running into 2042.

The ES says that high-case estimates suggest Fotla production peaking in 2028 at around 1,577 Cmd of oil and 1.2 MMcmd of gas. Those figures are equivalent to about 10,000 b/d of oil and 44 MMcf/d of gas.

Fotla was discovered in August 2021 in exploration well 22/1b-12 that was appraised by two sidetracks, with its resources having been pegged at around 16 million barrels of oil equivalent.

The field is in around 119-132 metres of water some 176 km to the east of Peterhead in Scotland and 46 km east of the UK maritime boundary with Norway. *(Continued on page 2)*