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ConocoPhillips submits formal PDOs for Greater Ekofisk area PPF project

A ConocoPhillips-led group has submitted formal plans for development and operation to the Norwegian authorities for the Nkr19.5 billion (\$2 billion) Previously Produced Fields (PPF) development in the Greater Ekofisk area of the North Sea.

The US operator, in a statement last Friday (13 February), said it has submitted two PDOs for the scheme, one covering the Albuskjell and Ekofisk West fields in PL018B and PL018F, comprising blocks 1/6 and 2/4, and a second for Tommeliten Gamma in PL044 and PL044D, also covering 1/6. The project is targeting estimated recoverable gas and condensate resources of 90-120 million barrels of oil equivalent.

The PDO submission comes after the PPF partners took their own sanction decision on the planned development in December (*NSR 862/10*).

The three fields, which were discovered in the 1970s, are being redeveloped after they were shut in back in 1998 because associated infrastructure was being decommissioned and there was limited processing capacity available in Ekofisk. However, capacity will become available in the area later this decade, meaning it is now possible to move forward with the redevelopment.

Partner Vår Energi said the PPF scheme is also being made possible by better well placement and the use of horizontal well technology that should allow for better reservoir exposure and production rates, boosting recovery.

“With our partners, we are making long-term, profitable investments in the Greater Ekofisk area to enable new resource development and production at a low cost of supply. This project adds value and boosts Europe’s energy security with additional gas,” said Steinar Våge, president, Europe and North Africa, for ConocoPhillips.

Norwegian energy minister Terje Aaslande also welcome the PDO submissions, the first in Norway this year. “It is gratifying that the licensees have found a profitable development solution for the closed fields in the Ekofisk area. These are valuable resources that create major benefits for the community and it shows the importance of existing infrastructure, the minister said. (*Continued on page 2*)