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Ithaca seeks approval for Tornado tieback plan via Greater Laggan area

Ithaca Energy has submitted a formal environmental statement (ES) to the government outlining its plan to develop the Tornado gasfield, in UK west of Shetland blocks 204/13 and 204/14d, as a subsea tieback via the Greater Laggan area to the Shetland Gas Plant (SGP) in the Shetland Islands.

The UK-listed operator, in the ES made public last Thursday (26 February), says it is aiming to reach peak production rates of 334 MMcfd of gas and around 5,000 b/d of condensate from Tornado. First production could flow late in the fourth quarter of 2029, it adds.

Ithaca operates Tornado with a 50% interest, with Adura, the Equinor-Shell joint venture in the UK, holding the remaining half share of the proposed development.

Ithaca's ES outlines a planned development that would include up to three deviated subsea wells drilled from a single drill centre in around 1,060 metres of water in the field location about 153 km west of the Shetland Islands.

Production would be sent via a new 16-inch production pipeline and associated four-inch control umbilical that would run 86 km to join the Greater Laggan area network at Tormore, although Ithaca notes that plan is subject to commercial negotiations.

The ES says that while a firm commitment is required from the SGP owners to "de-risk the project economics sufficiently to constitute a sanctionable development project", all technical assessments clearly support SGP as the preferred host for Tornado.

The Greater Laggan area, including the SGP, is currently operated by TotalEnergies, but UK-listed Serica Energy is in the process of buying the French company's 40% interest in a deal that is expected to complete before the summer. *(Continued on page 2)*