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Neo Next+ seeks consent for proposed UKCS Montrose Infill development

Neo Next+ has submitted a formal environment statement (ES) seeking UK regulatory approval for its proposed Montrose Infill development, in blocks 22/17N and 22/18N in the Central North Sea, which is targeted to extend field life of the Montrose complex for another five years out to 2035.

The Offshore Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning, in a notice last Thursday (4 June), confirmed that Neo submitted an ES for Montrose Infill on 20 May, outlining plans for a subsea tieback to the existing Montrose bridge-linked platform (BLP).

According to the ES, a total of up to five wells will be drilled from a single subsea drill centre located in around 91 metres of water just 700 metres to the northwest of the BLP for Montrose Infill.

According to the project timeline outlined in the ES, drilling is forecast to start in the third quarter of 2027 and last about a year after which installation of subsea infrastructure is expected in the fourth quarter of 2028, with first oil potentially flowing late that year.

Neo operates the Montrose area with an interest of just below 59%, with sole partner Ithaca Energy holding the remaining share of just above 41%.

The wells that Neo is now planning to drill were originally expected to form part of the MonArb redevelopment project for which former operator Talisman Energy submitted an ES back in 2012.

However, while the Cayley and Shaw fields were developed under that project, the drilling of six wells into the Montrose field from the BLP did not take place.

Neo now wants to move ahead with drilling additional Montrose wells to help extend the life of the Montrose complex beyond the currently expected cessation of production at the end of 2030 to the end of 2035. (*Continued on page 2*)