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Adura public consultation ends as Jackdaw decision day draws closer

A government decision on whether to approve Adura's Jackdaw gas development, in blocks 30/2a, 30/3a and 30/2d in the UK North Sea, is getting closer after the end of a public comment period on the latest environmental updates related to the project.

The public comment period, which closed Monday night (10 August), covered further information submitted by Adura to the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning in response to a series of queries from the regulator, mostly relating to Jackdaw's emissions (*NSR 889/2*).

The end of the comment period comes at a time when political debate over Jackdaw and Adura's other big new development, Rosebank, in west of Shetland blocks 213/26b, 213/27a, 205/1a and 205/2a, is growing as they both approach potential first production.

Recently installed Labour Prime Minister Andy Burnham has said he will take a "pragmatic" approach to North Sea oil and gas, with industry group Offshore Energies UK among those urging his government to show that by giving consent to the two new developments as soon as possible.

However, environmentalists, including many in Burnham's own party, remain categorically opposed to new UK oil and gas developments and are using this summer's scorching weather to buoy their arguments that climate concerns mean such projects should be ditched.

However, the industry is hoping the pragmatism cited by Burnham means that Jackdaw and Rosebank will ultimately get the green light and pave the way for other new projects being pursued in the UK, including a number of tiebacks that are now going through the regulatory process.

Adura, in a statement on Monday, noted the end of the public comment period, with CEO Neil McCulloch saying the operator looks forward to "continuing to work constructively with the regulator and the UK Government as they complete their consideration of Jackdaw". (*Continued on page 2*)