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Jackdaw gas set to flow within weeks as Adura finally secures green light

The UK Government has finally given Adura the green light to start production from its £2.1 billion ($2.8 billion) Jackdaw development, in blocks 30/2a, 30/3a and 30/2d in the Central North Sea, setting the stage for gas to start flowing within a matter of weeks.

Energy Secretary Miatta Fahnbulleh, in a government statement today (Wednesday), said that: "Following careful consideration of all relevant factors I have agreed that the regulator can grant consent for gas to be produced at Jackdaw." The government said Jackdaw production could start as early as the end of this month.

Fahnbulleh argued the decision "will support the country's energy security with homegrown gas this winter and help minimise the UK's use of imported higher emission fuels".

The government said that consideration of the project had assessed that it will not prevent the UK from meeting its legally binding limits on carbon dioxide emissions and achieving net zero by 2050 and is consistent with its manifesto commitment "not to issue any new licences to explore new fields while managing existing fields for the entirety of their lifespan".

It added that a new "energy wealth fund" is to be established with a £2 billion initial injection to "reinvest oil and gas revenues into the climate transition".

As part of its new "pragmatic" approach to the North Sea, the government spoke again of its planned Transitional Energy Certificates that will allow oil and gas production in already-explored areas close to licensed fields that can be linked by tiebacks and help such fields remain economically viable.

It said it is asking the regulator to consider urgent cases that could benefit from similar measures now, before legislation on the new certificates is in place.

Operator Adura, meantime, welcomed the Jackdaw approval, which it said clears the way for the field "to start supplying gas to British homes, power stations and businesses within weeks". *(Continued on page 2)*