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Perenco eyes two-well development for Platypus via re-used installation

Perenco has submitted an environmental statement (ES) to UK regulators covering plans to develop the Platypus gasfield, in blocks 47/5b and 48/1a in the Southern North Sea, via the drilling of two wells and installation of a re-used minimum facilities platform.

The Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning, in a notice yesterday (Tuesday), said that Perenco submitted the ES on 3 November, outlining a development plan that envisages the newly installed platform being tied back via the existing Neptune facility and on to Perenco's Cleeton hub.

A previous Dana Petroleum-operated attempt to develop Platypus that saw an earlier ES submitted in 2019 involved a new facility in Platypus being tied back directly to Cleeton. However, that effort was abandoned in 2021 and Dana and its partners ultimately withdrew from the licence.

Now though, Perenco is pursuing a new project that it hopes will lead to first production in the third quarter of 2029, with high case estimates suggesting that output could reach just over 1.3 MMcmd (45 MMcfd). Output is then expected to decline gradually over a field life that could last until 2045.

The ES suggests that production through Cleeton, including that from Platypus, could reach nearly 2.5 MMcmd in 2030 under the high-case estimate, declining to around 500,000 cmd in 2045 when Platypus might be contributing just under 190,000 cmd.

Perenco, in the ES, says Platypus is "characterised by significant recoverable reserves and potential for further development", while previous estimates have suggested the field hosts 105 Bcf of gas.

Perenco's development solution will see 12-inch gas production and 3-inch methanol pipelines running 16.5 km between the Platypus platform and Neptune, in block 47/4, where production fluids will be commingled with output from the Neptune, Mercury, Eris and Ceres fields and sent on via an existing pipeline to Cleeton, in block 42/29. *(Continued on page 2)*