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Notification in accordance with the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC) and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment to the 1991 UN/ECE Espoo Convention on the Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary

The Danish Energy Agency is planning a new round of licensing for currently non-licensed areas west of 6° 15' E (map attached) with a view to exploration and production of oil and gas and injection of CO₂ in existing oil and gas fields. The Plan will lead to an increase in the current levels of activity in the area but not to initiation of new types of activity. The licence area is adjacent to the Economic Zones of Norway, England and Germany.

A strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is under preparation according to the EU- SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment).

The timeframe for the process of the SEA is planned as follows:

November- December 2011:

Scoping

January 2012:

Consultation of affected Danish Authorities and notification of other affected parties.

February – March 2012:

Preparation of the draft environmental report

April - May 2012:

Public-consultation

June 2012:

Final report and approval

In order to establish the extent and content of the environmental report a scoping report has been produced. The following text is from the English summary of the scoping report:

“In order to establish the extent and content of the environmental report a scoping report has been produced. The scoping exercise identifies the environmental aspects that are expected to be most affected, and defines which factors require further examination in order to rule out the risk of an impact, or in order to assess the nature and scope of the expected impact. “In connection with the scoping exercise, information has been gathered concerning the current status of the marine environment in the area covered

by the Plan. In addition, the various activities that may arise as a result of the Plan are described. These activities has been related to the current knowledge about the environmental status of the area to produce an assessment of the environmental consequences of the plan, and an estimate as to whether the consequences are so serious as to require additional evaluation. There are no Natura 2000 areas within the Plan area; the closest such area lies in the German sector of the North Sea and touches the southern boundary of the Plan area.

*It is concluded that a more detailed assessment will be required of the impacts on marine mammals and fish eggs and larvae arising from noise from seismic surveys and the hammering of conductors at the start of well construction operations. In addition to this, impacts on birds as a result of increased noise levels, light, disturbance from shipping, and collisions with fixed structures in the Plan area require closer study. Impacts on fisheries and other socio-economic activities may also be of significance and this will also be evaluated in more detail in the strategic assessment. These aforementioned probable impacts are likely to have a **transboundary dimension**, and this aspect will also be considered more closely in the strategic assessment. Impacts on water and air quality and on other fauna groups are not considered to be significant “.*

In accordance with the EU-SEA-Directive and the ESPOO Protocol, the Danish state hereby wishes to notify potentially affected parties i.e. Germany, Norway and United Kingdom, of the planning process. The draft licensing plan and environmental report is scheduled for public consultation during 8 weeks in April and May 2012, and a copy will be forwarded for further consideration if the potentially affected party indicates an interest in giving comments to the draft licensing plan and environmental report.

The Danish state wish with this notification to give potentially affected parties the opportunity already in this stage of the process to raise any questions as to the possible transboundary impacts of the proposed plan, so that they can be taken into consideration during the preparation of the environmental report.

Denmark kindly asks the addressed Parties to respond by February 27st 2012 at the latest. Kindly send the answer to:

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Yours sincerely

Laila Wieth-Knudsen
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