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GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaíthe ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

Exola DAC Site Survey Application

Notice of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Determination and Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination

On 21st February 2019, Exola DAC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Providence Resources Plc. ('Exola') submitted an application to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment under Regulation 3(1) of the European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Petroleum Exploration) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 134 of 2013), as amended by the European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Petroleum Exploration) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 124 of 2019) ('EIA Petroleum Exploration Regulations') for permission to conduct a site survey within the Barryroe licence area (SEL 1/11), situated in the North Celtic sea Basin approximately 43 kilometres south east of the closest coastline at Ballymacshoneen, Butlerstown North, County Cork on the south coast of Ireland.

Appropriate Assessment Determination

On 22nd July, 2019, an Appropriate Assessment determination was made, under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), as amended, which concluded that the proposed site survey within the Barryroe licence area (SEL 1/11) would not adversely affect the integrity of a European site (whether individually or in combination with other plans or projects), subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures included in the AA Screening Determination and their inclusion as conditions in any permission that may be granted by the Minister in respect of the application.

It was further concluded that there would be no significant adverse effects on Annex IV species that may be present in the area, should approval be granted in respect of the application.

The AA determination and associated documentation have been published on the Department's website (www.dccae.gov.ie).

EIA Screening Determination

On 23rd July, 2019 an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening determination was made under the EIA Petroleum Exploration Regulations, which concluded that the proposed site survey within the Barryroe licence area (SEL 1/11) is not likely to have significant effects on the environment and consequently an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required, subject to the mitigation measures included in the EIA Screening Determination being included as conditions in any permission that may be granted by the Minister in respect of the application.

The EIA Screening Determination and associated documentation have been published on the Department's website (www.dccae.gov.ie).

Queries / Review

For any queries in relation to this matter please contact the Environment Advisory Unit of the Department at 01 678 2000 or at the address below.

Please note that the validity of the EIA Screening Determination and / or AA Determination may be questioned by Judicial Review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No.15 of 1986), as amended. Any application for leave to apply for judicial review must be made promptly and in any event within three months from the date of the Determination. Practical information on judicial review can be obtained from the Citizens Information Board, Ground Floor, Georges Quay House, 43 Townsend Street, Dublin 2 or online (www.citizensinformation.ie) or from the Courts Website (www.courts.ie).

Environment Advisory Unit
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin, D02 X285

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