

Environmental, HSE and fishery terms and conditions in connection with storing CO₂ pursuant to the Storage Regulations

(Translation from Norwegian)

When planning drilling activities, particular care must be taken with respect to fishery activities and marine organisms. Prior to exploration drilling, measures must be implemented to inform the parties concerned.

When planning seismic acquisitions, licensees must take particular care with respect to fishery activities and marine organisms in critical life cycle stages when designing the programmes.

Licensees are required to undertake necessary mapping of possible coral reefs and other important benthic ecosystems, including important sandeel habitats that may be affected by activity in the area of the licence. Refer to Mareano [www.mareano.no] for information on coral reefs that have been identified on the Norwegian Continental Shelf. Data from mapping of the seabed shall be made available to Mareano to the extent this is not prevented by confidentiality obligations, and provided that keeping the data secret is not significant for competitive reasons.

New licences must implement the necessary measures to ensure that coral reefs and other vulnerable benthic fauna are not harmed by the activity. Licensees must expect and implement specific requirements to avoid direct physical damage to the reefs from facilities on the seabed and anchor chains, mud build-up from drill cuttings and pollution from produced water.

Licensees are required to map and report discoveries of shipwrecks and other cultural monuments that may be affected by activities in relevant blocks and, in cooperation with the cultural heritage authorities, ensure that possible cultural monuments are not damaged by the activity.

The operator shall, on behalf of the joint venture and well in advance of planned activities apply to the Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA) for a permit to conduct activities in accordance with the Pollution Control Act.

As a main rule, environmentally harmful substances shall not be discharged to sea. Further, it is a goal to minimise the risk of environmental harm caused by discharge of other chemical substances.

When specific plans have been laid for carrying out drilling and well activities, requirements to emergency preparedness to prevent acute pollution are stipulated in the Pollution Control Act with appurtenant regulations and in applicable HSE regulations. Consent to implementation of the plans is, among others, subject to emergency preparedness requirements. The scope of the emergency preparedness requirements is, inter alia,

determined by proximity to land, especially environmentally sensitive areas and other business interests.

In order to deal with all types of challenges regardless of natural and operational factors the authorities have, in cooperation with the employer and employee organisations and the industry developed the CO₂ Safety Regulations, which stipulate requirements for safety and management. In order to ensure prudent CO₂ storage activities, it is important that relevant operational uncertainty and risk factors are well understood and safeguarded prior to exploration drilling and development. Through its work on risk management, the operator shall make visible the assessments forming the basis for risk-reducing measures, including preventive measures and acute pollution prevention preparedness, cf. Regulation No. 186 of 25 February 2020 relating to safety and working environment in connection with transport and injection of CO₂ on the Norwegian Continental Shelf.

Licensees are expected to contribute to the biological monitoring of living marine organisms to map possible effects of the activity.

A traffic separation system approved by the United Nations Maritime Organization IMO has been established on the Norwegian Continental Shelf. In the event of any activity in or close to the geographically fixed traffic separation systems the licensees must, well in advance, clarify the planned activity with the Norwegian Coastal Administration in order to ensure maritime safety.

More stringent requirements will be set for activity in vulnerable areas to avoid harm, in line with the HSE regulations' approach to risk.

Exploration drilling in and around a zone surrounding the sandeel fields must be implemented with minimal disturbance to spawning and without discharges of drill cuttings, to ensure that the quality of the sandeel fields does not suffer due to mud build-up from drilling activity. In the event of future developments of storage locations in this area, the licensees must use development solutions that entail the least possible alteration of the seabed in the sandeel fields.