

Environmental Protection Agency



Notice to the Public

ExxonMobil Guyana Limited (EMGL), acting as Operator on behalf of itself and its Stabroek Block co-venturers, Hess Guyana Exploration Limited and CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Limited, has submitted an Application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for an Environmental Authorisation to undertake the following proposed project:

“35 Exploration and Appraisal Wells within the Stabroek Block, Offshore Guyana.”

The proposed project comprises the drilling and appraisal of up to 35 exploration and appraisal wells within the Stabroek Block, located approximately 200 kilometres offshore Guyana. Project activities include drilling operations, and may include ancillary operations such as Vertical Seismic Profiling (VSP), well testing, and sidetracking, as well as plugging and abandonment of wells upon conclusion of each operation. The project will be undertaken entirely in the offshore marine environment, with land-based support activities at existing marine shorebases. As a result of the intended activities, possible effects to the environment may include impacts on marine water quality, air quality, marine fauna, and socio-economic resources, among others.

In keeping with *the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana*, the EPA has determined that the proposed project/activity, *by itself*, will **not** significantly affect the environment and therefore an **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required**. The reasons for this decision are as follows:

- the impacts from the proposed project/activity will be temporary in nature. All project-related activities are confined to the duration of the exploration and appraisal campaign. All identified impacts across the assessed environmental receptors are considered reversible upon conclusion of drilling operations at each well location;
- the impacts from the proposed project/activity will be localized and confined to the boundaries of the Stabroek Block, approximately 200 kilometres offshore from the coastline of Guyana;
- the significance of the impacts from the proposed project/activity will be further reduced to low through the implementation of established mitigation measures.

However, considering the similar projects/activities being carried out in the project location, i.e., the Stabroek Block, the proposed project and such activities may, cumulatively, significantly affect the environment. Therefore, a **Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA)** of the proposed project and similar activities is required pursuant to **Section 17(1) of the Environmental Protection Act**, which provides that where any activity by itself does not have a significant effect on the environment but the same activity or similar activities are carried out by any person in any place and cumulatively may significantly affect the environment, the Agency shall require to be carried out an environmental impact assessment of the cumulative effects of such activities by such persons.

In accordance with **Sections 11(6) and (7) of the Environmental Protection Act**, members of the public are hereby invited, within **twenty-eight (28) days** of the date of this Notice, to make written submissions to the Agency, setting out those questions and matters which they require to be answered or considered in the **Cumulative Impact Assessment** of the proposed project/activities in the Stabroek Block.

The Project Summary can be viewed on the EPA's website (see link below) or uplifted at the Office mentioned below, at a reasonable cost of photocopying.

Project Summary Tab:

<https://epaguyana.org/download/project-summary-...well-exploration/>

Comments should be addressed to:

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