

Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS ON REPORT

Tabled up to and including

22 May 2024

[Sheets HL Bill 49 – R(a) to (e)]

Clause 1

BARONESS HAYMAN
LORD RANDALL OF UXBRIDGE
EARL RUSSELL
BARONESS BLAKE OF LEEDS

Clause 1, page 1, line 3, at end insert –

- “(A1) The OGA must not invite any new seaward area production application licences until the Secretary of State has by regulations brought into effect a ban on routine flaring and venting relating to new offshore installations.
- (A2) From two years after the day on which this Act is passed, the OGA must not invite any new seaward area production application licences until the Secretary of State has by regulations brought into effect a ban on routine flaring and venting relating to existing offshore installations.
- (A3) A statutory instrument which contains regulations under subsection (A1) or (A2) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (A4) In subsections (A1) and (A2) –
 - “flaring” means the burning of hydrocarbons produced during oil and gas extraction;
 - “venting” means the release of un-combusted hydrocarbons directly into the atmosphere.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment prevents the invitation of new seaward area production licences until the Secretary of State has introduced a ban on flaring and venting by new offshore installations. It also requires the Secretary of State to prevent licensing rounds if a wider ban is not in place within two years of Royal Assent.

EARL RUSSELL

Clause 1, page 1, line 3, at end insert –

- “(A1) The OGA must not invite any new seaward area production application licenses until the Secretary of State has by regulations brought into effect a ban on fossil fuel companies using these licenses to explore for oil and gas under offshore wind-power sites.
- (A2) A statutory instrument which contains regulations under subsection (A1) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would prevent the invitation of new seaward area production application licenses until the Secretary of State has banned fossil fuel companies from using these licenses to explore for oil and gas under offshore wind-power sites.

BARONESS BLAKE OF LEEDS

Clause 1, page 1, line 7, at end insert –

- “(c) the climate change test (see section 4ZD);”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, together with the other in the name of Baroness Blake of Leeds, sets out the climate change test to be applied by the Oil and Gas Authority before inviting applications for seaward new production licences.

EARL RUSSELL

Clause 1, page 1, line 8, leave out “must” and insert “may”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would allow the OGA to consider whether it should invite applications for a seaward area production licence even in the event that all tests are met.

BARONESS WILLIS OF SUMMERTOWN
LORD TEVERSON
LORD RANDALL OF UXBRIDGE
BARONESS YOUNG OF OLD SCONE

Clause 1, page 1, line 10, at end insert –

- “(2A) Before the OGA invites applications for seaward area production licences under this Act, the Secretary of State must publish a marine spatial prioritisation policy.
- (2B) The marine spatial prioritisation policy must establish a process for prioritising the achievement of relevant targets under the Climate Change

Act 2008 and the Environment Act 2021 in any decisions relating to the marine environment made by a body undertaking public functions.

- (2C) No invitations may be made under subsection (2) for applications in respect of a block that does not pass the marine spatial prioritisation test.
- (2D) The marine spatial prioritisation test is not met if the result of any licence granted would be that the cumulative effect of activities in a relevant block, or affecting the environment in a relevant block, would not be compatible with the achievement of priorities set out, and the process established, in the marine spatial prioritisation policy.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to publish a “marine spatial prioritisation policy” before the OGA can invite applications for oil and gas exploration or development and for a spatial prioritisation test to be passed before applications for a block can be made. The test would ensure that allocation of sea space is compatible with nature and climate targets.

BARONESS WILLIS OF SUMMERTOWN
THE LORD BISHOP OF NORWICH
LORD RANDALL OF UXBRIDGE
LORD BERKELEY

Clause 1, page 1, line 20, at end insert –

- “(6) A notice under subsection (2) must not invite applications in respect of any block that would include exploration or development within or under a Marine Protected Area, and must specify that no application will be considered that would include exploration or development within or under a Marine Protected Area.
- (7) For the purposes of this section, “Marine Protected Area” includes Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Marine Conservation Zones, Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas, Highly Protected Marine Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Areas of Special Scientific Interest and Ramsar sites.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would rule out the issuing of notices for applications for production licences in Marine Protected Areas.

BARONESS BLAKE OF LEEDS

Clause 1, page 3, line 23, at end insert –

“4ZD The climate change test mentioned in s 4ZA

The climate change test is met in relation to a relevant year if the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change working group on the mitigation of climate change publish a report following the passing of this

Act which makes a finding that the granting of additional seaward area production licences is consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, together with the other in the name of Baroness Blake of Leeds, sets out a new test to be applied by the OGA before inviting applications for new seaward production licences.

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