Sleipner Øst Field—Norway
Viking Graben, North Sea

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FIELD CLASSIFICATION

BASIN: North Sea
BASIN TYPE: Rift
RESERVOIR ROCK TYPE: Sandstone
RESERVOIR ENVIRONMENT OF DEPOSITION: Submarine Fan and Marine Shoreline

LOCATION

The Sleipner Øst gas-condensate field is located in Block 15/9 in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea (Figure 1). It is part of Production License (PL) 046 and was previously referred to as the 15/9 Gamma field. The field is situated on the Ling high, which forms the eastern margin of the South Viking graben (Figure 2). The Viking graben is a major structural element in the northern North Sea along which many large petroleum fields are located.

Several gas-bearing structures have been discovered in the Sleipner area. Sleipner Vest and Sleipner Øst (Øst means east) are the largest accumulations, whereas the others are relatively small and only economically attractive as potential satellite developments to the larger fields.

The hydrocarbons in the Sleipner Øst field are trapped within a primary Paleocene reservoir and a secondary Jurassic reservoir. Estimated ultimate recovery for the field is 2.1 tcf (60 x 10⁹ Sm³) of wet gas, which after processing is equivalent to 1.8 tcf (51 x 10⁹ Sm³) of dry gas and 211 million bbl (23 x 10⁶ metric tons) of condensate. The planned production start-up date is 1993.

HISTORY

Pre-Discovery

Production Licence PLO46, comprising Block 15/9 and the neighboring Block 15/8, was awarded in 1976 to the following group:

- Statoil (Operator) 50%
- Esso Norge a.s 40%
- Norsk Hydro Produksjon a.s 10%

In early 1988, Statoil sold a portion of its interest to Elf Aquitaine Norge a.s and Total Marine Norsk a.s, which together with the implementation of a sliding scale (an option given by the Norwegian authorities to increase Statoil’s share in commercial fields) resulted in the current share of interest as given below:

- Statoil (Operator) 49.6%
- Esso Norge a.s 30.4%
- Norsk Hydro Produksjon a.s 10.0%
- Elf Aquitaine Norge a.s 9.0%
- Total Marine Norsk a.s 1.0%