

Decommissioning

OIL AND GAS
SERVICES

With more than 600 offshore installations in the North West European Continental Shelf area alone nearing the end of their operational life, the requirements of the decommissioning process are an increasingly significant concern for operators.

By working with our clients to assist in the effective development, management and execution of their decommissioning programmes, the Lloyd's Register Group is able to bring our global experience and acknowledged independent technical expertise to bear in this increasingly important sector.

The range of services we can provide to support clients throughout the decommissioning process include safety consultancy, environmental engineering, asset integrity management, compliance services and technical consultancy.

Managing risk

The decommissioning process involves a number of potential risks to our clients' business objectives, including risks to people, to the environment and to corporate reputation. The Lloyd's Register Group can assist its clients at all stages in the process to ensure that these risks are identified, managed and resolved in the most effective and cost-efficient manner.

Decision support

Decommissioning is a costly process, carried out at the very point in the asset lifecycle when revenue is at a minimum. In the UKCS, the requirements of (among others) the Petroleum Act 1998, the 1992 OSPAR Convention, the Coast Protection Act 1949 and the Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations 1992 must all be complied with. Other relevant legislation may apply depending on the geographical location of the asset.

The business decision to cease production is rarely straight-forward and is dependent on a large number of variables – including the existing condition of the asset, a realistic view on remaining life and possible options regarding life extension or re-use.

Having taken the decision to cease production and begin the decommissioning process, the environmental impact of the proposed programme



needs to be assessed and a number of differing technical solutions will require evaluation.

The remaining inventory will need to be identified, catalogued and a plan for safe disposal prepared and audited to completion.

The major accident hazard profile of an installation changes radically during this phase and these altered hazards need to be assessed against the existing installation safety case which will usually require revision. The suitability of the remaining (and any new) Safety Critical Elements will also require verification.

Service provision

By providing experienced and independent technical support to both the clients' decision-making process and to their demonstration of compliance with legislative and corporate requirements, we are able to ensure that these issues are acceptably managed.

We are able to provide the following specific services, either individually or as a co-ordinated package tailored to meet your individual requirements:

Environmental

- Environmental impact assessments
- EMS auditing
- Chemical hazard and risk management (CHARM) analysis

Integrity services

- Residual waste surveys
- Cleanliness assessments
- Review of existing IS arrangements in light of run-down of systems
- Residual life assessments and life extension studies
- Lifting equipment condition assessment and LOLER compliance

Safety technology

- Risk assessment
- Consequence modelling
- Safety case review and revision

Technical consultancy

- Residual life assessments of structures and pipelines
- Structural suitability assessment including FE modelling
- Pressure systems fitness for purpose and residual life assessments

Compliance services

- Independent verification of safety critical elements to clients' performance standards
- Identification of applicable legislation

Experience

The Lloyd's Register Group has experience in assisting operators with a number of recent decommissioning projects, including:

- BP NW Hutton
- Kerr McGee Hutton TLP
- BP Don and Thistle pipelines

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**For further information
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