UKCS Well Abandonment
DECC perspective

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April 2013
Introduction

• UKCS Oil and Gas Infrastructure

• Issues to be considered
  • Redevelopment
  • Carbon Capture and Storage
  • Suspended wells

• Summary
**UK Oil and Gas Infrastructure – Key Facts**

**Fields and Discoveries**
- > 300 producing fields
- > 400 undeveloped discoveries

**Infrastructure**
- 8 installations with large concrete substructures
- 31 with large steel jackets (> 10,000 tonnes)
- 214 other steel jackets
- 21 floating production systems
- 278 subsea production systems
- > 3,300 pipelines – around 25,000 kms
- > 11,000 wells drilled

**Water Depths**
- Southern North Sea: 15 – 80 m
- Central North Sea: 50 – 150 m
- Northern North Sea: 90 – 190 m
- West of Shetland: 120 – 1,300+ m
UK Oil and Gas Drilling Activity – Key Facts

- > 11,000 wells drilled *
- ~ 6,000 P&A’d
- ~ 5,000 still active
- ~ 150 new wells per year
- > 370 suspended E&A wells

(* source – DEAL)
UKCS Oil and Gas Production
2011–2018

Source: 2011 Oil & Gas UK Activity Survey 2013
UKCS Expected Infrastructure lifetime

source – DECC 2012
UKCS Well Abandonment Issues

• Safety.
  EU Safety Directive
  Well abandonment techniques and programmes are for HSE rather than DECC
  OGUK Well Life-Cycle Practices Forum

• Field Redevelopment

• Carbon Capture and Storage
  • “Depleted oil and gas fields” are candidates for future CO2 storage
  • Any risk of leakage from the storage formation?
  • Any special considerations for CO2 vs hydrocarbons?

• Suspended Wells
UKCS Suspended Wells

- > 740 suspended wells*
- > 370 suspended E&A wells
  - > 270 more than 10 years old
  - > 220 in open water (not in Safety Zone)

OGUK / DECC Suspended Wells Workshop June 2012
- Agreement on need to improve quality of data
  - DECC OED wrote to all Operators Feb 2013
- Agreement on need for an industry wide approach for abandoning suspended wells
  - Risk based approach
  - OGUK to arrange follow up workshop summer 2013

DECC will now only approve suspensions of E&A wells if development is likely

* Source: DECC June 2012
Summary

- Decommissioning of some aging facilities now on the horizon
- However, decades of remaining life in other facilities
- Need to consider potential re-use in planning well abandonments
  - future redevelopment
  - CCS
- Portfolio of suspended E&A wells needs action
Thank you

Questions?