

FACT SHEET ENGAGING WITH STAKEHOLDERS



A TRANSPARENT PROCESS

Shell UK and Esso Exploration and Production UK (Esso) engage with people and organisations who have an interest in, or who are impacted by, the decommissioning of the Brent Field. Listening and talking to interested parties who live and work alongside us is vital to successful decommissioning. We want to understand the views of as many affected or interested parties as possible.

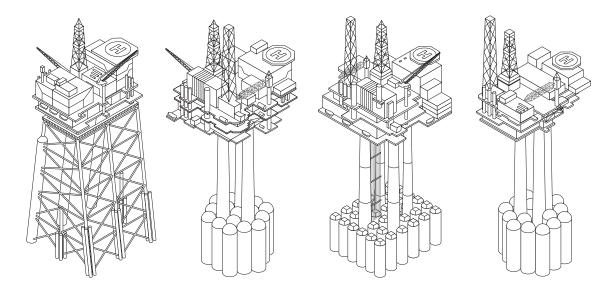
The consultation process with stakeholders has tremendous benefits. It can provide fresh insights and ideas to solve the challenges surrounding projects of this scale. It also guides our recommendations by ensuring that the widest possible range of options is explored. The process assures that the solutions we will propose are robust and responsible.

Our goal is to ensure the Decommissioning Programme that is presented to the UK Government represents a clear way forward for everyone with a stake in the project.



Brent Alpha Platform - UK, North Sea 2006

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The Brent field platforms

IN 2013, WE TALKED TO MORE THAN 60 INDIVIDUAL GROUPS AND HOSTED STAKEHOLDER EVENTS IN ABERDEEN AND LONDON

SOUND SCIENCE

Since 2007, we have received input from more than 400 stakeholders across around 180 organisations. This has included local and national Government agencies, industry bodies, trade unions, environmental groups and community associations. For example, in 2013, we talked to more than 60 individual groups and hosted stakeholder events in Aberdeen and London, where Shell project staff presented on a number of the Decommissioning Programme elements.

When the Brent decommissioning work began in 2006, Shell and Esso asked Professor John Shepherd from Southampton University to head an Independent Review Group (IRG) for the project. Professor Shepherd appointed a team of leading academics whose role has been to objectively review all the scientific and engineering assessments of the various decommissioning options proposed. The IRG validates the science which underpins our conclusions.

Since 2007, this group has met 15 times and IRG members have attended wider stakeholder meetings. By July 2014, the IRG had reviewed 185 major reports and raised over 2,000 review comments requiring a response from Shell. The IRG has been critical to our decision making process, maintaining its impartiality throughout.

LOOKING AHEAD

Submission of the plan: Our goal is to submit a Decommissioning Programme to the UK Government when all elements are ready. More stakeholder events and consultation with individual groups will take place before this submission.

Stakeholder report: Part of our submission will be a stakeholder report. This will summarise our meetings with all stakeholders, describe the feedback we have received and explain how this has been incorporated into the programme. The report will also highlight major concerns that key stakeholders have raised and detail Shell's response.

Public consultation: A formal consultation period will follow the submission of the Decommissioning Programme. This means that the review process will invite comment from both stakeholders as well as the wider public.

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CONSULTATION
HAS CONTRIBUTED
TO SOLVING
SOME SPECIFIC
DECOMMISSIONING
CHALLENGES

STAKEHOLDER CONTRIBUTION

Consultation has contributed to solving some specific decommissioning challenges. For example, a stakeholder focus group was formed to contribute to the discussions on how best to decommission the large concrete subsea cells that lie beneath three of the four Brent platforms. Some of these cells have been used for oil storage and separation and contain some legacy oily residue and sediment together with sea water. The focus group developed a model that weighs up the options for decommissioning the cells safely and effectively. This model has been helpful in allowing us to converge on our own recommendation.

Specific stakeholder input contributed to our decision to retrieve samples of oil water and sediment from the cell contents in 2014 and has aided us in confirming options to deal with the residual contents. Stakeholders have also provided comments on the options surrounding the possible removal of the platforms' concrete legs as well as the long-term monitoring of any structures that may be left in place.