

North Sea Transition Forum

Wells Taskforce: Well Decommissioning Steering Group

Terms of reference

Background

The [Well Decommissioning Steering Group](#) is part of the [North Sea Transition Forum Wells Task Force](#). It works alongside the [Decommissioning and Repurposing Taskforce \(DaRT\)](#) to drive alignment, accountability, and action to deliver cost efficient well decommissioning and support the UK government's net zero ambitions.

It is recognised that opportunities exist to further reduce future well decommissioning costs on the UKCS, and well decommissioning will also have a key role to play in supporting the delivery of energy transition.

Aim

Working with stakeholders and existing industry work groups and forums, the decommissioning group will guide the development and delivery of improvements in the wells space to support the achievement of at least a 10% reduction in the total cost of decommissioning between 2023 and 2028¹. The group will aim to ensure that wells are decommissioned appropriately, including considerations for reservoir reuse or repurposing for carbon storage (CCS) application.

Scope

- In scope
All existing and future platform and subsea wellbores currently registered on the NSTA Wells Operations Notification System (WONS) database. This includes existing E&A and Open Water Suspended wellbores.
- Out of scope
Wellbores registered 'permanently abandoned' (decommissioned) as of 1st January 2023.

Primary Objectives

- Work with stakeholders to **identify barriers and support development of solutions** to deliver the overall aim of the steering group.
- Support the practical application of **technology** to deliver cost efficient decommissioning, working with the Technology Leadership Board (TLB), Net Zero Technology Centre (NZTC) and Offshore Energies UK (OEUK).
- Work closely with OEUK and other Wells workgroups or forums to support industry by ensuring appropriate **guidance** is available to support well decommissioning.
- Guide, promote and support **collaboration and campaigning** to optimise well decommissioning activity on the UKCS.

¹ From the UKCS Decommissioning Cost and Performance Report 2023

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Supporting Objectives

- Support the delivery of the UK government's commitment to reach **Net Zero** by 2050 with a focus on well decommissioning in reservoirs that have a potential or foreseeable future use and minimising GHG emissions.
- Working with the DaRT to develop well decommissioning **performance indicators and benchmarks** to support planning, delivery and performance improvement.
- Support the **sharing of lessons learned** and promote good practice.

Task Group co-chairs

- Chris Wark – Drilling, Completions & Well Services Manager – **CNR** (co-chair)
- Alastair Bisset – Head of Decommissioning – **NSTA** (co-chair)

Meeting frequency

- Meetings occur every second month (commencing January 2024), with yearly schedule and meeting topics or focus areas to be determined at the start of each year.

How we will work

- When participating in steering group duties members will represent the UK oil and gas industry as a whole and not their individual companies.
- The Well Decommissioning Steering Group may create and disband subgroups where appropriate.
- Steering group members will highlight any perceived or real conflicts of interest to the chair(s) or secretariat.
- Complement existing wells and other decom workgroups.