

NST Steering Group Meeting

22 January 2025

Welcome

Stuart opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He welcomed new task force co-chairs: **Sarah Moore** is taking over as co-chair of the Supply Chain & Exports task force. **Neil McCulloch** has taken over as co-chair of the CO2 Transportation and Storage task force. **Camilla Salthe** (not able to attend the meeting) is taking over as the Subsurface task force co-chair.

He thanked their predecessors: **Luciano Vasques** who helped set-up the CO2 Transportation and Storage task force, **John Pearson** who co-chaired the Supply Chain and Exports Task for 5 years and **Nick Terrell** who has co-chaired the Subsurface task force since 2017.

The North Sea Transition Forum is a tripartite structure which includes government, industry and regulators. The steering group and task forces are a force for real delivery and there many examples of real and positive achievements.

Simon Roddy highlighted that this is a unique tripartite structure which enables collaboration and should be seen as a national competitive advantage for the UK.

Knowledge Sharing – Decommissioning and Repurposing task force (DART)

Pauline Innes outlined the approach of the DART over the past year, during which time there has been a change of focus.

Pauline outlined that the DART:

- Plans to refocus in 2025 by reducing size of membership and clarifying their focus areas.
- Will also establish task and finish groups and partner with membership bodies for effective delivery.
- Will keep ensuring regulators are involved to enable valuable insights into regulatory decisions and industry drivers.
- Will continue to work on turning data into actionable insights and sharing best practices, along with clear metrics and targets.
- In terms of lessons: Clarity of purpose, the right team, understanding the tripartite role, and focusing on 2 or 3 areas. Task forces should avoid becoming lobby groups, leaving some matters to trade associations.

OEUK reiterated its support to this work.

Task Force 2024 Reflections

Supply Chain and Exports Task Force (SC&ETF)

Sarah Moore outlined that despite some good progress last year, the SC&ETF would benefit from a reset. Key areas to be considered include *resilience through the transition* and *cost transparency versus value recognition*.

Enabling growth involves reviewing the local content structure and determining what is needed to support exports.

A workshop will be held to reset the SC&ETF, identifying its purpose, objectives, and measures.

Wells Task Force (WTF)

Doris Reiter summarised several KPIs, focusing on *improving drilling performance*, *increasing well interventions*, and *reducing well decommissioning costs*.

Last year, NPT decreased from 22% to 18%, and well interventions contributions rose from 7% to 9%. Well decommissioning costs remained stable despite inflation.

Good practice guidelines for SNS drilling were published on the OEUK website.

Most of the work done was through workshops all of which had good participation and collaboration and it is planned to continue with this approach.

Next year's focus areas include *improving drilling success rates* and *enhancing partnership working*.

The five task groups under the WTF will be consolidated into four.

CO2 Transportation and Storage Task Force (CTSTF)

Recognition was given to the co-chair Alistair McFarlane and the PMO Lindsay for their contributions.

The membership has been increased to include all license holders, and the group are considering whether other regulators should be invited to join.

Two reports were issued in 2024, covering *Monitoring Technologies* and *Accelerating time from licence to injection*.

Looking forward the task force will be working on 3 areas: *Legacy wells*; *Reducing the cost of store development*; *Storage capacity development*.

It was felt that subsurface is moving forward at a good pace, but more could be done to move forward the transportation and capture part. It was suggested that DESNZ be invited to join the group.

Subsurface Task Force (STF)

Nick Terrell summarised the STF deliver subject-specific policy papers, with progress tracked quarterly. It has three subgroups: *Geological Storage*, *Domestic Oil and Gas*,

and *Subsurface Skills*. The subgroups are very active with a high level of engagement.

Papers published in 2024: *Pressure budget* (which focuses regional pressure dynamics and how it impacts projects); *Early-stage appraisal activity*; A *Geoscience skills report* was also published which led to the formation of the Energy Geoscience Forum.

Asset Stewardship Task Force (ASTF)

Jo White summarised the ASTF has four subgroups: *Joint Venture Hub Strategy*, *ERAP*, *Culture*, and *Learning and Sharing*.

In 2024 the ASTF published: *Joint Venture Hub Strategy Good Practice guidelines* and *Emissions Reduction Action Plan (ERAP) guidelines*.

Credit was given to the co-chairs for their leadership.

The focus for 2025 will be to raise awareness of the published reports and encourage operators to use them. The Joint Venture and ERAP subgroups will merge into a new subgroup called *Integrated Solutions*. The Culture subgroup will complete its goals by mid-year, and its members will be redistributed. Learning and Sharing will be integrated across all subgroups. A new subgroup focusing on *low carbon power* will be created.

Technology Leadership Board (TLB)

Nicolas Payer summarised the TLB has 3 workstreams: *Accelerate Deployment*, *Digital* and *Data and Transition*.

Accelerate Deployment: The TLB collaborates with around 80 technical managers to select annual subjects for workshops and showcases. Last year's focus was on improving asset integrity at low costs. This year, the focus is on *production enhancement technology*, with a showcase planned for May.

Digital and Data: This group is working on improving well P&A efficiency and costs through digital and data solutions, including developing a data platform for sharing information among operators.

Transition: This workstream is being refocused. It will target three areas: *emission reduction technologies*, *floating offshore wind (gap analysis)*, and *Carbon Capture and Storage* (focusing on monitoring, measurement, and verification)

Refreshing Objectives for 2025

Ian Sipin and Rob Micklewright, the Steering Group's PMOs, will contact co-chairs to support and help frame the 2025 targets and ambitions. This will follow the same format as previously used, with the aim of completing these by the end of February.