



Oil & Gas
Authority

Decommissioning Task Force

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Executive summary

This is the first communication to the Decommissioning Community from the MER UK Decommissioning Task Force (DTF).

As you know from previous correspondence, the MER UK Decommissioning Board has been reconstituted into what is now known as the Decommissioning Task Force.

This task force has now met twice in 2017 in March and April, and a further two meetings are scheduled for May and June. Thereafter it will adjust to a less frequent schedule. These initial meetings were to examine the roles of the task force, project teams, the decommissioning community and others, and how the interactions will be managed and integrated.

A new governance model has been prepared, and the four projects, including the multi-operator well P&A project, have been reviewed to varying degrees to determine the best path forward.

The project teams are currently working on a restatement of each of the projects' purpose, goals, schedules and deliverables. These will be available during May.

The DTF will have a display stand at the Decom North Sea (DNS) [Decom Offshore 2017](#) conference, to be held at the AECC on 24 May, 2017. Members of the task force will be available to update you on project status and answer any other questions you may have.

This update covers:

- Decommissioning Task Force membership
- Decommissioning Community membership
- Task force governance model
- Task force projects

Decommissioning Task Force Membership

The Decommissioning Task Force has the following membership:

- Roy Aspden, Manager, Decommissioning Projects, CNRI
- Jim Christie, Head of Decommissioning, Oil and Gas Authority, (OGA) – Co Chair
- Pauline Innes, Head of Decommissioning, Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning,(OPRED), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- Terri King, President UK, ConocoPhillips – Co Chair
- Nigel Lees, Chairman, Decom North Sea / VP Decommissioning – Wood Group
- Craig Shanaghey, VP Asset Support, AMEC FosterWheeler
- Win Thornton, VP Decommissioning, BP
- Michael Tholen, Upstream Policy Director, Oil & Gas UK

The size and composition of task force membership will be re-examined after six months. The intent is to re-define the role of what was previously the MER UK Decommissioning Board into a smaller decision making entity, working on behalf of the larger decommissioning community, and helping the MER UK project teams achieve their goals, to the required quality, within the stated time frames.

Decommissioning Community Membership

The decommissioning community has been formed from what was the MER UK decommissioning board and expanded to include additional individuals and organisations that had expressed an interest in participating.

The Decommissioning Board was originally established to deliver the goal of improving decommissioning efficiency. The membership, which comprised representation from all sectors of the industry, is continuing in existence, but has become a decommissioning community, meeting less frequently than before, but communicated with more frequently. The management of identified priorities for investigation and action, plus specific themes within these priorities, will be managed by the DTF and the project teams.

A face-to-face meeting of the larger decommissioning community is planned to take place twice a year. The first opportunity for this is May 24, at the DNS Annual Conference, Offshore 2017. This will be held at the AECC and will be a manned display stand rather than a formal presentation and Q&A session. All are welcome to visit.

In addition to the DNS annual conference, there are also other means of the decommissioning community engaging with the DTF. Oil & Gas UK hold two decommissioning forums per year, the next one being on 17 May. BEIS and the OGA will be presenting at this event.

Task Force Governance Model

In line with the establishment of the Decommissioning Task Force, a governance model for managing projects and making decisions has been published.

The DTF governance model has been drafted and agreed by the task force and is now available to share with the community. As part of this process the following revised goal for the DTF was developed:

Decommissioning Task Force Goal

The shared goal of the Decommissioning Task Force membership is to minimise the cost of decommissioning in an appropriate manner with a focus on delivering what would otherwise not be delivered by industry.

The governance model provides an overview of how the task force agenda will be defined, led, steered and managed to ensure delivery of the above goal. It describes who are the advisors, project teams, endorsers and decision makers. The model also describes the roles and responsibilities of the task force, project teams and the community.

The diagram below illustrates how each project team will interface with the task force during the planning and implementation of each project, and for each key decision within a project. As can be seen, regular updates on project progress will be sent to the community on a regular basis.

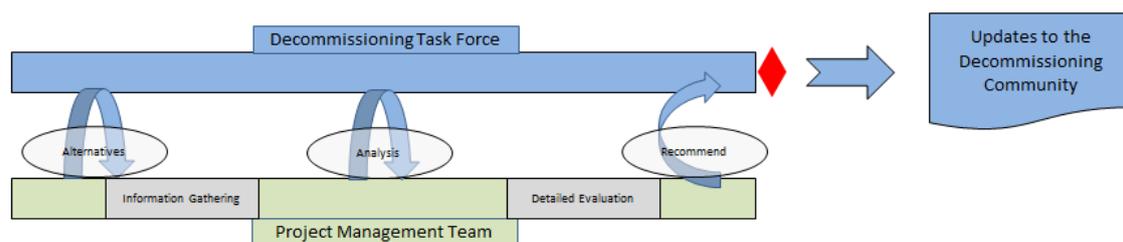


Figure 1 - The Governance Process for a single project

The full governance model document can be found at the following link ([link](#))

Task Force Projects

The DTF is currently overseeing four projects. During the recent task force meetings, the following projects were confirmed as being valid. The projects are currently being base-lined and a single page overview of each project will be available for next month's update.

Project name	Task force sponsor
Cost certainty and cost reduction	Win Thornton
Delivery capability	Craig Shanaghey
Regulatory guidance	Michael Tholen
Multi-operator well P&A project	Jim Christie

Project Status

The Task Force has concluded that the role of the DTF is to undertake work that others are not in a position to undertake. It was agreed at the most recent Task Force meeting that the Project Sponsors would identify members for each project, and that a wider invitation to offer participation would be issued to the Decommissioning Community.

If there is interest in participating in any of the above projects, please contact any Task Force member, or directly to Jim Christie (Jim.Christie@OGAuthority.co.uk) at the OGA.

Next month's update will provide a summary of each project's goals, membership, deliverables and schedule.



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