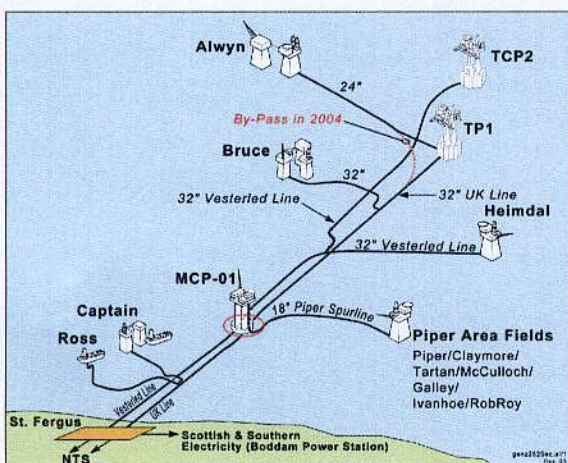


FACT SHEET No. 1 DECOMMISSIONING OF MCP-01

The Manifold Compression Platform MCP-01 is located 173km north-east of Aberdeen on the UK continental shelf, mid-way along the Frigg Gas Transportation System between the Frigg Field and St Fergus Gas Terminal in Scotland. The platform is operated by TOTAL E&P UK PLC.

MCP-01 is a concrete gravity platform installed in 1976 in 94m of water and weighs 386,000 tonnes. It came into operation in September 1977 when the gas from the Frigg reservoir started to flow. There are no associated drill cuttings as no drilling activity has taken place onboard. It has not been used for production or storage of oil. Today the structure is remotely operated in a not-normally-manned mode from the St Fergus Gas Terminal.



The original purpose of the platform was to act as a compression and interconnection platform for the Frigg Transportation System consisting of a 32" UK pipeline and a 32" Norwegian pipeline (known today as the Vesterled Line) which transports gas from the Frigg reservoir to the St Fergus Gas Terminal.

A number of other fields were later connected into the Frigg Transportation System. UK fields have been connected to the UK pipeline and a Norwegian field into the Vesterled pipeline.

Decommissioning of MCP-01 was originally planned to take place around 2024 once the pipelines were no longer in use. Recent safety studies however have concluded that even with the existing level of maintenance work, it is uncertain whether an acceptable standard of safety can be maintained on a not-normally-manned platform which would then be 50 years old at the time of decommissioning.

Prior to starting the decommissioning work on MCP-01, the pipelines running through the platform, which will continue to be in service, will be bypassed during 2004/2005.

It is the Operator's primary objective that the disused MCP-01 installation shall be disposed of responsibly, taking due account of safety, environmental, technical feasibility, social and economic factors. This will, where possible, be the removal to shore for reuse or recycling with a minimum of waste. As the platform is a candidate for derogation under the terms of OSPAR Decision 98/3, an alternative disposal method for the concrete substructure might be considered if there are significant reasons why complete removal is not feasible.



For further information, please visit the TOTAL UK web site at:

www.uk.total.com/activities/EP_SF-MCP01Platform

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