

EEMS General Guidance

Overview

The Environmental Emissions Monitoring System, more commonly known by the acronym EEMS, is the mechanism used to record environmental data relating to the UK offshore oil and gas industry*.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), as the main environmental regulator of the offshore oil and gas industry, are ultimately responsible for EEMS and require **accurate, timely and consistent** data to be submitted. This allows DECC to carry out the necessary monitoring and reporting on the performance of the offshore oil and gas industry to take place.

*The exception relates to onshore oil and gas terminals where atmospheric emissions reports are required.

Help Desk and Technical Support

EEMS Help Desk (Collabro)

The helpdesk service is available by e-mail and telephone from 08:30 – 17.00 on Monday to Friday (with the exception of the following public holidays: Christmas Day; Boxing Day; the three working days between Christmas and New Year; New Years Day; 2nd January and other local and English and Scottish public holidays, these include 3rd January, Good Friday and Easter Monday, May Day, UK Spring Bank Holiday, Summer Bank Holiday (Scotland) and Summer Bank Holiday (UK)). There is no out of hours helpdesk support.

The preferred method of contacting the helpdesk is to e-mail eems@collabro.co.uk Users can also call 01224 853453.

Users should contact the EEMS Helpdesk for the following but not exclusive list of issues:-

- Setting up EEMS permissions (note password issues must be mailed to ukop@decc.gsi.gov.uk)
- General EEMS queries
- Initial information on how EEMS works and requirement on Operators
- Issues with making submissions (note these may be related to the IT solution being used rather than EEMS, however advice will be given)
- Queries on permits
- Requests for additions such as installations, asset transfer, sample points etc
- Requests for change

Collabro run the quarterly EEMS User Group Meetings, the EEMS Governance Board Meetings and manage the commercial activities associated with the suppliers.

The EEMS website contained within the DECC Oil Portal will be of use to all Users

<https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/EEMS/index.htm>

DECC IT

Legal basis for requesting the data and late returns

In some cases the legal requirement to submit the data into EEMS is contained in the terms and conditions permits or approvals granted by DECC. In other cases, where there is no specific permit or consent, the legal basis for requesting and collecting this data is detailed in the model clauses attached to the production licences, which require the Licensee to 'furnish the Minister with such information as the Minister may from time to time request about any aspect of the activities of the Licensee which are attributable directly or indirectly to the grant of this licence, expect that the Licensee shall not by virtue of this paragraph be required to furnish information in respect of activities in connection with any crude oil after he has appropriated it for refining by him.' The exact location of this provision will vary depending upon when the production licence was issued.

Where data is required under the terms and conditions of a permit, and is submitted after the submission date specified within that permit, then DECC may require a non-compliance report to be submitted.

Data Submission

The general principle underpinning EEMS is that the Licensed Operator is responsible for submitting the data, including work carried out by contractors.

ZERO Returns

Zero returns are still required as circumstances dictate. (If zero returns are not submitted, DECC are not aware whether this is because no activity took place or because the report is late and has not yet been submitted). If zero returns are not necessary this will be specified in the Guidance.

Linking with UK Oil Portal and Permit details

EEMS uses data, including from the UK Oil Portal, to obtain some of the necessary details to allow returns to be made. For example the chemical returns link with the Portal to include the latest version of the PON15 permit –

ie the current list of approved chemicals on the permit – thus requiring only that the relevant use and discharge data is submitted.

The PON15B is a key permit – this generates a number of other returns such as Atmospheric Drilling, Drill Fluids, OPPC Well etc.

Changes to Submitted Data

To enable accurate reporting and monitoring to take place, the ability to change previously submitted data, must be controlled. EEMS data is therefore 'locked' to prevent updates a set period after the deadline date for the information to be submitted. Changes can still be made to the data but any such change requests must be made through DECC with the reasons why the change is required being specified. The necessary request form can be accessed through this link

https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/EEMS/tech_docs/AmendLockedData.doc

Historically DECC accepts the vast majority of requests with no dialogue but there are occasions when the requests raises issues that DECC follow up.

Data Release

DECC's practice, in line with current Government policy in relation to the release of data, is to provide EEMS data on application. Once the data has been submitted into EEMS it is considered as being publically available.

Non-Required Returns

On occasion the EEMS dashboard may show a return that is not required to be made. In such circumstances please contact DECC or Collabro – and it will be arranged that these are removed.

Data Reported through EEMS

Currently the data listed below is submitted through EEMS. As new legislation and/or reporting requirement necessitate, this may be expanded in the future. A number of returns relate to drilling activities which, amongst other permits and consents, will be authorised under a relevant PON15 chemical permit. It is intended that the necessary returns should be submitted at the same time (for example Atmospheric Drilling, Drilling Fluids, Chemical drilling permit and OPPC Well Permit)

More detailed guidance has been provided for each area but, a brief description of each area is as follows:-

OPPC Monthly Oil in Produced Water

Monthly Oil in Water returns - For applicable installations, as detailed in the relevant OPPC permit for the installation, a monthly report is required highlighting any discharges of oil in produced water to the sea, any discharges of displacement water to sea or re-injection of produced water. The data should be returned using the OPPC Monthly form.

OPPC Bi-annual

Bi-Annual additional produced Water constituents. For applicable installations, as detailed in the relevant OPPC permit for the installation, bi-annual returns are required. **This report currently includes new constituents where the sampling protocols have not yet been finalised and thus no returns for these constituents are required at this point, although zero's should be entered.**

The data should be returned using the OPPC Bi-annual return form.

Chemicals

Returns are required to be made for all PON15 permits issued by DECC. Production Chemicals (PON15D) returns must be made on a quarterly basis. All other PON15 returns (PON15B, C, E and F) are to be submitted following completion of the work and before the due date for the return.

The PON15D data is to be returned using the form PermProd

The PON15B + F data is to be returned using the form PermWell

The PON15C data is to be returned using PermPipe.

The Pon15E data is to be returned using PermDecomm – **note this is not yet available for return**

Waste

Annual returns are to be made detailing any operational waste generated by the relevant installation, and should be reported using the WasteOper return form.

Annual returns are to be made using the WasteDrill form regarding any backloaded drill cuttings generated from each installation or mobile installation.

Returns are to be made using the WasteDecomm return form detailing any waste resulting from activities authorised under a DECC authorised decommissioning programme. These returns should be submitted within 31 days from completion of the decommissioning operations.

Radioactivity

These returns are not yet available.

A number of annual returns are required, mainly concerning Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) although one report is required concerning radioactive isotopes used in tracer experiments.

Where an installation reports oil in produced water discharges then a return relating to radioactivity in produced water is also required. This return, using the **RadProdWater** return form, requires quarterly samples to be taken although these are reported in a combined annual return.

Where NORM is encountered following water jetting operations (or similar) then the necessary form, **RadDescaleHPJet** . should be completed. (add 3 choices)

In future, returns will also be required for radioactive materials encountered following descaling operations using acids. **However, the sampling protocols for these procedures have not yet been agreed and until this is completed then no returns are required.**

As highlighted above, where radioactive isotopes are used in tracer experiments a return is also required using the form **RadTracerStudies**.

Drill Fluids

This return is linked to the relevant PON15B and is used to report the amount of cuttings generated by the drilling operations and, for OPF fluid (OBM and SMB drilling fluids) is used to provide a mass balance.

It should be submitted by the same deadline as the PON15B.

OPPC returns

This is to be used to make returns required under the OPPC permit (with the exception of those submitted under OPPC monthly and OPPC bi-annual.

There are 3 different return types:-

OPPCLife - is used make returns required under the relevant OPPC Life permit. This is with the exception of any returns required under Schedule 7a

OPPCTerm - OPPCTerm is used to make returns required under the relevant OPPC Term permit. This is with the exception of returns required under Schedule 7a.

OPPC Well - is used to make Schedule 7a returns for both OPPCLife and OPPCTerm returns.

Atmospheric Emissions

The calculation document underpins this area. This uses standard calculations to determine the atmospheric emissions- https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/EEMS/tech_docs/atmos_calcs.pdf

However, it should be noted that EEMS allows for exact data to be entered. This will therefore stop the calculations taking place within EEMS. For example, this approach should be used where exact emission factors for a piece of equipment is known – ie if results for a verification exercise are known.

The returns sheets are split into a number of separate activities, which are inter-related. It therefore requires data to be submitted in a number of sheets in order for a full data set to be obtained.

Atmospheric – Consumption

This form is used to record the atmospheric emissions resulting from the consumption of fuel.

Atmospheric – Export

This form, Atmospheric Emissions - Export (Installation) is a brief summary of the installation for atmospheric reporting purposes including, source of data, export masses and densities and compositional analysis of gases:

Atmospheric Emissions – Gas Turbines and Oil Turbines

These forms are to be used to calculate NO_x emissions from oil and gas turbines. If an NO_x emission mass from fuel gas, diesel or fuel oil or consumption by all turbines on the installation is unavailable from an in-house system , previously approved by DECC, then these reports must be submitted.

If an NO_x emission masses from consumption by all turbines on the installation is available from such an in-house system it should be reported on the appropriate section of the Atmospheric Emissions - Consumption report and these reports are **NOT** required

Atmospheric Emissions - Direct (Installation)

This form, Atmospheric Emissions - Direct (Installation), is a summary of the atmospheric emissions directly to the atmosphere including, Gas venting (operational, maintenance, emergency or gross), Direct process emission e.g. acid gas removal, Oil loading, Fugitive emissions (connections, valves, open ended pipes, pumps and other)

Atmospheric Emissions - Drilling Guidance Notes

This form, Atmospheric Emissions - Drilling, is a summary of gas flaring and diesel consumption during drilling activities on mobile installations. **For fixed installations gas flaring and diesel consumption during drilling operations are included on the Atmospheric Emissions - Consumption (Installation) report.**

Atmospheric Emissions - Halogens (Installation) Guidance Notes

This form is to be used to report the quantity and emission of halogenated compounds on the facility on an annual basis. The quantities of Hydrofluorocarbon compounds, perfluorocarbon compounds and sulphur hexafluoride on the facility at the end of the reporting period and used during the reporting period must be reported.