

## **Section 16. Post Decommissioning Monitoring and Maintenance**

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## **16.1 Introduction**

A post decommissioning environmental survey and monitoring program will be set up for the areas in which the Maureen Facilities stood. The program will comprise:

- **Physical Surveys:** A physical survey of the area vacated by the Maureen Platform and Template will allow the extent and morphology of the remaining drill cuttings to be described.
- **Environmental Surveys:** A series of surveys similar to, and complementary to, those undertaken prior to decommissioning will be conducted to confirm the conclusions of the original impact assessment. A baseline survey will be carried out as soon as decommissioning activities are complete. This survey, inter alia, will include an analysis to determine the presence of LSA Scale (Radium 226 and Actinium 228) in the sediments. Monitoring surveys will be carried out thereafter to assess the extent of the re-colonisation of the area and compare it against the baseline survey results. The number of surveys and time period between each will be agreed with the DTI post decommissioning<sup>1</sup>.

## **16.2 Monitoring of Remains**

The only item that will remain in-situ will be the Maureen Oil Loading Pipeline which will be completely buried. A pipeline survey programme, as agreed with the DTI, will be implemented to monitor the status of the pipeline post decommissioning.

The aim of such pipeline surveys will be to confirm that the pipeline is adequately buried and will remain so. If the survey shows that this is not the case then appropriate remedial action will be taken. Such action will depend on the extent of exposure but could encompass a limited re-cover with gravel or, as a worst case, the removal of a pipe section, if completely exposed.

The first survey will take place at the earliest opportunity following the completion of all other decommissioning works. This will be in 2001 or 2002 depending on equipment availability and access and wherever possible the work will be integrated with the sediment surveys as described in Section 4.3.1.

A second survey will be carried out three years after the first (i.e. 2004 or 2005). Analysis of the results from these two sets of surveys will enable a decision to be made upon the requirement for future surveys or remedial action.

The method to be used to determine the depth of cover will be the most appropriate available at the time of survey. At present that is likely to be a sub-bottom profiler utilising acoustic pulse induction measurements and carried on a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV).

### **16.3 Notes and References**

The notes below, provide additional reference information relevant to this section. A Glossary of terms and abbreviations is also included before Appendix A, and a complete list of supporting studies and procedures is contained within Section 17.

- <sup>1</sup>      Reference Cordah Report 0572 - 33 -506