

Annex E

Energy and the environment

Carbon dioxide emissions

E.1 Provisional 2011 results for UK Greenhouse Gas emissions and progress towards targets were published on 29 March 2012. A copy of the statistical press release and associated data tables are available on the DECC website at:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_stats/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/uk_emissions.aspx

Oil pollution, oil spills and gas flaring

E.2 The amounts of oil spilled around the coasts of the United Kingdom and offshore (North Sea) are small in relation to total oil production, with the amounts discharged on drill cuttings, and with produced water generally much larger than from offshore installation spills. The total amount of oil spilled offshore during 2011 was 42 tonnes.

E.3 The number of oil spills recorded dropped from 436 in 2001 to 284 in 2011. Of those reported in 2011, 275 were for spills of less than 1 tonne.

E.4 The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations 2005 (OPPC) came into effect in August 2005. Under OPPC installations a granted a permit for activities discharging oil-contaminated water to sea, but the oil content must not exceed 30 milligrams per litre. The average content of oil in produced water for 2011, for the UKCS as a whole, was 14.3 milligrams per litre compared to 15.2 milligrams per litre in the previous year.

E.5 Under the terms of petroleum production licences, gas may be flared only with the consent of the Secretary of State. Flaring at offshore installations in 2010 was estimated to be 3.21 million cubic metres of gas per day, 2 per cent lower than in 2009..

Data sources

E.6 Figures for the total number of oil spills reported are collected by the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea Annual Surveys of Oil Pollution around the Coasts of the United Kingdom.

E.7 Further information on oil spills and discharges is available on the DECC oil and gas website at

www.oq.decc.gov.uk/information/bb_updates/chapters/Table_chart3_1.htm

www.oq.decc.gov.uk/information/bb_updates/chapters/Table3_2.htm

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