



## Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

### **Update to Offshore Oil and Gas Decommissioning Guidance Notes as a result of clarification regarding Letter(s) of Support requirements**

OPRED have updated their guidance regarding the requirements for Letter(s) of Support required on submission of a decommissioning programme.

Under the Petroleum Act 1998, the Secretary of State may require a decommissioning programme to be submitted jointly by all the holders of a section 29 notice, in respect of an installation and/ or pipeline. Decommissioning programmes should therefore include a Letter of Support from each holder of a section 29 notice, in respect of the installations and/or pipelines, signifying that the programme is being submitted on their behalf. This update to the Offshore Oil and Gas Decommissioning Guidance Notes confirms that non-equity holders who have sold their interest, but retain a section 29 notice, should also provide such a Letter of Support.

Section 6.26 - Approval of a Decommissioning Programme of the Offshore Oil and Gas Decommissioning Guidance Notes should now read as follows:

At the appropriate time, normally when the draft decommissioning programme has been finalised, the OPRED will formally direct, in writing, the holders of section 29 notices, in respect of the installations and/or pipelines, to submit a decommissioning programme for OPRED approval. In response to the direction, the operator, on behalf of the notice holders, should submit a copy of the decommissioning programme based on the agreed draft. The decommissioning programme should include a letter from each holder of a section 29 notice, in respect of the installations and/or pipelines, signifying that it is being submitted by the operator on their behalf. Each of the notice holders will be informed by written notice when the Secretary of State has approved the programme. If the approval is to be subject to specific conditions or is modified by the Secretary of State before approval, the notice holders will be given the opportunity to make representations. A link to the approved programme will be included on OPRED's website.