Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment
& Decommissioning

Reminder: Oil Spill Response Workshop – 2 December 2026

OPRED is reminding relevant Responsible Persons of the **Oil Spill Response Workshop on Wednesday 2 December 2026 at the OEUK offices in Aberdeen**.

The workshop is for relevant Gas Installation Operators, Well Operators, Pipeline Operators and Non-Production Installation Owners who are required under the OPEP Guidance to attend the workshop in lieu of undertaking a company-specific Tier 3 exercise.

Organisations that have not yet registered should nominate up to two representatives and provide their details to OPRED@energysecurity.gov.uk by 31 October 2026.

Please see the below communication for full details of the workshop and attendance requirements:

For the Attention of the HSE Manager

19 September 2026

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
2nd Floor , Wing C
AB1 Building,
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

www.gov.uk/desnz
OPRED@energysecurity.gov.uk

Dear Responsible Person

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (OIL POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND CO-OPERATION CONVENTION) REGULATIONS 1998 (as amended).

OIL SPILL RESPONSE WORKSHOP FOR GAS OPERATORS, WELL OPERATORS, PIPELINE OPERATORS AND NON-PRODUCTION INSTALLATION OWNERS NOT OTHERWISE REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE A TIER 3 EXERCISE

The Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations require Responsible Persons — including Well Operators, Installation Operators, Non-Production Installation Owners and Operators of oil handling facilities — to undertake exercises to maintain the expertise necessary to implement approved Oil Pollution Emergency Plans (OPEPs).

The OPEP Guidance Notes issued by OPRED set out the specific exercise requirements, including how Responsible Persons are required to demonstrate their capability to interface with the UK National Contingency Plan for responding to marine pollution incidents.

These Guidance Notes require certain Responsible Persons to attend an oil spill response workshop every three years. This applies to those holding approved OPEPs for offshore gas/condensate operations, Well Operators, Pipeline Operators and Non-Production Installation (NPI) Owners involved in offshore oil and gas operations employing personnel trained to OPEP Training Level 1, 2, 3 or 4 who are not otherwise required to undertake a full Tier 3 exercise.

Attendance at the workshops in person is mandatory for the aforementioned Responsible Persons and will be deemed to satisfy the legislative requirements in lieu of conducting a company-specific Tier 3 exercise. Organisations that are required to attend but do not do so should be aware that OPRED may consider alternative means of demonstrating compliance with the exercise requirements of the Guidance. In particular, Well Operators undertaking operations during the subsequent three-year period may, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, be required to undertake an evaluated company-specific Tier 3 exercise.

The workshop will highlight the requirements placed on relevant Responsible Persons and the roles of OPRED, MCA, SOSREP, the Environment Group and key pollution response contractors in the event of a significant oil pollution incident. In addition, the workshop will enable key personnel from relevant Responsible Persons to gain awareness of the interaction between the various pollution responders, their respective functions and how the National Contingency Plan supports the OPEP arrangements.

This letter constitutes notification that, as a relevant Responsible Person, representatives from your organisation are required to attend a full-day, in-person workshop on **Wednesday 2 December 2026** at **OEUK Offices, Annan House, 35 Palmerston Rd, Aberdeen, AB11 5QP**.

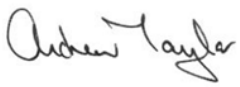
The workshop will comprise presentations covering the topics mentioned in this letter and a tabletop exercise to clarify and confirm the actions and roles undertaken by the response organisations. This will provide practical knowledge of emergency response roles in the event of a significant oil pollution incident. An agenda will be issued prior to the workshop detailing the timings and objectives for the day.

Your organisation must nominate up to two representatives to attend this workshop. Representatives attending should be able to ensure that any learning from the workshop can be disseminated through your organisation's pollution response arrangements.

You must respond to OPRED using the email address below by **31 October 2026**, confirming the name, email address and any specific dietary requirements of each individual attending the workshop.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact OPRED by email at OPRED@energysecurity.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Taylor
Offshore Inspectorate Technical Lead