

Well Decommissioning: Principles & Practice

Course Objectives

The overall objective of this course is to provide practising engineers with the tools to tackle well decommissioning projects or campaigns. It is delivered by one or more of Well Decom's three Directors, Steve Jewell, Graeme Johnston or Peter Greaves each with extensive well engineering and decommissioning experience, almost exclusively with Operating companies.

The course will focus on engineering best practice and you will learn how industry guidelines are implemented in both the planning and execution of decommissioning projects. You will become familiar with associated risks and uncertainties and begin to feel confident about how to manage these in the planning stage and deal with them as you progress to the operational phase. The selection of technologies and techniques for a wide range of well scenarios will also form an important part of this comprehensive technical course.

Who Should Attend

This course is intended primarily for technical staff (of all disciplines) not already accustomed to P&A activities or unfamiliar with industry guidelines and regulations. The course is also suited to Technical Management requiring an in-depth appreciation of the challenges associated with decommissioning and insight into the meaning and importance of relevant regulation, guidelines and standards.

Training Method

The course will be delivered using a combination of instruction, facilitation of group discussions and the regular use of practical examples and exercises, including a full field decommissioning case study. This approach will provide valuable practical insights into the planning of well decommissioning and the management of key related risks and uncertainties.

Course Content

- **Introduction**
Scene setting regarding the importance of good decommissioning practice in the modern world. UK and global context.
- **Key Definitions**
Regulation – Guidelines – Standards. Critical definitions in the context of UK Guidelines, their meaning and interpretation.

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- **Permanent Barriers**

Meaning of permanence, types of barrier, materials, size etc. The importance of annular cement and the definition of corporate standards in defining the effectiveness of annular barriers.
- **Verification, Responsibilities and Accountability**

The importance of verification in all aspects of well decommissioning. The role and responsibilities of Technical Authorities, the Well Examiner and Management.
- **Special Considerations**

A review of the full spectrum of technical features to be considered during well P&A planning, from sour fluids to sealing and healing formations.
- **Key Phases of Abandonment**

Industry definitions, their meaning and intent. Phasing activities to manage risk and for optimising field decommissioning activities.
- **Abandonment in Practice**

Planning for and dealing with risk and uncertainty – Rigs vs LWIV – contracting strategies - record keeping.
- **Cost Estimating and Budgeting**

Reflecting uncertainty in cost estimates – cost estimating methods and Guidelines – balance sheet liabilities – budgeting, AFEs and project cost management.
- **Case Study Exercise**

An example field abandonment exercise to pull together all aspects of well abandonment in the context of and overall field decommissioning project.
- **New Technology**

A review of existing and developing technologies that are likely to appear over the next 3-5 years.