

Department of Mineral Resources



Falkland Islands Government Newsletter
September 2016

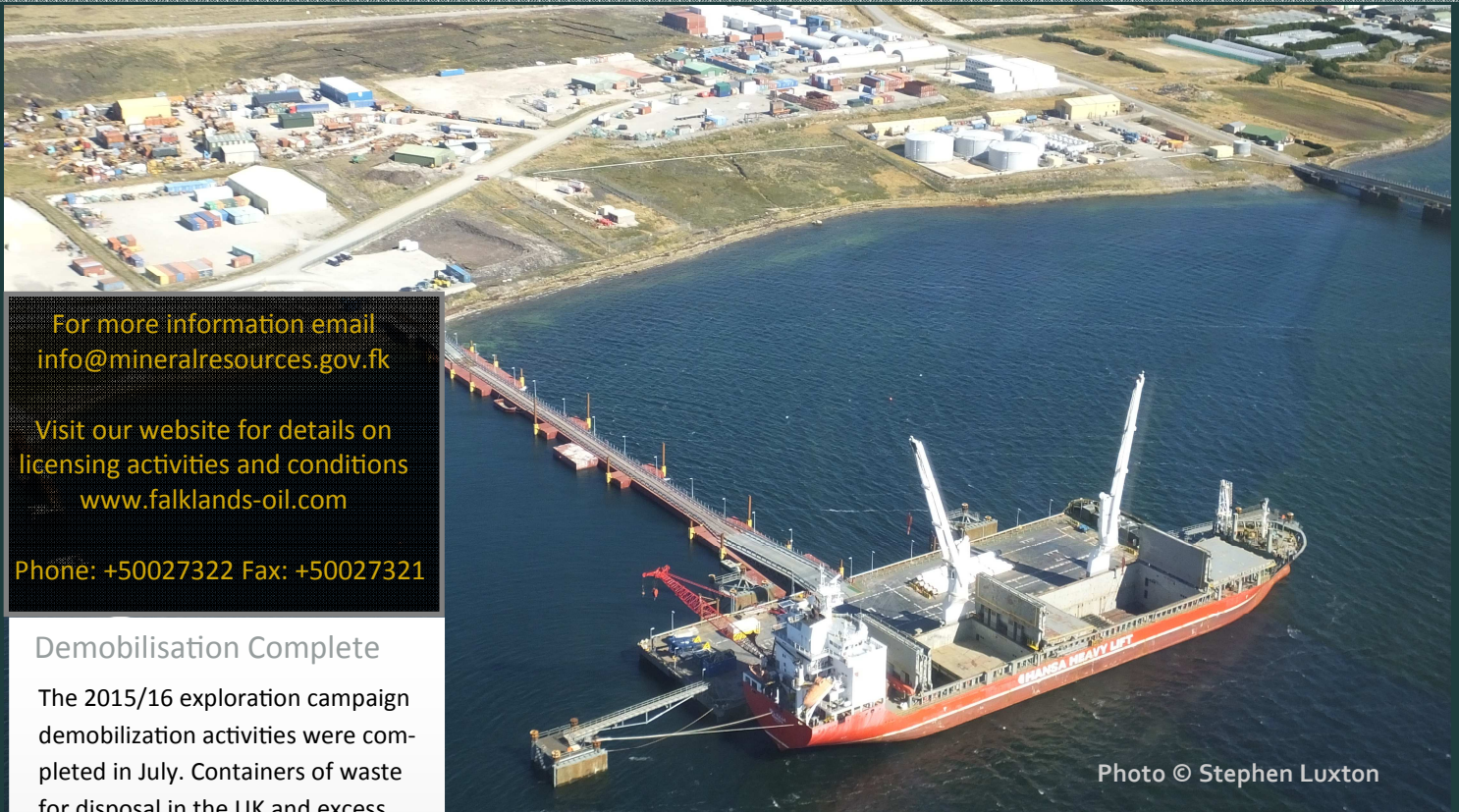


Photo © Stephen Luxton

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Demobilisation Complete

The 2015/16 exploration campaign demobilization activities were completed in July. Containers of waste for disposal in the UK and excess materials, along with the temporary Snoozebox accommodation were among the final items loaded onto the last coaster vessels.

PMO Sea Lion Project Scoping

Premier Oil recently held EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) scoping consultation sessions across the Falklands.

These aim to provide residents with an overview of the proposed development project and the potential risks and impacts that have been identified. This process allows stakeholders to raise particular concerns and ensure all relevant impacts are included.

PMO are currently preparing a detailed project proposal and supporting documents to submit to FIG for consideration of approval.

What are Oil Spill Contingency Plans (OSCPs)?

Oil Spill Contingency Plans lay out how to respond to an oil pollution incident. They should demonstrate the appropriate level of response for a particular incident, and describe what resources should be available before an activity is undertaken. An Environmental Impact Statement will assess the type and quantity of pollution and the likelihood of a spill, define the possible consequences, and also demonstrate measures that are in place to reduce the chance of a spill and minimize the amount that could potentially be spilled. An OSCP defines the response to an oil spill, including containment, recovery and clean-up of spilled oil, and the financial resources required to support that response.

Currently, additional conditions to licenses require operators to have an OSCP in place, although this will be replaced in 2017 with an equivalent Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) in line with the regime established under the UK Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response, and Co-Operation Regulations 1998 (as amended).

The Department of Mineral Resources reviews oil industry OSCP's and consults with external specialists to determine whether plans are fit for purpose. Guidelines are currently being reviewed in line with proposed new environmental legislation. The Falkland Islands National Oil Spill Contingency Plan is also currently being reviewed and re-written following a successful tender bid by global specialist Oil Spill Response Ltd.

A look at offsetting and environmental legacy

A set of broad guidelines and policy principles regarding offsetting were approved by Executive Council in June (124/16)

The Offshore Minerals Ordinance requires operators to include within EIS a description of the measures envisaged to eliminate, reduce, remedy and/or offset significant adverse effects to the environment arising out of the project and its associated infrastructure.

Offsetting is the third step in the mitigation hierarchy following avoidance and mitigation; it aims to counteract any residual impacts from a project. Any offsetting implies initial damage, and there are two general forms of offsetting: carbon and biodiversity.



Photo © FIG—Project impacts may include physical presence and emissions

sibility through positive environmental management.

The newly adopted guidelines form Appendix 2 of the EIS Guidance Document (available on our website). This offsetting guidance aims to be simple, flexible and effective to give direction to pilot schemes working towards carbon neutrality and No Net Loss/Net Gain of biodiversity for the Falkland Islands.

The range of potential offset projects is wide, but includes options such as habitat restoration, invasive species control, renewable energy and improved energy efficiency.



Photo © Mickey Reeves—habitat restoration can offset biodiversity loss

Research should not be a primary form of offsetting as it does not compensate directly for any impacts, but there is scope for contributions through research once practical forms of offsetting have been achieved to the best practical and realistic level.



Oil Spill Response Ltd Training course (DMR archive photo)

Intro to PONs

Petroleum Operations Notices are a tool used by the DMR to regulate the hydrocarbons industry. They are a collection of guidelines, consents and submission forms based on the system used in the UK, although much of the UK System is now handled through an online Oil Portal.

The Falklands have 11 PONs:

PON 1 Record and sample requirements for surveys and wells

PON 2 Reporting Procedures

PON 3 Notification of Geophysical Surveys

PON 4 Application for Consent to Drill Exploration, Appraisal and Development Wells

PON 5 Application to Abandon or Temporarily Abandon a well

PON 6 Application to complete or workover a well

PON 7 Well Numbering System

PON 8 Oil and Chemical Pollution

PON 9 Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences

PON 10 Application to use and Discharge Non-Aqueous Drilling Fluids and Associated Cuttings

PON 11 Loss or dumping of materials at sea from offshore oil and gas installations

Requirement to comply with PONs is laid out through licence conditions.



Photo © E Hancox—renewable energy

Carbon offsetting is an overarching term that aims to compensate for the emissions of all greenhouse gases that cannot be avoided. Alongside carbon offsetting, environmental or biodiversity offsetting policies aim to restore, maintain or improve habitats to protect species.

Environmental Legacy aims to achieve environmental benefits above and beyond offsetting, and that are not necessarily related to the project impacts. It has a significant focus on the natural environment but can have broader benefits for the local community. Environmental legacy may be driven by a company or government to highlight the importance and value of the environment and to demonstrate corporate social respon-

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Petroleum Operations Notice 8
Oil and Chemical Pollution

Revised April 2016

Example Operations Notice

