

The New DNV Recommended Practice (DNV-RP-H102) for Marine Operations During the Removal of Decommissioned Offshore Platforms

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ABSTRACT

A new Recommended Practice (RP) document has been prepared and will be issued by Det Norske Veritas (DNV) on marine operations during the removal of decommissioned offshore platforms. This paper provides an overview of the motives and development process for the DNV RP, which will be formally issued later this year. The content of the RP has been presented in this paper. In addition the background for some of the recommendations in the RP has been indicated.

KEY WORDS:

Marine operations; offshore installations; removal; guidelines; decommissioning.

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this paper is to present the work process and the results of the JIP (Joint Industry Project) called "Technical Basis for Marine Operations during Decommissioning of Offshore Installations". The main result of the JIP is a "work document" that will form the basis for a DNV RP (Recommend Practice).

MOTIVES FOR THE WORK

DNV has on behalf of various clients been engaged in activities covering almost all aspects of decommissioning of offshore installations. One conclusion from our engagement is (was) that there seems to be a need for commonly accepted guidance (or requirements) on how to approach and solve the technical challenges ahead of us. The lack of a relevant reference basis for marine operations was also highlighted and discussed during the DTF seminar in Aberdeen 28th May 2002. In response to this discussion, DNV proposed to develop guidelines in co-operation with the DTF group. The DNV proposal how to develop guidelines (i.e. the JIP scope of work) was accepted.

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The work has been organized and funded as a JIP. A JIP "kick-off" meeting was held in Stavanger (TFE offices) 24th October 2002. The writing of the "work document" for the RP has been coordinated and

performed by DNV. Most of the work has been done by the DNV Marine Operations department (VMO), but also other DNV departments have been involved. See Appendix – Slide 4.

The JIP sponsors and others (i.e. installation contractors and marine warranty surveyors) have contributed by commenting and participation in three one-day "work sessions". These "work sessions" have been arranged at the Shell Woodbank facility in Aberdeen. A JIP Steering Committee headed by Shell UK (Bob Hemmings) has supervised the work. The RP "work document" has been issued **six** (6) times. The first issue was 1st of December 2002 at the last 18th of December 2003.

MAINTENANCE OF THE RP

There is no standing committee on the RP to respond to questions and keep working on the document for future upgrades. The responsibility to respond and record questions will lay with VMO (DNV Marine Operations). No schedule for updating the RP exists, but it is the intention of DNV that the RP should be a "live" document that will be revised whenever required. Updates will be proposed by VMO and issued through the DNV "Rule Secretariat". All revised issues of the RP will be subject to internal- and external hearing.

INSTALLATION RULES AND THE RP

DNV Rules for Planning and Execution of Marine Operations, /1/, neither mention decommissioning nor removal of offshore installations. The proposed RP is developed in order to describe how to apply the /1/ requirements in connection with removal operations.

The format of the RP was discussed rather eagerly in the first two JIP work sessions. The two "extreme" possibilities was either to make a "stand alone" document repeating all relevant requirements in /1/ or to pin-point only the items in /1/ that would be different for removal operations. The chosen compromise was to make an RP that in additions to many specific references to sections in /1/, mainly:

- Gives a summary of the items in /1/ that are considered most important for removal operations.
- Elaborates the items that will be different for "traditional" marine operations and removal operations.