

PIPELINE & PROCESS

PIPELINE DECOMMISSIONING

Country: UK
Field: Murchison
Year: 2014
Technologies: **Front End Engineering** ● **Fluid Pumping & Progressive Pigging Campaign**

MAKING INTERVENTION
SMARTER

- Successful pigging programme enables pipeline disconnection from the platforms
- 19.5km of 16" pipeline from Murchison to Dunlin cleaned to less than 30 mg/l hydrocarbon in water content

CHALLENGE

For the Murchison Oil Export line PL115 to be disconnected and decommissioned, it first had to be cleaned to a standard whereby the breaking of containment could be achieved without undue environmental impact. To this end, a progressive pigging/flushing campaign had to be devised, with the aim of cleaning the line down to below 30 mg/l oil in water content.

SOLUTION

A pigging programme to remove all wax and hydrocarbons from the line was actioned. As the line was not in production, the pipeline had to be pigged with chemically treated filtered seawater via a temporary platform based pumping spread and supported by a telemetry standard metering package.

RESULTS

10 pig runs and 2 x pipeline flushes took place, with samples being taken after every pig run to analyse the oil in water content. Upon completion of these activities, an oil in water content of below 5 ppm was achieved allowing the line to be disconnected and abandoned. Upon completion of further work scopes by others, the Murchison Platform and jacket was removed

