

North Sea Reporter

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BP seeks approval to decommission Andrew field platform and pipelines

BP is seeking approval from the UK authorities to decommission the Andrew field, which spans Central North Sea blocks 16/27 and 16/28. The company has submitted to the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning plans for six programmes for the field's platform and associated risers. The first programme addresses the topsides, jacket and associated platform wells, while a further five involve risers and umbilicals.

The topsides will be fully removed, while the jacket will be removed to an agreed target depth. Dates for decommissioning of the topsides wells are fluid and could start prior to the cessation of production, expected in March 2027. All topsides and jacket decommissioning activities, including the removal of the drill template and post-decommissioning surveys, are forecast to be completed by end-2036.

Andrew comprises a single fixed platform – a 9,713-tonne jacket, 10,173t topsides and 3,212.93t of piles – which also serves as a central hub for the Arundel, Cyrus, Farragon and Kinnoull subsea developments. The topsides facilities are supported on a four-legged steel jacket with a mix of platform wells and subsea tiebacks and associated field infrastructure. The platform is relatively small, accommodating only 80 people and contains a full process plant for separating water and gas from the production fluids. Platform power is provided from three 6-MW gas turbines, fed principally from produced gas.

There are 17 platform wells: five oil producers, one gas-lift, six shut in and five plugged. The wellbay has a total capacity of 24 slots, only 19 of which are in use (17 with wells; one slot with the umbilical line to Farragon; and one with a proppant filter).

From Andrew, processed oil is exported to the Forties pipeline system via the Brae-Forties C pipeline on to Cruden Bay. Gas is exported to the Central Area Transmission System to Teesside. Some gas is used for gas-lift in the Andrew, Arundel, Cyrus and Kinnoull fields, as well as the Cyrus and Kinnoull risers.
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