

Annex E

Energy and the environment

Carbon dioxide emissions

E.1 Provisional 2013 results for UK Greenhouse Gas emissions and progress towards targets were published on 27 March 2014. A copy of the statistical press release and associated data tables are available on the DECC section of the gov.uk website at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/provisional-uk-emissions-estimates

Oil pollution, oil releases and gas flaring

E.2 The amounts of oil released around the coasts of the United Kingdom and offshore (North Sea) are small in relation to total oil production, with the amounts discharged on drill cuttings, and with produced water generally much larger than from offshore installation releases. The total amount of oil released offshore during 2013 was approximately 95 tonnes.

E.3 The number of oil release reports recorded in 2013 amounts to 321, which is higher than the 248 reported during 2012. Of those reported in 2013, 312 were for releases less than 1 tonne.

E.4 The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations 2005 (OPPC) came into effect in August 2005. Under OPPC installations are granted a permit for activities discharging oil-contaminated water to sea, but the oil content must not exceed 30 milligrams per litre. The average content of oil in produced water for 2013, for the UKCS as a whole, was 14.35 milligrams per litre compared to 14.6 milligrams per litre in the previous year.

E.5 Under the terms of petroleum production licences, gas may be flared only with the consent of the Secretary of State. Flaring at offshore installations in 2013 was estimated to be 2.69 million cubic metres of gas per day, 4 per cent higher than in 2012. In 2013 gas flared was equivalent to about 2 per cent of UK production.

Data sources

E.6 Figures for the total number of oil releases reported are collected by the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea Annual Surveys of Oil Pollution around the Coasts of the United Kingdom.

E.7 Further information on oil spills and discharges including historical data is available on the DECC oil and gas website at

www.gov.uk/oil-and-gas-environmental-alerts-and-incident-reporting.

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