

Annex E

Energy and the environment

Carbon dioxide emissions

E.1 Provisional 2015 results for UK Greenhouse Gas emissions and progress towards targets were published on 31 March 2016. A copy of the statistical release and associated data tables are available on the BEIS section of the GOV.UK website at:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provisional-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2015

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 2015 was approximately 15 tonnes.

E.3 The number of oil release reports recorded in 2015 amounts to 243, which is substantially lower than the 377 reported during 2014. Of those reported in 2015, 240 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 2015, for the UKCS as a whole, was 13.84 milligrams per litre compared to 12.84 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 2015 was estimated to be 3.27 million cubic metres of gas per day, 24 per cent higher than in 2014. In 2015 gas flared was equivalent to about 3 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 oil and gas section of the GOV.UK website at:

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

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