



19 November 2019

Following a precautionary down-man of EnQuest's Thistle platform in October, a dedicated project team has been assessing remediation options.

A subsea survey showed deterioration of a metal plate connecting a redundant storage tank to one of the platform's legs. EnQuest has worked closely with the regulators and the Thistle decommissioning co-venture partners, BP and Chrysaor, and has agreed plans to remove both tanks.

Contracts for subsea and heavy lift operations are being progressed and the team are developing plans to start the removal operation in early 2020.

To further assist in returning Thistle to safe operations as quickly as possible, a small work party returned to the platform on Saturday for the second time since the shut-down to carry out further analysis and inspection activities. These offshore visits followed remote operated vehicle subsea surveys and the development of a robust safety case in consultation with the Health & Safety Executive.

A spokesman for EnQuest said: "The redundant tanks had been scheduled for removal in the summer of 2020. Following the latest surveys, we are now accelerating that plan and, weather dependent, expect activity to start early in the New Year. We have a dedicated project team working with our stakeholders and the supply chain and we continue to keep regulators engaged on progress with the view to bringing Thistle back to safe operations as quickly as possible. We would like to thank our team and contractors for their continued support during this process."

The Thistle platform is located 125 miles north-east of Shetland.

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