



Newsletter

Spring 2005

ERT goes deep in Malaysia

February saw the ERT survey team (Peter Campbell, Jonathan Hunt, Jon Rielly and Gregor McNiven) catching some winter sun assisting Petronas Research and Scientific Services (PRSS) with a baseline survey of the Kikeh development in the South China Sea to support an environmental impact assessment (EIA) report. The Kikeh development, to be operated by Murphy Oil, is approximately 100 miles off the Island of Labuan in East Malaysia. Situated in around 1,300 m of water, the Kikeh development will be Malaysia's first deep water EIA.



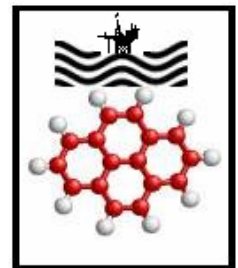
The deepwater survey encompassed sediment and water sampling over the entire area with samples taken using a box corer specifically built by PRSS for this survey. ERT's survey team gave guidance to PRSS, representatives from the University of Science and Technology and UNISEL on deepwater surveys and demonstrated techniques for biological and chemical sampling. Sample analysis will be carried out jointly by ERT and PRSS and the results fed into the EIA, providing a benchmark for future deep water work carried out in the South China Sea area. ERT is also providing additional support to the EIA process, in particular the impact of deep water developments on benthic macrofauna.

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UKOOA to fund ERT produced water study

The United Kingdom Offshore Operators Association (UKOOA) is sponsoring an ERT project investigating the short-term variability of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) levels and their relationship with dispersed oil concentrations in produced water effluents.

Currently, detailed information on the PAH compounds present in produced waters is only obtained on a bi-annual basis (pre-2004 on an annual basis) as part of the ongoing OSPAR analysis programme for produced water. The data obtained from the analyses are then used, along with total volumes discharged, to estimate the overall loadings of these compounds. Recent studies have shown that there can be considerable variations in the results obtained from a single 'spot' sample of the same effluent over relatively short timescales, therefore the current method for estimating the total loadings may be subject to fairly large errors.



The data obtained from the study will be used to estimate the uncertainty of calculated contaminant loading values extrapolated from single results, as well as providing valuable temporal information which may be useful in more detailed studies of possible effluent effects. It will also assess the applicability of using routinely obtained dispersed oil measurements for the calculation of individual PAH concentrations.

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New Chairman of the Energy Institute, Southern Scotland Branch

Ingeborg McNicoll, a Director of ERT (Scotland) Ltd was elected as Chairman of the Southern Scotland Branch of the Energy Institute in September 2004. Membership of this branch extends from Oban to Fife to the Borders and comprises members from the former Institute of Petroleum and the Institute of Energy, a diverse membership! The branch members are preparing for the Annual Scottish Energy Debate, which will take place at the McCance Lecture Theatre in Strathclyde University on 11 May 2005. The Debate - "**When the lights go out**" will be chaired by Louise Batchelor from BBC Scotland and panel members will represent all sectors of the energy industry. Entry is free and if you would like more information contact Ingeborg on ingeborg.mcnicoll@ert.co.uk.



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