

Glossary

Aarhus Convention

An international legal agreement which promotes access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters.

Abandonment

Final plugging of wells and/or permanent dismantling of a production platform or other installation.

Accidental Events

Incidents or non-routine events that have the potential to trigger impacts that would otherwise not be anticipated.

Amphipod

A small crustacean of the order Amphipoda having a laterally compressed body with no carapace.

Annelid

Any of various worms or wormlike animals of the phylum Annelida, characterised by an elongated, cylindrical and segmented body.

Annulus

The space between two concentric objects, such as between the wellbore and casing or between casing and tubing.

Anode

A positively charged electrode (associated with a battery, electronic device or electrical equipment).

Anticline

An arch-shaped fold in rock in which the rock layers are upwardly convex.

Anthropogenic

Relating to humans.

Associated Gas

Natural gas found as part of or in conjunction with other constituents of crude oil. This may be dissolved in the crude oil or found as a cap of free gas above the oil.

Azerbaijan Manat (AZN)

Currency of Azerbaijan.

Background Level

The concentration of a substance or energy intensity level (such as noise or light) that is characteristic of the surrounding environment.

Ballast

Water taken aboard a vessel to maintain stability and to distribute load.

Barite

A very heavy substance used as a main component of drilling mud to increase its density (mud weight). Chemical name is barium sulphate.

Barrels

The traditional unit of measure of oil volume, equivalent to 159 liters (0.159 m³) or approximately 35 imperial gallons (42 US gallons).

Base Case Design

Project design as described and assessed within the ESIA.

Basel Convention

An international legal agreement that primarily deals with transboundary hazardous waste movement and other hazardous waste management.

Bathymetry

The measurement of the depth of bodies of water.

Benthos

The collection of organisms attached to or resting on the bottom (benthic) sediments and those which bore or burrow into the sediments.

Berm

An engineered (earth) bank forming a raised barrier separating two areas.

Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO)

Procedure which results in identification of the option that causes least damage to the environment at acceptable cost.

Biocide

A chemical agent that can be added to fluids for the purpose of selectively preventing or limiting the growth of bacteria and other organisms.

Biodegradable

Susceptible to breakdown into simpler compounds by microorganisms in the soil, water and atmosphere. Biodegradation often converts toxic organic compounds into non- or less toxic substances.

Biodiversity

The number of plant and animal species in a given area.

Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)

The amount of oxygen required by aerobic microorganisms to decompose the organic matter in a sample of water, such as that polluted by sewage. It is used as a measure of the degree of water pollution.

Biomass

The total mass of living matter within a given quantity.

Birth Rate

Childbirth per 1,000 people per year.

Bivalve

A marine or freshwater mollusc having a laterally compressed body and a shell consisting of two hinged valves.

Black Water

Human generated wastewater containing fecal matter and urine.

Blowout

Uncontrolled or uncontrollable release of downhole pressure upward through the wellbore or casing.

Blow Out Preventer (BOP)

Hydraulically operated device used to prevent uncontrolled releases of oil or gas from a well.

Borehole

A hole in the ground made by drilling; the uncased drill hole from the surface to the bottom of the well.

Bowers

A vehicle tanker containing fuel or water.

Bund

Containment around a storage tank to contain the contents in case of rupture or spillage.

Buy Back

A system to allow the use of gas from a gas export line, when fuel gas is unavailable on the platform.

Caisson

A steel cylindrical chamber extending from a drilling rig or platform that may be used for uptake or discharge.

Caravanserai

An inn built around a large court for accommodating caravans along trade routes in central and western Asia.

Casing

The steel piping used to line a well for protection against collapse of the well borehole and unwanted leakage into or from the surrounding formation.

Cathodic Protection

A method of neutralising the corrosive static electric charges in a submerged steel structure.

Cement

A powdery substance that acts as a binder that hardens (sets) after mixing with water. Cement is often used to bind aggregate materials (such as sand and gravel) together, to form concrete.

Chal-Meadow

Vegetation community that is linked to the temporary retention of surface water following rainfall, this community is dominated by *Tamarix meyeri* scrub and usually occurs in depressions and along drainage lines.

Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)

The amount of oxygen consumed by organic compounds in a sample of water. It is used to indirectly measure the amount of organic compounds in water.

Circulation

The passage of fluids, primarily drilling mud, down the interior of the drill stem and back to the surface via the annulus.

Coalescer

A device used to change material from a liquid to a thickened curd-like state by chemical reaction.

Coliform

Of or relating to the bacteria that commonly inhabit the intestines/colons of humans and other vertebrates.

Commissioning

Preparatory work comprising system testing of the process systems, prior to full production.

Communities

A social group whose members reside in a specific locality, share government and often have a common cultural and historical heritage / an ecological unit composed of the various populations of micro-organisms, plants, animals that inhabit a particular area.

Completion

The work of preparing a newly drilled well for production.

Completion Fluid

Chemical mixture present in the well during the placement of production tubing and perforation of the well.

Compression

The raising of pressure within a substance.

Condensate (Gas Condensate)

Light hydrocarbon fractions produced with natural gas which condense into liquid at normal temperatures and pressures associated with surface production equipment.

Conductivity

A measure of the ability of a substance to transmit heat, electrical charge or sound through a medium without noticeable motion of the medium itself.

Conductor Section

Casing string that is usually hammered into the well at the seabed, to prevent the sides of the hole from caving into the wellbore.

Consequence

The resultant effect (positive or negative) of an activity's interaction with the legal, natural and/or socio-economic environments.

Consortium

An association or grouping of institutions, businesses, or financial organisations, usually set up for a common purpose.

Consultation

A formal process which aims to obtain the views and opinions from stakeholders about a project.

Continental Plate

A tectonic plate that forms part of one of the Earth's continents.

Continental Slope

Connects the continental shelf and the oceanic crust and is part of the continental margin.

Contract Area

Area of the sea that has been sub-divided and licensed/leased to a company or group of companies for exploration and production of hydrocarbons.

Control Fluid

A type of hydraulic fluid and the medium by which power is transferred in hydraulically operated systems. For the SD2 Project it is water-based fluid used as the energy source in the subsea control system to operate the hydraulically actuated valves.

Convergent Plate Boundary

An actively deforming region where two (or more) tectonic plates or fragments of lithosphere move toward one another and collide.

Copepod

Any member of a large family of the phylum Arthropoda, including many crustaceans, living in freshwater and marine water. Some copepods are parasitic and others are free living.

Corrosion

The eating away of metal by chemical or electrochemical action. The rusting and pitting of pipelines, steel tanks, and other metal structures is caused by a complex electrochemical action.

Crude Oil

An unrefined mixture of naturally-occurring hydrocarbons with varying densities and properties.

Crest

Highest point of a geological structure.

Ctenophore

Any of various marine animals of the phylum Ctenophora, having transparent, gelatinous bodies bearing eight rows of comblike cilia used for swimming. Also known as comb jelly.

Culvert

A man made structure used to channel water.

Cumulative Impact

Environmental and/or socio-economic aspects that may not on their own constitute a significant impact but when combined with impacts from past, present or reasonably foreseeable future activities, result in a larger /more significance impact(s).

Cuttings

See drill cuttings.

Daphnia

Small planktonic invertebrate, cladoceran, varying in length from 0.2 to 5 mm.

Decibel (dB)

A unit used (one tenth of a bel) used in the comparison of two power levels relating to sound intensities.

Decommissioning

Shutdown and dismantling of any facilities.

Degasser

A separator which removes entrained gas from the returned mud flow. Also any process which removes gases of various kinds from an oil flow.

Dehydration

Removal of water.

Desertification

The transformation of arable or habitable land to desert, due to a change in climate or destructive land use.

Dewpoint

The temperature to which a given parcel of air must be cooled, at constant pressure, for water vapour to condense into water.

Disclosure

Release of ESIA information into the public domain.

Dispersant

Specially designed oil spill products that are composed of detergent-like surfactants in low toxicity solvents. Dispersants do not remove oil from the water but break the oil slick into small particles, which then disperse into the water where they are further broken down by natural processes.

Domestic waste

Solid waste, composed of garbage and rubbish, which normally originates from a residence/living quarters.

Downhole

Area within the drilled bore of an oil or gas well.

Drainage Catchment

The shape of the land which naturally forms different areas such that water falling as rain on the ground will drain into the lowest parts of the area.

Drill Bit

A drilling tool used to cut through rock.

Drill Cuttings

Small fragments of rock produced as the result of drilling that are brought to the surface by the flow of the drilling mud as it is circulated.

Drilling Mud

A special clay mixed with water or oil and chemical additives, pumped downhole through the drill pipe (string) and drill bit. The mud cools the rapidly rotating bit, lubricates the drillpipe as it turns in the well bore, carries rock cuttings to the surface and serves as a plaster to prevent the wall of the borehole from collapsing. Also known as drilling fluid.

Drill String

Lengths of steel tubing screwed together to form a pipe connecting the drill bit to the drilling rig. It is rotated to drill the hole and delivers the drilling fluids to the cutting edge of the bit.

Early Oil Project

The first large-scale oil project in the Caspian Sea. It commenced in 1994 and involved a consortium of companies who invested to extract oil from the Azeri, Chirag and Guneshli wells.

Earthenware Sherds

A fragment of pottery.

Ecosystem

The interrelationships between all living organisms in a given area, and their relationships to non-living materials.

Effluent

Waste emitted as a liquid by an operation or process.

Embankment

A raised mass of earth or stone built to hold back water or to support a roadway.

Emergency

An unplanned activity e.g. due to equipment failure, loss of containment, operator error, unexpected well conditions or design error.

Endemic

Present within a localised area or peculiar to organisms in such an area.

Emulsion

A mixture of two or more immiscible liquids, with one being dispersed in another.

Environment for Europe

A partnership of member states, including Azerbaijan, and other organisations within the UNECE region.

Environmental and Socio-economic Impact Assessment (ESIA)

Systematic review of the environmental or socio-economic effects that a proposed project may have on its surrounding environment.

Environmental Aspect

An element of an organisation's activities, products or services that can interact with the environment.

Environmental Impact

Any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organisation's activities, products or services.

Environmental Impact Management Process

A full life-cycle process that seeks to identify and understand a project's environmental impacts, to avoid, minimise, mitigate and remediate the impacts.

Environmental Management System

A system established to plan, manage and document an organisation's activities and processes and resultant environmental impacts.

Environmental Receptors

Any of various organisms that are directly or indirectly affected by environmental impact.

Ephemeral

Something living or lasting for a brief time, such as the flow of a river during certain months of the year.

Espoo Convention

A regional legal agreement to promote environmentally sound and sustainable economic development through the application of ESIA.

Ethnography

The study of customs and the cultural heritage of separate ethnic and human groups and tribes.

Eurasian

The extended landmass of Europe and Asia and specifically the large indeterminate region where the two continents join.

Exploration Well

A well drilled in search of an undiscovered reservoir or to greatly extend the limits of a known reservoir.

Fertility Rate

The average number of children that would be born to a woman in a certain area over her lifetime.

Filter Feeder

A variety of organisms living mostly on detritus or on plankton, whose feeding mechanism comprises a filter and a means of creating a current carrying particles through the filter.

Flaring

Controlled disposal of surplus combustible hydrocarbons by igniting their vapours.

Flash

The sudden release of gases and/or vapours due to an instantaneous reduction in temperature and/or pressure.

Float Over

The launch or loading out of jackets or other structures for installation offshore on a flotation barge or other vessel.

Flora/fauna

Plants/wildlife that occur within a defined geographical area.

Flowline

The pipe through which oil/gas travels from the well to the offshore platform processing facilities.

Fluvial

Of or relating to rivers or streams or produced by the action of a river or stream.

Footprint

The spatial impact/impression on the land from a facility, building or disturbed area.

Formation

A rock deposit or structure of homogenous origin and appearance.

Fugitive Emissions

Release of small volumes of gas due to filling, emptying and "breathing losses" from tanks and small losses from fittings that cannot be practically recovered in capture systems

Galley Waste

Organic food waste originating from a vessel's galley (or kitchen).

Gastropod

Any of the various molluscs of the class Gastropoda such as the snail.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG)

Atmospheric gases considered to contribute to the greenhouse effect by absorbing and emitting radiation within the thermal and infrared range. GHG primarily include carbon dioxide and methane.

Grey Water

Wastewater from wash basins, showers and laundry use.

Groundwater

Water that collects or flows beneath the Earth's surface, filling the porous spaces in soil, sediment, and rocks. Groundwater originates from rain and from melting snow and ice and is the source of water for aquifers, springs, and wells.

Grout

A material that is used for filling voids and sealing joints.

Habitat

An area where particular animal or plant species and assemblages are found, defined by environmental parameters.

Harmful Substances

Those substances that are identified as marine pollutants in the IMDG Code.

Hazard

The potential to cause harm, including ill health or injury; damage to property, plant, products or the environment; production losses or increased liabilities.

Heavy Metals

A subset of elements that exhibit metallic properties with high atomic weights, and which include the transition metals and a number of metalloids, lanthanoids, and actinides. Examples include mercury, chromium, cadmium, arsenic and lead.

Heritage

Valued objects and qualities such as cultural traditions, unspoiled countryside, and historic building that have been passed down previous generations.

Hook Up

The activity following plant installation during which all connections and services are made operable for commissioning and 'start-up'.

Hydrate

These are molecules of natural gas, typically methane, which are trapped in ice molecules. Hydrates can form in pipelines and in gas processing facilities at reduced temperatures and high pressures. Hydrates can plug the pipelines and significantly affect production operations.

Hydrocarbon

Organic chemical compounds of hydrogen and carbon atoms. There are a vast number of these compounds and they form the basis of all petroleum products. They may exist as gases, liquids or solids, examples being methane, hexane and paraffin.

Hydrology

The science dealing with the occurrence, circulation, distribution, and properties of water.

Hydrotesting

The checking of the integrity of a container (e.g. tank or pipe) by filling it with water under pressure and testing for any loss of pressure.

Impermeable

Not allowing the passage of a fluid.

Infiltration

The flow of water from the land surface into the subsurface.

Inert Gas

Chemically unreactive gases used to flood compartments in a vessel or platform when there is fire or imminent danger of fire.

International Finance Corporation

Organisation that is a member of the World Bank, and promotes sustainable private sector investment in developing countries.

Internally Displaced Persons

People who are forced to flee their homes, but unlike refugees, remain within their country's borders.

Intervention Activities

Any operation or work carried out on an oil or gas well or subsea production system during, or at the end of its productive life (e.g. replacement of components, altering the state of the well and/or well geometry).

Invertebrates

Any animal lacking a backbone, including all species not classified as vertebrates.

ISO 14001

An evolving series of generic environmental management system standards developed by the International Standards Organisation that provides business management with a structure for managing environmental impacts.

Isopod

A type of peracarid crustacean.

Istiglal

A semi-submersible mobile drilling rig used to drill predrill wells.

Jacket

The structure of an offshore steel platform, which supports the topside facilities.

Landfill

Disposal of waste materials by burial.

Larvae

An immature free-living form of animal that develops into a different form through metamorphosis.

Late Middle Ages

In Azerbaijan, the Late Medieval Period extends from the 15th century to the 18th century.

Law on Normative-Legal Acts

Azerbaijani legislation that stipulates that acts in force prior to independence, not subsequently cancelled or contradictory to the Constitution, remain in force.

Law on the Protection of the Environment

Azerbaijani legislation that addresses use of natural resources, the rights and responsibilities of the State and its citizens, ecological requirements for economic activities, ecological emergencies and disaster zones, etc.

Lay down area

Temporary storage area for supplies and materials.

Likelihood

The possibility that an activity or effect will occur.

Macrobenthos or Macrofauna

Organisms that live on/in sediment at the bottom of a water column. Relatively larger than other benthos with a size range of approximately 20 cm to 0.5 mm.

Manifold

Assembly of pipes, valves and fittings which allows fluids from more than one source to be collected together.

Mammal

A class of air-breathing warm-blooded vertebrates, Mammalia, having mammary glands in the female.

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)

An information sheet used by chemical suppliers to summarise properties of products, including health, safety and environmental aspects.

Meteorological Dynamics

The study of those motions of the atmosphere that is associated with weather and climate.

Microplate

Any small lithospheric (Earth's crust and upper mantle) plate.

Migration

Movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions / any regular animal journeys along well-defined routes, particularly those involving a return to breeding grounds.

Milli Mejlis

Azerbaijan Parliament.

Mitigation

The measures put forward to prevent, reduce and where possible, offset any adverse environmental or socio-economic effects.

Module

A separate section or box-like compartment of the topside of a platform, as far as possible self-contained, designed to be connected to other modules offshore.

Nagorno-Karabakh

A landlocked region in the South Caucasus which is mostly mountainous and afforested. It is within the national boundary of Azerbaijan, but governed by the internationally unrecognised Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and is currently occupied by Armenia.

Neutralised Seawater

A process to chemically alter seawater to make its pH level nearer neutral, to enhance its effectiveness for drilling mud.

Non Destructive Testing (NDT)

Methods of inspecting and testing the quality or integrity of vessels or equipment which do not involve the removal or testing to destruction of representative sections.

Oceanography

The study of the ocean, including marine ecosystems, ocean currents, waves, and physical and chemical changes.

Oligochaete

Any of various annelid worms of the class Oligochaeta, including the earthworms and a few small freshwater forms.

Operator

The company responsible for conducting operations on a concession on behalf of itself and any other concession-holders.

Overpressure

Subsurface pressure that is abnormally high, exceeding hydrostatic pressure at a given depth.

Packer

Device that can be installed into a drilled well that expands to seal the wellbore.

Particulates

Tiny particles of solid or liquid suspended in a gas or liquid.

pH

A scale of alkalinity or acidity, running from 0 to 14 with 7 representing neutrality, 0 maximum acidity and 14 maximum alkalinity.

Phytoplankton

Microscopic photosynthetic organisms which float or drift in the surface waters of seas and lakes, e.g. diatoms, dinoflagellates.

Pipelay Barge

A vessel designed for welding together pipelines and laying them on the seabed.

Producer Well

A drilled hole through which oil and gas is extracted.

Productive Zone

Most populated zone of the ocean (usually the top layer).

Pig (train)

A bullet shaped, cylindrical or spherical capsule which is inserted into a pipeline flow and travels along with the fluid in the pipeline. Its primary purpose is to scrape the pipeline clean from rust, wax or other deposits. More sophisticated pigs, called intelligent pigs, carry instrumentation used in pipeline inspection.

Pigging

The process of cleaning or measuring internally the pipeline whereby a "pig" is sent through the line to clean/ measure the inside of the pipeline.

Piling

A heavy beam of timber, concrete, or steel, driven into the earth as a foundation or support for a structure.

Pilot Hole

A smaller hole drilled into a material prior to a larger hole being drilled, widening the hole to the desired width.

Pipe Dope

Lubricating grease which seals pipe joints to prevent damage to threads.

Pipeline Landfall

Location where an offshore pipeline reaches the coast.

Pipe Rack

Where stands of drill pipe are stacked vertically in a derrick ready for use.

Plankton

Tiny plants (phytoplankton) and animals (zooplankton) that drift in the surface waters of seas and lakes. They are of high ecological importance as they provide a source of food to larger marine organisms such as fish.

Platform

A large structure offshore which has facilities to drill, extract, process and temporarily store hydrocarbons.

Plug

To seal a well or part of a well.

Pollution

The introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy to the environment resulting in deleterious effects such as harm to living resources; hazards to human health; hindrance of

marine activities including fishing and impairment of the quality for use of seawater and reduction of amenities.

Polychaete

Any of various annelid worms of the class Polychaeta, including mostly marine worms such as the lugworm, and characterised by fleshy paired appendages tipped with bristles on each body segment.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH)

Hydrocarbons whose carbon atoms form a ring or rings.

Polymer

Two or more molecules of the same kind, combined to form a compound with different physical properties.

Potable Water

Water that is suitable for human consumption.

Pour Point

The lowest temperature at which a liquid will pour or flow under prescribed conditions.

Precipitation

The product of atmospheric water vapour condensation that falls to the Earth's surface under gravity. The main types of precipitation are: drizzle, rain, sleet, snow and hail.

Predrill

Drilling activities taking place to accelerate early production once offshore facilities are in place.

Preservation Chemicals

Chemicals used to prevent corrosion and inhibit bacteria growth in seawater used for hydrotesting.

Pressure Maintenance

The process of keeping reservoir pressure at the optimum level during production, usually by water or gas injection to replace the extracted fluids.

Produced Water

Water that naturally accompanies produced oil/condensate. Also known as produced formation water.

Producer Well

A drilled hole through which oil and gas is extracted.

Production

Extraction of hydrocarbon from the reservoir.

Production Fluid

The fluid mixture of oil, gas and water in formation fluid (naturally occurring liquids and gases contained in geologic formations) that flows to the surface of an oil well from a reservoir.

Production Sharing Agreement (PSA)

Type of contract signed between a government and a resource extraction company (or group of companies).

Public Participation

Process where the affected public are informed about the planned activities.

RAMSAR Convention

An intergovernmental treaty that provides designations to sites that are considered internationally important wetlands.

Receptor

The aspect of the environment (air, water, ecosystem, human, fauna, etc.) that is affected by/interacts with an environmental or socio-economic impact.

Recycling/Recovery

The conversion of wastes into usable materials and/or extraction of energy or materials from wastes.

Red List / Red Book

A list comprised of rare or endangered species of plants and animals / the book containing Red List species.

Reedbed

Tall plants that grow in large groups in shallow water or on ground that is always wet and soft.

Reservoir

A porous, fractured or caved rock formation with a geological seal forming a trap for producible hydrocarbons.

Reservoir Pressure

The pressure at reservoir depth in a shut-in well.

Residual Impacts

Residual impacts are impacts that remain after mitigation measures, including those incorporated into the project's Base Case design and those developed in addition to the base design, have been applied.

Resilience

A measure of how a biological, ecological or human receptor is affected by an identified stressor.

Reuse

The use of materials or products that are reusable in their original form.

Richter Scale

The scale for expressing the magnitude of an earthquake.

Rig

A collective term to describe the equipment needed for drilling a well.

Riser

A pipe through which fluids flow upwards.

Risk

The product of the chance that a specified undesired event will occur and the severity of the consequences of the event.

Sail-away

The process of transporting equipment from onshore to its offshore location by vessel.

Salinity

Total amount of salt dissolved in an aqueous solution usually expressed as parts per thousand.

Scale Inhibitor

Substances added to minimise deposition of solids such as calcium carbonates and sulphates in equipment, pipework or casings.

Scoping

Early stage in the ESIA process which appraises the likely key issues requiring detailed assessment.

Scouring

A form of erosion; removal by hydrodynamic forces of granular bed material in the vicinity of structures, such as roads and railway lines.

Screening

The process by which it is decided if an ESIA is required to be carried out for a project.

Sediment

Solid fragments of inorganic or organic material that come from the weathering and erosion of rock and are carried and deposited by wind, water, or ice.

Seismic

The characteristics (e.g. frequency and intensity) of earthquake activity in a given region.

Semi-submersible Rig

A type of floating offshore drilling rig which has pontoons or buoyancy chambers located on short legs below the drilling platform.

Separator

A process vessel used to separate gases and liquids in a hydrocarbon stream.

Shale Shaker

Screen for extracting rock cuttings from circulating drilling mud.

Shrub

A woody plant of relatively low height, having several stems from the base.

Significant Wave Height

The average wave height (trough to crest) of the 1/3 largest waves.

Slurry

A mix of cement and waste.

Solids Circulation System

A device that separates SBM/LTMOBM from cuttings via a series of shale shakers, a vacuum degasser and centrifuges.

Spoil

Material generated during clearance /excavation works.

Stakeholder

A person, group and/or organisation with an interest in a project.

Stinger

A support boom that extends outwards from the stern of a lay-barge and used to lay pipes.

Stockholm Convention

An international legal agreement requiring Governments to reduce the release of persistent organic pollutants.

Storm Surge

An offshore rise in water level associated with a low pressure weather system. Usually caused by strong winds pushing the surface of the water body.

Strata

Distinct, usually parallel beds of rock.

Surfactant

An additive that reduces surface tension e.g. a detergent or emulsifier.

Suspension Fluids

Fluids used in the well during well suspension to maintain the integrity of the well.

Swim Bladder

Buoyancy organ possessed by most bony fish.

Taxon

Plural -Taxa. A taxonomic category or group, used to classify organisms.

Thermal desorption

A non-oxidising process using heat to desorb oil from oily wastes.

Thermocline

Temperature differential in the water.

Topside

Part of a rig which includes the upper deck, mezzanine deck, cellar deck and underdeck.

Toxicity

Inherent potential or capacity of a substance to cause adverse effects on living organisms.

Toxicity Test

Procedure that measures the toxicity produced by exposure to a series of concentrations of a test substance. In an aquatic toxicity test, the effect is usually measured as either the proportion of organisms affected or the degree of effect shown by the organism.

Transboundary impact

An impact which crosses any boundaries between two geopolitical boundaries (i.e. a border).

Treated Seawater

Seawater which is treated with preservation chemicals to reduce potential corrosion and biofouling.

Turbidity

The cloudiness or haziness of a fluid caused by individual particles. It is used as a test of water quality.

Umbilical

Tube or line that connects the subsurface to the surface of the sea.

Venting

The release of uncombusted gases to the atmosphere.

Vienna Convention

An international legal agreement regarding the protection of the Ozone Layer.

Viscosity

The resistance of a fluid to flow due to the mutual adherence to its molecules.

Wadi

A river valley which may be ephemeral and flow only after heavy rain, or during certain periods of the year.

Wastewater

Water contaminated with domestic and production wastes.

Water Based Muds (WBM)

Drilling fluid based on suspension of solids in water.

Water Injection

The injection of water into a reservoir or well.

Wax

Wax is a constituent of crude oil that often requires special treatment to allow the oil to flow freely at surface conditions.

Weathering

Processes related to the chemical action of air, water and organisms. Weathering results in evaporative loss of light hydrocarbons and it is commonly accompanied by biodegradation and water washing.

Well Clean Up

Ridding the borehole of spent fluid. This returns the well to an original state and drains back into the borehole where it is pumped or circulated out, leaving the hole clean.

Wellhead

Top of a casing and the attached control and flow valves. The well head is where the control valves, testing equipment and take-off piping are located.

Well Testing

Flowing of well fluids to provide information on how hydrocarbon will flow from the reservoir, well productivity and the reservoir properties.

Wetland

An area of land whose soil is saturated with moisture either permanently or seasonally.

Wind Rose

A diagram with radiating lines showing the frequency and strength of winds from each direction affecting a specific place.

Well Workover

Operations on a producing well to restore or increase production. A workover may be performed to stimulate the well, remove sand or wax from the wellbore, to mechanically repair the well, or for other reasons

Workover Fluid

A well-control fluid, typically a brine, that is used during workover operations.

Zooplankton

Plankton that consists of animals such as corals and jellyfish, usually small and often microscopic.