

‘Future Proofing’ Oil and Gas Installations against Regulatory Changes throughout the Site Development Lifecycle

Scott Stewart¹ (presented by Kendra Meeker)

Abstract

As the regulatory landscape surrounding the oil and gas industry becomes more complex, operators now face a laundry list of environmental and compliance hurdles at every stage of the site lifecycle. Whether they are building a new site, working an active site or in the process of decommissioning, environmental and regulatory compliance is now a major part of the site planning and management process.

As a result, operators need a measured, engineered approach to these regulatory concerns in order to effectively meet their business strategy and operational objectives, just as they need proper planning for any other part of their site developments. For example, when designing a new site it is prudent to minimize long-term costs through a clear and forward thinking field development strategy. This can include everything from public outreach campaigns, to design analysis, to permit applications and contingency planning at the early stages, to incident response planning, record keeping and asset management once the site is constructed.

For operators, this type of ordered approach to regulatory compliance offers clear benefits. For one, taking a big-picture view and incorporating regulatory requirements into every step of the site development and management process ensures that all boxes are ticked during the preliminary design and nothing is overlooked. What’s more, this parallel approach minimizes the need to rework engineering performed without compliance parameters as well as promoting built facilities that meet and maintain regulatory parameters well into the future.

Oil and gas regulations are only getting more stringent, and by proactively building higher environmental standards into site designs now, operators can ensure that their sites are compliant, cost effective, and avoid the need for costly equipment retrofits. This will effectively “future proof” their installations against upcoming regulatory changes. The time is now to get ahead of these upcoming changes.

¹ Halker Consulting, Bakken regional manager