

# Guidance on power station closure, decommissioning and handover for demolition or sale



GUIDANCE ON POWER STATION CLOSURE, DECOMMISSIONING  
AND HANDOVER FOR DEMOLITION OR SALE

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## CONTENTS

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>2 Overview</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>3 Operational phase</b> .....	<b>13</b>
3.1 Liability funding .....	13
3.1.1 Specific decommissioning fund .....	13
3.1.2 Provision carrying strategy .....	14
3.1.3 Decommissioning cost/liability estimates .....	15
3.2 End of operational lifetime projections .....	15
3.2.1 Factors that may affect plant lifetime .....	15
3.3 Design for demolition as part of plant modifications .....	16
3.4 Retention of information .....	17
<b>4 Planning phase</b> .....	<b>19</b>
4.1 Project governance and management .....	19
4.1.1 Project definition .....	20
4.1.2 Project development .....	21
4.1.3 Project refinement .....	24
4.1.4 Implementation phases – decommissioning, demolition and remediation .....	26
4.1.5 Project closeout .....	26
4.2 Project development plan/project execution plan .....	26
4.3 Resourcing strategy .....	27
4.3.1 Existing company staff .....	27
4.3.2 Existing term contractors .....	27
4.3.3 Specialist contractors .....	27
4.3.4 Specialist advisors .....	27
4.4 Stakeholder management .....	29
4.5 Application of CDM regulations .....	30
4.5.1 Responsibilities under CDM regulations .....	31
4.6 Hazard identification and recording .....	34
4.6.1 HazDem study (HAZID/Hazard register) .....	35
4.6.2 Risk reduction .....	36
4.6.3 Risk quantification .....	36
4.6.4 HAZMAT survey .....	40
4.7 Surveys .....	40
4.7.1 Asbestos and hazardous insulation materials (HIM) .....	41
4.7.2 Structural surveys .....	43
4.7.3 Site investigation survey .....	43
4.7.4 Ecological survey .....	44
4.7.5 Protected species surveys (phase 2) .....	44

**Contents continued**

	<b>Page</b>
4.7.6 Invasive weed survey . . . . .	45
4.7.7 Unexploded ordnance (UXO) preliminary risk assessment . . . . .	45
4.7.8 Soil and groundwater investigations . . . . .	46
4.7.9 Drainage survey . . . . .	46
4.8 Planning regulations and permission . . . . .	46
4.9 Decommissioning philosophy/design . . . . .	48
4.10 Site security . . . . .	48
4.11 Project risk register/assessment . . . . .	49
4.12 Pre-construction information pack (PCIP) and specification/scope of works (SoW) . . . . .	50
4.12.1 Pre-construction information pack (PCIP) . . . . .	51
4.12.2 Scope of works (SoW) . . . . .	52
4.13 Commercial strategy . . . . .	52
4.14 Contractor selection . . . . .	53
4.14.1 Contractor long list . . . . .	53
4.14.2 Pre-qualification . . . . .	54
4.14.3 Tender design . . . . .	55
4.14.4 Bonds . . . . .	57
4.14.5 Tender . . . . .	57
4.15 Environmental permit closure plan . . . . .	58
4.15.1 Satisfactory state . . . . .	59
4.16 Associated legislation and guidance . . . . .	60
<b>5 Late life operation . . . . .</b>	<b>62</b>
5.1 Supply agreements . . . . .	62
5.2 Maintenance regime . . . . .	62
5.3 Personnel issues . . . . .	63
5.4 Other stakeholders . . . . .	63
<b>6 Decommissioning phase . . . . .</b>	<b>64</b>
6.1 Isolation strategies . . . . .	64
6.1.1 Physical disconnection . . . . .	65
6.2 Decontamination . . . . .	66
6.2.1 Decontamination strategies . . . . .	66
6.2.2 Bulk removal . . . . .	66
6.2.3 Cleaning . . . . .	67
6.2.4 Draining of low points . . . . .	68
6.3 Plant preparation . . . . .	69
6.4 Quality assurance . . . . .	69
6.5 Control of works . . . . .	70
6.5.1 Permit to work (PTW) . . . . .	71
<b>7 Handover for demolition or sale . . . . .</b>	<b>73</b>
7.1 Overview . . . . .	73
7.2 Client documentation . . . . .	73
7.3 Principal contractor documentation . . . . .	74
7.3.1 Construction phase plan . . . . .	74
7.3.2 Traffic management plan . . . . .	76

**Contents continued**

	<b>Page</b>
7.3.3 Site environmental management plan . . . . .	77
7.3.4 Waste materials management plan. . . . .	78
7.4 Handover . . . . .	79
 <b>Annexes</b>	
<b>Annex A Demolition phase . . . . .</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Annex B Partial site demolition . . . . .</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Annex C COMAH sites. . . . .</b>	<b>85</b>
C.1 Site closure plan. . . . .	85
<b>Annex D Deferment of demolition. . . . .</b>	<b>86</b>
D.1 Introduction . . . . .	86
D.2 Ongoing fabric maintenance costs . . . . .	86
D.3 Ongoing site security costs . . . . .	87
D.4 Rates . . . . .	87
D.5 Insurance . . . . .	87
D.6 Inflation of demolition costs . . . . .	87
D.7 Variation of scrap values. . . . .	87
D.8 Opportunity cost . . . . .	88
D.9 Summary . . . . .	88
<b>Annex E Dismantling for relocation. . . . .</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Annex F Sale of plant and equipment. . . . .</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Annex G Site remediation . . . . .</b>	<b>92</b>
G.1 CLR11 overview . . . . .	93
G.1.1 Preliminary risk assessment . . . . .	93
G.1.2 Generic quantitative risk assessment . . . . .	93
G.1.3 Detailed quantitative risk assessment . . . . .	93
G.2 Options appraisal . . . . .	94
G.3 Implementation of remediation strategy . . . . .	94
G.4 Verification report . . . . .	94
G.5 Further considerations for remediation . . . . .	95
<b>Annex H Glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms . . . . .</b>	<b>96</b>
H.1 Terms . . . . .	96
H.2 Abbreviations and acronyms. . . . .	96
<b>Annex I References. . . . .</b>	<b>99</b>
I.1 References . . . . .	99
I.2 Acts and regulations. . . . .	99

**LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES**

		<b>Page</b>
<b>Figure</b>		
Figure 1	Example risk matrix, combining risk consequence on one axis, and risk probability on another (note, it is for the organisation to determine the risk categories (colour placement)) . . . . .	39
<b>Tables</b>		
Table 1	Example of risk consequences . . . . .	37
Table 2	Example risk probabilities. . . . .	38
Table 3	Example risk categories and potential actions . . . . .	39

## FOREWORD

A number of (primarily) coal-fired power stations are expected to be decommissioned in the United Kingdom (UK) in the next 5–10 years. Upon handing over a power station to a specialist contractor for demolition, it is important that the power station is 'cold and dark' – i.e. hazards are isolated, the facility is decontaminated – and that all required information about the status of the plant (remaining hazards, etc.) are provided to the contractor.

This publication provides guidance on a typical project process to safely and economically prepare a power station for decommissioning and for its handover in a safe state for demolition. The guidance has been developed based on the experience of operators and references other guidance where appropriate.

The guidance covers the entire decommissioning life cycle, including preparation for the end of life during the plant operational lifetime, the late-life operations phase and into the actual decommissioning phase itself. General guidance on certain aspects of the demolition phase is also included to aid in planning, although this phase itself is beyond the scope of this publication.

The guidance does not provide the engineering detail required to safely carry out decommissioning or demolition. It instead focuses on planning, information gathering, contractor selection, general processes, and legislative requirements. Furthermore, whilst this publication covers some aspects of demolition, it only does so to make owner/operating companies aware of their responsibilities, and where this information is beneficial for planning prior to decommissioning.

This publication is primarily intended for station owners, station operators, decommissioning engineers, demolition engineers and project managers.

It should be noted this publication is guidance only; it is not a manual. Every power station is different, and each will have its own unique issues to manage.

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