



Auggean^{PLC}

The Changing Waste Management Platform for Offshore Operators

The hazardous waste sector is one of the fastest changing in the offshore market, driven by a mix of legislative and corporate social responsibility factors. For those operating offshore, Auggean PLC has become an effective partner in managing their hazardous waste, and Nigel Brown – Director of Oil and Gas – Auggean PLC explains the complex nature of the market.

The very nature of hazardous waste means that compliance with regulatory standards and safeguarding materials is a major concern for offshore companies. The EU Waste Framework Directive has become the defining strategy for how offshore operators deal with their waste material.

Added to this regulatory framework is the fact that offshore operators have seen good environmental practice grow as a key operational aim in recent years. With public pressure mounting on all companies to take greater responsibility for the creation and then transfer, treatment and disposal of waste products, the issue of hazardous waste management is central to an operations reputation.

Therefore, there is an increasing emphasis on innovative ways in which waste can be recycled and even turned back into energy. This article looks at the issues surrounding drilling waste, the requirements of offshore operators and also looks at how waste is being recycled and used by companies to enhance their CSR and reputation.

Drilling Waste Transfer and Containment

State-of-the-art drilling waste management solutions and services, require a combination of facilities and a highly qualified team who provide technical support. The key to successful handling of drilling waste is the initial containment and transfer, with responsibility for the waste moved from the operator to the waste management company.

This process is then followed by the testing and appropriate treatment of waste when received at the containment facilities. The range of solutions and required equipment to consider for containment and handling of waste is too extensive to cover in a single article. However operators should always be aware of the need for drill cuttings containers which offer secure units for holding DRH cuttings.

In terms of categorisation of the waste there are different sub-categories, the most common of which include: Full Hydraulic Drive Cuttings which may be initially required for the separation of oil field mud and slimes. Cuttings blowing pumps, vacuum continuous collection systems (CVCS) and rig racks, which are specific to offshore use, are also used in the collection and collection of the drilling waste.

Drilling Waste Treatment, Recycling, Recovery and Disposal

There are numerous approaches to the treatment, recycling, recovery and disposal of hazardous waste from offshore operators. Because of the variety of waste and the range of ways of recycling and recovering the materials, no single solution is available. The most common approaches include Indirect Thermal Destruction. The processes for these two processes are detailed, but Auggean also has extensive experience of slip water treatment, water testing, chemically enhanced centrifuges, cuttings separation and carriage filtration and bioremediation. In its joint venture with Soco Oilco, additional facilities and services have been added to the existing portfolio of solutions.

Indirect Thermal Destruction

The indirect thermal destruction (ITD) process is used to treat organically contaminated hazardous and non-hazardous solid and sludge wastes using a combination of techniques to recover organic fractions. In doing so, this renders the remaining residue suitable for either re-use, recycling or disposal in appropriate high-temperature landfill installations.

This process is suitable for sludges from various offshore processes, soil and slimes, oil-containing drilling muds and wastes, oil soils, sediment, centrifuge residues, filter cakes and spent absorbents, spent oils, solvents and slimes. It is therefore a highly flexible approach to dealing with waste materials, and creates a final product which can be disposed of effectively and efficiently.

Also, the unit can treat a broad range of organic contaminants such as PCBs and POPs to organic solvents, as well as oils and petroleum products.

Extended Services through Auggean

In May 2012, Auggean PLC added to its portfolio of services to the offshore market through the formation of a new business unit Auggean [North Sea Services \(NSS\)](#). The joint venture between Auggean PLC and Soco Oilco (Socopa Limited) provides increased capacity, improved facilities and increases the range of solutions for hazardous waste management services to offshore operators in the North Sea.

At the core of the operations is drilling waste management on the offshore platform, supported by containment, treatment and recycling of drill cuttings at the Waste Recovery Park. Further services are provided for the management of other wastes from Platform Service Vessels (PSVs) using the existing treatment, recycling and storage facility at Poca Quay in the Port of Aberdeen & Leith, on Orkney.

A growing issue is the handling of normally occurring radioactive materials (NORM), which is created through offshore drilling. The secure transfer of NORM is being dealt with through this new joint venture.

Waste is contained and managed on rig prior to being collected directly at a nearby shore full facility transfer to Auggean. The joint venture enables the development of innovative solutions to manage all waste streams derived from North Sea exploration and production activities.

The facility at Poca Quay in the Port of Aberdeen for the management of drilling sludge waste has a full PPC permit. The facility has a capacity of over 1000 m³ liquid storage as well as 200000 of dry bulk storage and is being developed to further enhance the recycling of drilling sludge wastes using the facility at the forefront of the market.

Auggean have a direct feed pipe from the treatment facility at Poca Quay from the quayside and also a pipe line from the public quay at Poca South providing speed and complete facility to Platform Service Vessels (PSVs).

The Poca Quay facility is unique as it provides unattended access 24 hours a day, speed and efficiency in waste material transfer, and a state-of-the-art treatment and recycling facility at Quay side delivering the highest environmental performance to offshore operators.

About the author

Nigel Brown joined Auggean in August 2008 with vast experience in the waste industry holding senior positions held in companies including Castle Environmental and Suez Environment. His experience includes management of landfill and treatment operations, metal recycling sites, aggregates recycling facilities as well as in the decommissioning industry involving both onshore and offshore installations.

Nigel holds a Level 4 HSE/NEBOSH COT/CS for managing business, managing transfer and managing landfill operations in hazardous waste, as well as a BSc (Honours) Degree in Applied Science (Honours Science) (Environmental Chemistry).

Nigel is a member of the Chartered Institute of Waste Management and is a Chartered Waste Manager.

Mark Curton

mark@auggeanplc.com

0191 564444

Auggean PLC was formed in 2004, and is listed on the AIM. The company is the UK's leading provider of waste management services with an emphasis on hazardous waste.

The name Auggean was born out of Greek mythology inspired by the 10th labour of Hercules.

Auggean is the strategic partner for a range of organisations in the land management, oil and gas, construction and rickier decommissioning sectors. Auggean works with other leading waste management companies to offer a complete solution to any business.

With headquarters in Derbyshire and a network of sites and facilities across the UK from Aberdeen to Aberdeen, Auggean PLC has become a leading facility for the transfer, treatment and disposal of waste products, with a specialist in hazardous waste.

Auggean is committed to delivery the highest quality service in the management of a wide range of hazardous wastes, and provides a strategic partner to businesses in all industrial and construction sectors.