NDR Update – November 2022

Good morning,

We are pleased to announce the latest release of the UK NDR user interface, version 20221111_16.

As expected, we've had several busy weeks on the operational side. The launch of the 33rd Offshore Petroleum Licensing Round prompted many of our users to revisit the NDR after some time away. Over 30 Company Administrators re-enabled their accounts, we granted access to 17 new companies and individual consultants, as well as academics, so all can make the most of the free monthly egress allowance.

Data volumes have stepped up significantly for several reasons. More offline legacy SEG-D has been nav-merged and uploaded by Moveout – with six West of Shetland 3D surveys making up the latest batch. Osokey are overseeing the transfer of archived field data from the NSTA's government funded regional 2Ds, and licensees are diligently reporting some supersized files from Ocean Bottom Seismic surveys. Not to mention the legacy seismic we're receiving in response to requests for as yet unreported data.

Our programme of continuous improvement, building on Usability Review feedback and enabling strategic projects, advances further – see below for an overview of the new version's functionality updates.

Please note that we published an updated version of the NDR "Form and Manner" document last week, mainly to update to our NSTA branding, but also to clarify a few requirements for the appropriate conditioning of seismic field data. The November 2022 version will be superseded shortly, to accommodate forthcoming changes to enable certain files to be reported in TIFF format.

https://www.nstauthority.co.uk/media/8512/information-reporting-form-and-manner-for-ndr-november-2022-v2.pdf

Regards

Andy

Project ID Table – Area metadata updates

Last month we included a new attribute in the Project ID Table entitled **Area**. You can use this to restrict your search to the data in one of our broadly defined areas of the UKCS. This month's update has the attribute populated for all offshore seismic surveys, including site surveys. The attribute will be automatically populated when future Projects are created.

As well as grouping data by the Northern, Central and Southern North Sea, the West of Shetland and East Irish Sea "areas", users can now group data associated to a sixth area – "Celtic Sea and English Channel" (or CSC).

CSC is geographically extensive but has only 67 associated offshore wellbores, with the only hydrocarbon development of significance being Wytch Farm on England's south coast.

However our records show some 178 seismic surveys, mostly 2D, having been acquired from the 1960's until the NSTA's acquisition of the regional South West of Britain 2D in 2016. Field data from the latter has been reprocessed to support applications for offshore wind development, whereas there are other use cases leveraging legacy data from the English Channel to appraise the potential for carbon sequestration.

Project ID and File Tables – Depth range filters:

Users can now filter by depth range for the **TVD (m)** and **MD (m)** columns for wellbores that can be imported to the Project ID Table from the NSTA Open Data service.

Similarly, once well data has been added to the Files Table, depth range filters can be applied to digital log files and log reports and images, where the **Top Depth (m)** and **Bottom Depth (m)** have been recorded.

Just type in the Filter cell at the top of the relevant column: for example…

>1000 to list all entries that are 1000 metres or deeper,

<2000 to list all entries that are shallow than 2000 metres.

3000-5000 to list entries within the 3000 to 5000 metres range

(Any incorrect or null values ("NaN") will need to be addressed in the source System of Record)

Manage Companies:

Elsewhere, we've been working to upgrade how we manage and categorise different organisations that have registered to use the NDR.

This functionality is not available within the User Interface to anyone outside of the NSTA and the service teams, however those who are using NDR metadata exports may see that we've included tags to indicate whether a licensee organisation is no longer active.

This is purely for our administrative purposes, to help us track how the system is being used and by whom.

Consistent Classifications:

You may recall that several legacy CS8 codes were superseded with new Classification Tags shortly before the migration of reported data to the current service. In five instances, there was a one-to-one relationship between the old code and new tag. An early action was to alias the old CS8 Code to the new C Tag name in the UI, Completeness Reports and metadata exports.

We've since learned that the aliasing was not showing consistently in the Missing Data Request workflow – which meant that, despite having been reported, certain well information appeared to be missing. This led to unnecessary Missing Data Requests and conversations between our Data Compliance colleagues and licensees.

Thanks to those of you who called out the inconsistencies, we have investigated and resolved that issue for the following information types:

DRILL_EOWR	Drilling end of well report
GEOL_MUD	Mudlogging end of well report
CORE_PERM	Core Permeametry report
WELL_ENG	Well engineering reports (general)
WELL_SUMMARY	Well summary report

Uploading large seismic files:

Modern seismic acquisitions involve some very large files indeed – as I mentioned above, we're seeing more and more field data sets for OBS surveys and other recent high data volume acquisitions being loaded to the NDR. The NSTA requires all data to pass validation and integrity checks. Larger files present certain technical challenges; our development team has been quick to respond and has optimised the systems handling of such data sets, to enable efficient reporting by industry.

Licensees that are responsible for reporting seismic data can be better prepared by referring to Support Centre articles on 'Reporting Large Files To The NDR' and 'SEG-Y Integrity Checks'. Our support team are always ready to provide advice.

https://support.uk-ndr.co.uk/hc/en-gb/articles/4955917640210-Reporting-Large-Files-To-The-NDR

https://support.uk-ndr.co.uk/hc/en-gb/articles/4408839644562-SEG-Y-Integrity-Checks

Forthcoming UI/UX Developments

We'll be working on changes to the layout of various aspects of the UI in the coming weeks, including the Inventory and Data Request submission pages, to promote accessibility and ease of use.

We'll also look to populate the Project ID size for wells and seismic surveys that contain files but haven't been updated since the migration, to present a more informative overview of the volumes of data available in those projects.

Join us at the NDR User Group Meeting on the 29th of November to contribute to our working sessions on the NDR Map and the Missing Data Request workflow.

If you have not already done so, you can use this link to register your attendance.

[NDR User Group Meeting 7 - Onsite Aberdeen 29 Nov 2022](#)

Best Regards,

Andy

North Sea Transition Authority

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