

# Considerations of Transfrontier Shipment of NORM Waste from the North Sea Oil and Gas Industries

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# Overview

- Background
- North Sea NORM Regulators Working Group
- Key International Instruments for transfrontier shipment of waste
- Clarification of Regulatory Issues
- Work in Progress



Platform in operation



Onshore decommissioning  
Picture: AF Decom Offshore

# My aims as a regulator

- Regulation should be:
  - At a correct level
  - Clear and predictable
- Coordination and (where possible) harmonization of regulation:
  - National regulatory bodies
  - Different countries radiation protection authorities

# Background

- A handful countries around the North Sea extract oil and gas
- Many installations are reaching the end of their productive life
  - the volume of decommissioning waste will increase
- The decommissioning industry is expanding
  - Installations are both waste and a commodity
  - Installations could be taken to different countries for decommissioning
- Many installations have scales and sludges with heavy metals and NORM
  - Main fraction of waste: steel
  - Hazardous waste and radioactive waste: Scale and sludges



North Sea area

# North Sea NORM regulators working group

- Facilitate dialogue between competent authorities, as well as between the industry and the authorities
- Purpose
  - Share best practice and information of common interest
  - Harmonise approach as far as possible
  - Consider joint research
- Members
  - Norway(NRPA), UK (SEPA, EA, DECC), Germany (BfS) and Denmark (NIRP)



The group on a visit to the Norwegian repository for NORM waste

# International Instruments for transfrontier shipment of offshore installations with NORM Waste

- The **Basel Convention** on the Control of Transboundary Movements of **Hazardous Wastes** and their Disposal

**Joint Convention** on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of **Radioactive waste** Management - IAEA

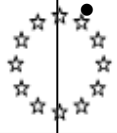
- Does not cover NORM waste unless Contracting Party have declared the waste radioactive for this Convention

**Directive 2006/117/EURATOM** on the supervision and control of shipments of **radioactive waste and spent fuel**

- Does not apply to NORM waste

- *Regulation (EC) 1013/2006 on shipments of **waste***

- Apply to almost all waste, except radioactive waste as defined in Directive 2006/117/EURATOM



# Clarification of Regulatory Issues

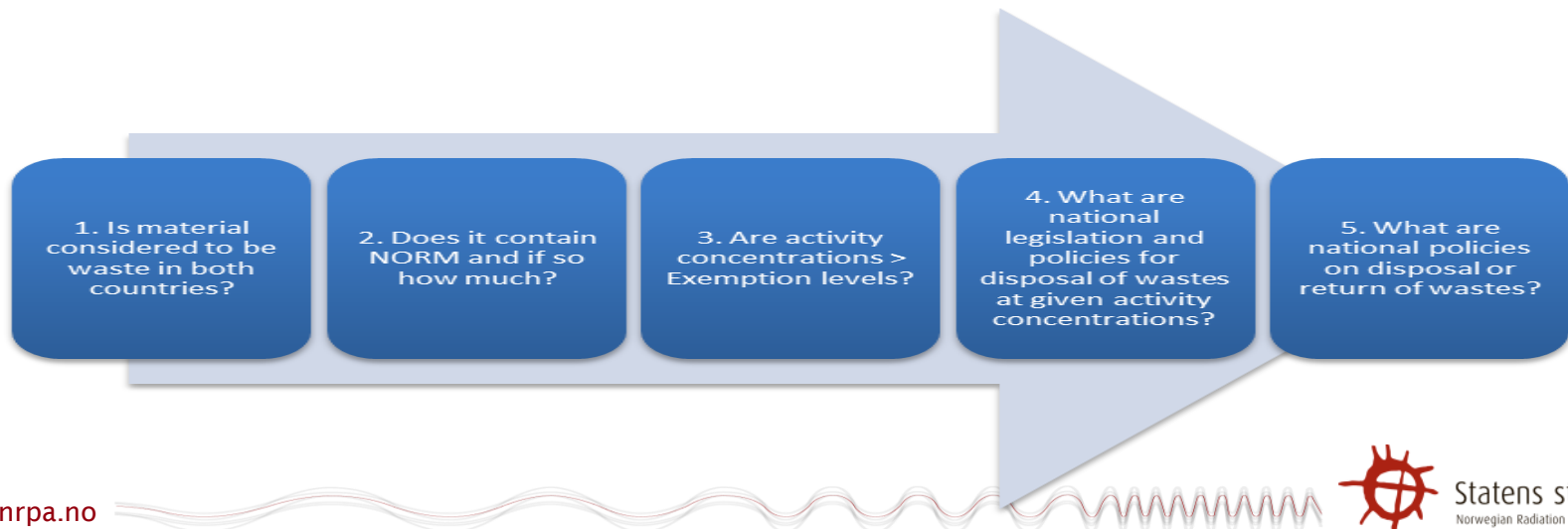
- **Decommissioning of installations:**  
Legislative basis and conditions for **transfrontier shipment** of:
  - Waste, hazardous waste and radioactive waste
  - equipment contaminated with hazardous and/or radioactive waste
- **Disposal of waste:**  
International and national legislation and policies associated with the **import and export for disposal** of radioactive waste.



Oil and gas industry workers dealing with NORM

# North Sea group - work in Progress

- Develop **practical processes for the transfrontier shipment** of NORM wastes from the oil and gas industry in the North Sea.
- Establish **robust arrangements for seeking either notification or consent** between the countries of origin and destination.
- Develop **guidance to oil and gas companies** on the requirements and procedures associated with the movement of NORM wastes between different countries in the North Sea area





Thank you for your attention

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