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To Whom It May Concern

NW Hutton is the largest fixed platform to be decommissioned in the North Sea. It was situated in 140 metres of water with 20,000 tonne topsides and 17,000 tonne jacket. It was removed and brought ashore in summer 2008 and 2009 by reverse installation for the Topsides and by cutting the jacket into sections ranging from 100 to 600 tonnes, with one large top section of 2000 tonnes; a total of 60 lifts and 250 cuts. The jacket was removed down to the top of the pile sleeves (derogation to leave the footings in place) a total of 8500 tonnes.

The main contractor for the removal work was Heerema. Prime Marine Services, as a sub-contractor, provided cutting services for the removal of the jacket in summer 2009. The tool provided and operated by Prime was a Prime Pipe Cutter Shears. BP had a permanent presence offshore, and witnessed all cutting and removal work.

The Prime Pipe Cutter Shears provided excellent service and performed about 100 cuts of the 250 cuts on the NW Hutton jacket removal. For many cuts, it was the tool of choice for jacket tubular members in the range 0.3 to 1.0 metre (12" to 40") diameter.

From NW Hutton experience, BP would endorse the use of Prime Pipe Cutter Shears on a future decommissioning Project, which involved a similar cutting and removal scope.

Yours sincerely

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