

Press release
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RUMAILA LAND-CLEANING OPERATION RECOVERS 1.5 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL

- 1.58 million barrels of oil extracted from Rumaila's biggest oil pit and treated for export
- 155,000 m³ of contaminated sludge and soil removed
- 1.1 million m² of land remediated since 2010 – an area the size of 150 football pitches

Basra, Iraq, May 2016: The Rumaila Operating Organisation (ROO), which is responsible for operating the South Oil Company's (SOC) Rumaila oilfield, has recovered over 1.5 million barrels of oil from the field's largest degassing station oil and water disposal site, as part of its environmental remediation programme.

Actively managing the Rumaila oilfield's environmental impact has been a priority for the Ministry of Oil and SOC since the establishment of ROO in 2010. Since then, the field has undergone several projects to remediate historically contaminated land and restore its use. To date, 1.1 million m² of land has been remediated across Rumaila – a combined area the size of 150 football pitches.

Rumaila's most significant environmental accomplishment has been the remediation of the field's largest and deepest oil and water disposal site, the 'Russian Pool', a nickname from the 1970s when Russian engineers working at Rumaila used the location as a swimming pool, before it was turned into an oil disposal site.

Water and oil disposal sites are common in many oilfields in Southern Iraq, which are evaporation areas for produced water. Produced Water is water that is separated from oil and gas when the reservoir fluids are processed at the Degassing Stations. The discharged produced water can contain some carry-over oil, and over time, the residual oil can accumulate in the water and oil disposal sites.

Measuring 70,000m² and 3.5 metres deep, the Russian Pool was remediated with the latest technology and industry expertise from Rumaila's lead partner, BP, and delivered by local contractors. The process began with the installation of two new produced water evaporation ponds, lined with high density polyethylene. Specialized oil skimmers removed

the oil before large water pumps extracted 80,000m³ of produced water; excavation work then removed over 155,000m³ of contaminated soil and oil sludge which was then moved for treatment at a waste storage site. In total, 225,000m³ of oil was recovered for export and delivered to SOC – the equivalent to 1.58 million barrels of oil.

Mr. Bassim Abdul-Kareem Chairman of ROO Joint Management Committee commented: “This commitment to the environment is a contractual obligation that was agreed with the ROO partners in the Technical Service Contract. It is important that we use international expertise to advance our oilfields **and** this includes techniques for improving the environment. We are very pleased to see such progress made in cleaning the Rumaila field.”

The Rumaila General Manager, BP’s Marc Hornbrook, said: “Since the establishment of ROO, ensuring a safe working environment has been our no1 priority. A big part of that commitment includes working with SOC, to treat the legacy issues of the past: it is an important part of our work to transform Rumaila into a world-class operation.”

Deputy General Manager, SOC’s Hassan Mohammed, added: “Despite the challenging conditions we face, we remain committed to safe operations at Rumaila. This project is just one of many that are under way to deliver this objective. We believe that cleaning the ‘Russian Pool’ is one of the largest remediation efforts undertaken across the Middle East in recent years. Our thanks go to everybody involved in delivering this fantastic achievement.”





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Note to editors:

- Rumaila is a South Oil Company (SOC) oilfield. It is the largest producing field in Iraq and one of the top producing fields in the world
- The Rumaila Operating Organisation (ROO), which is a joint venture formed in June 2010 between SOC, BP, PetroChina and the State Oil Marketing Organization (SOMO), is the operator of the Rumaila oilfield
- Since 2010, oil production from Rumaila has risen by over a third (2015: Measured production: average 1.31 million barrels per day). Over 2.6 billion barrels have been produced in the period, generating more than \$200 billion dollars for the State. This has been achieved by training the largely Iraqi workforce – along with introducing new technologies and renovating the field's facilities.
- Rumaila press office: ROOPressCentre@rumaila.iq
- Rumaila website: www.rumaila.iq