

QUARRIES NATIONAL JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 16th March 2004 at 10.30am in HSE Rose Court, London

Present

Mr J Barrett
Mr R Pearce
Mrs L Weston
Mrs H Turner
Mr I Waugh
Mr S Denton
Mr B Monson
Mr G Baker
Mr B Stringer
Mr M Isles
Mr S Spalding
Mr M Mellow
Mr C Kirby
Mr S Cole
Mr D Sharman
Mr B Rostron
Mr K Dobbie
Mr P Foster
Mr M Smith
Mr R Allen

Representing

Chair – HSE
Secretary – HSE
Minute Secretary - HSE
HSE
HSE
HSE
HSE Northern Ireland
HSE
British Drilling Association
QPA
China Clay Association
T & G
Silica and Moulding Sands Association
British Aggregates Association
Stone Federation
CoalPro/H J Banks
Sandsfield Gravel Co Ltd
Institution of Materials, Minerals and Mining
Institute of Quarrying
Environmental Services Association

Apologies

Mr P Fairlamb
Mr R Claydon
Mr C Webb
Mr J Close
Mr J Atkinson
Mr T Mellish
Mr P Ward

CoalPro
QPA
EPIC Training Ltd
QPA
Natural Slate Quarries Association
TUC
Hanson (America)

1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members and visitors. Steve Cole deputising for Ian Glendinning, Ian Waugh and Steve Denton HSE (Mines Inspectorate).

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING HELD ON 07TH OCTOBER 2003

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate copy.

Matters Arising

Vehicle sheeting guidance now available on the HSE Website: www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/information/sheeting.htm

Rob Pearce to reconvene the Hard Target Subcommittee.

3. ATLANTIC ALLIANCE CONFERENCE – R PEARCE

Members were informed about the Atlantic Alliance event, which will take place on 8 to 11, May 04 and will be held in the Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall. The main conference runs from 10-11. Hanson were thanked for sponsoring the conference dinner, Lafarge for all transport and Caterpillar for the evening boat trip.

Agreed Action: Carl Kirby to forward details to Rob Pearce of a representative from the industrial minerals association.

4. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH GUIDANCE – H TURNER

Occupational Health guidance has now been completed, this will replace the existing QNJAC guidance published by the QPA. Guidance available off the HSE website:

www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/qnjac/guidance.htm

5. PROPOSED PROJECT ON NUMERICAL HEALTH TARGETS – P FOSTER

Pat Foster reported back to members about the problems with identifying health risks

- health risk not understood, cause/effect relationship not established;
- health risks tend not to attract widespread publicity or demand the same urgent attention as safety risks;
- health risks appear to have little; if any, short-term effect and it may be that ill health does not occur for many years.

Proposed project on numerical evaluation of health targets to be run at Camborne School of mines. Applied for MIST funding, and will hopefully be completed by the summer 2004. The findings to be presented at the next QNJAC meeting.

Points raised

Why not use Riddor as a baseline?

Due to underreporting with riddor, particularly with health risks this would not be a good baseline to use.

Agreed that the figures produced by SWORD would be more useful, however not everybody is in the SWORD scheme.

6. ACCIDENT AETIOLOGY UPDATE – P FOSTER

This research is nearing completion. John Dungey to present his findings at the QNJAC meeting in October.

7. ELECTRICITY ACOP WITHDRAWAL – R PEARCE

Members were asked for cost information re excessive requirements e.g. cost of a coating plant and a quarry, factory site. This information to be forwarded onto Richard White HSE, HIPD1, Room 5SW, Rose Court, London. Email richard.white@hse.gsi.gov.uk by the end of August 2004.

Agreed Action: **Members to cost information onto Richard White (HSE) by the end of August 2004.**

8. SECTOR PLAN – J BARRETT

The Manufacturing Sector has reorganised its work into workstreams: targeted activities, operational engagement, productivity and knowledge, special projects, stakeholder engagement, standards and compliance.

9. EDUCATION IN THE INDUSTRY – P FOSTER

Good Quarry Website

The good quarry website has been developed by Leeds University with funding from MIRO plus contributions from other industry partners. The purpose of the website is a central base of quarry information based on access for open learning and information. www.goodquarry.com

MSc

The MSc course is a joint Leeds University and Camborne School of Mines project to offer a higher education award for the quarry industry, which will be more attractive to graduate/mature students, than existing provision, part of the need to improve the competence of the industry.

Support for Camborne and Leeds

- The industry needs to work more with e.g. CSM & Leeds to try and tackle the recruitment problems
- Need to build on the work that QPA already does with schools
- If properly managed try and offer work experience
- Need to build links partially with schools
- More sponsorship of students needed

10. COMPETENCE – R PEARCE

Members were informed about the presentation given by Rob Pearce at EPIC's headquarters in December 03. From April 2004 all quarry inspections will be seeking to ensure that the managers in the management structure at quarries are competent to carry out their roles using a competence assured system. Mr Pearce explained that the HSE recognised it was not practical for every manager to start, for example an NVQ, by April, however, inspectors visiting quarries from that time onwards, would need to be satisfied that a manager was undertaking continuous professional development and was at least scheduled to undertake a competence award in a reasonable period of time.

Points raised

Industry becoming too fragmented – Industry getting confused with Quarry Regs

NVQ's will not sort out the health and safety issues.

Members were reminded that the operator has to demonstrate that control measures are in place before any work was done at a quarry and this includes the competence of those involved in the management. NVQ's in health safety and environment management for quarries were developed for the industry by the industries own professional body the Institute of Quarrying.

11. NVQ'S – P BRAIN

Differed until next meeting due to the absence of Phil Brain.

12. TU LEARNING REPS – M MELLOW

Malcolm Mellow outlined the new government initiative on the role of the (ULR) Union Learning Representative.

The ULR is a work colleague that has carried out at least a five-day intensive training course through their union. This has equipped them with some of the essential knowledge, needed to give information, advice and guidance to their colleagues as requested in relation too many different learning subjects and needs.

13. SHORFIRING COURSES – C WEBB

Not discussed due to absence of Clive Webb. Differed until the next meeting. This work is ongoing and will be discussed at the next meeting.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were some concerns raised about the Quarry Fencing article published in Quarry Fact File No30, it was felt by members that further

classification was needed e.g. can other types of boundaries be used hedges, ditches etc. Members were reminded that this information was WBB Minerals interpretation as stated on page 2 of the publication and not HSE's. Members felt that further guidance reiterating this information should be released from HSE.

WBV was also raised and HSE was asked what the current position was. HSE will shortly be publishing some guidance advising on when to and when not to take any action.

Members were advised of the meeting held in November between members of the QNJAC and the Road Haulage Association this was held due to concerns that the RHA had raised. Following the meeting their concerns were dealt with and it was agreed that any further meetings would be on a need only basis.

15. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5th October 2004 to be held in Rose Court, London at 10.30am

Close