

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES SUBCOMMITTEE

PETROLEUM WORKING GROUP

ACTION NOTES OF 28 JANUARY 2004 MEETING

Chair:	Stewart McEwen (HSE)
Industry:	Philip Monger Rory Hennessy Rex Wheeler Peter Wortley Tony Jenner
LGA:	Andy Berry Steve Rowe
North LA:	Roger Marris
Scottish LA:	Ted Beckley
LACORS:	Alison Edwards
Environment Agency:	Jon Naylor
DEFRA:	Ian Oldfield
HSE:	John Hazeldean (HID) Peter Roberts (Working Group Secretary)

Introductions and apologies

1 Stewart McEwen welcomed members to the tenth meeting of the working group. Apologies had been received from Chris Hunt and Andy Morgan (MOD).

Action note from last meeting

2 Revised project plan – Stewart McEwen has communicated to HSE senior management the concerns some members raised about the revised plan. The response was that HSE had many competing priorities and no further resources could be made available towards the development of petrol legislation.

3 The development of preferred options forms the main agenda item – see below.

Development of preferred options

4 A copy of the relevant paper had been sent to members before the meeting (ACDS/PWG/INF/03/01).

5 Members discussed the contents of the paper at some length and reported back on the results of consultations with their colleagues. The majority view was that licensing should be retained, although representatives of site operators were strongly opposed to that position.

6 Representatives of the PLAs stressed that the reduction in income resulting from the loss of licence fees would lead to a reduction in inspections. In the long term, this would lead to a reduction in safety standards.

7 Some other industry and environmental representatives agreed with this argument. There was some concern that there would be an eventual loss of expertise from the petroleum officer role. There was a general feeling that licensing ensured a level of certainty and continuity not present in other options.

8 Representatives of site operators felt that licensing meant that all the local authority inspection resource was devoted to the fire and explosion risks at the expense of other health and safety issues. They were also very concerned that enforcement was via the licence rather than through DSEAR (this was disputed by PLA representatives).

9 It was difficult, at this stage, to see a realistic way forward. However, a suggestion was made that perhaps a registration scheme would be the answer. This would involve some element of fee charging, thus ensuring some continuing income for PLAs.

10 It was agreed that HSE should draft a paper covering this option and distribute it to members in order that they could consult their colleagues before the next meeting.

Action: HSE

Any other business

11 No items were raised:

Date of next meeting

12 The next meeting was provisionally arranged for 15 April 2004.