

QUARRIES NATIONAL JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 22ND meeting of the Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 07 October 2003 at 10.30am in HSE Rose Court, London

Present

Mr J Barrett
Mr R Pearce
Mrs L Weston
Mr B Monson
Mr G Baker
Mr M Beacham
Mr B Stringer
Mr J Close
Mr M Isles
Mr S Spalding
Mr M Mellow
Mr C Kirby
Mr I Glendinning
Mr D Sharman
Mr P Fairlamb
Mr B Rostron
Mr C Webb
Mr R Claydon

Apologies

Mr R Allen
Mr M Smith
Mr P Foster
Mr J Atkinson
Mr K Dobbie
Mr T Mellish
Mr P Ward
Mr S Wing

Representing

Chair – HSE
Secretary – HSE
Minute Secretary - HSE
HSE N.I.
HSE (Speaker)
Hanson (Speaker)
British Drilling Association
QPA
QPA
China Clay Association
T & G
Silica and Moulding Sands Association
British Aggregates Association
Stone Federation
CoalPro
CoalPro
EPIC
QPA
Environmental Services Association
Institute of Quarrying
Institution of Materials, Minerals and Mining
Natural Slate Quarries Association
Sandsfield Gravel Co Ltd
TUC
NSSGA
HSE

1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members and guest speakers Mr M Beacham – Hanson and Mr G Baker – HSE. Also welcomed was Mr S Spalding replacing Mr M Pemberton who had recently resigned. Mr D Pimblett from GMB had also resigned; a replacement as yet has not been decided. Mr R Pearce to write a thank you letter to Mr Pemberton and Mr Pimblett.

Agreed Action: MR PEARCE TO SENT THANK YOU LETTER

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING HELD ON 18TH MARCH 2003

VEHICLE SHEETING (HSG148)

Still awaiting further guidance.

3. SUMMARY OF THE HSE PROJECT 02/03 DESIGN AND WORKFORCE INVOLVEMENT – R PEARCE

Mr R Pearce reported back on the findings from the design and workforce involvement project. Inspectors were asked to comment on the following during the last year and the results show the percentage currently complying:

Issues

Design with final profiles and maintenance details - 58%

Tips with excavations appraised - 70%

Tips with excavations assessed - 63%

Stockpiles treated as significant hazards - 49%

Tip and excavation rules - 47%

Undertaken stability recommendations - 62%

Safety committee reviewed design - 59%

Workforce understand control measures - 77%

In addition inspectors commented on poor standards of maintenance of plant, including structural stability and guarding on poor electrical management schemes, and failure to carry out recommendations and maintenance.

4. NATIONAL STONE SAND AND GRAVEL ASSOCIATION TARGET – G BAKER

Mr G Baker presented his findings to the meeting. The aim of the study was to see how the American regulators (OSHA and MSHA etc) design and implement outcome – oriented programmes with industry.

Particular area of interest – the regulators’ approach to non-enforcement programmes, especially partnership with industry.

MSHA & OSHA INSPECTIONS – 1

'Due cause' for compliance officer's visit; Checklist style inspection; Citations; Little discretion; Complaints investigated; Serious injuries investigated; Special emphasis programmes.

MSHA & OSHA INSPECTIONS – 2

Inspections driven by injury statistics (employers submit annually); No responsibility for self-employed, Members of the public; No enforcement against employees, Little or no inspection of agriculture, VPP.

What was learnt from America: Voluntary Protection Program (VPP)

Best companies; Application; OSHA audit; Party; Exemption from inspections; Partnership & beyond compliance.

What they learnt from the UK:

NSSGA Safety Pledge & UK 'Hard Target'

Two sources for US initiative:

- The idea for a specific commitment came from the UK, where quarry producers signed up to the hard target initiative

The second source is MSHA itself. Their agency has committed to a specific goal of reducing fatalities by 15% each year over the next four years and the lost-time rate of 50% during that period. Since then 15/50 has become an Agency mantra.

Points raised

Was their anything that they did better than us?

- Very good with Occupational Health
- And have very good databases and training programmes

5. COMPETENCE S/NVQ'S AND SKILLS COUNCIL UPDATE – C WEBB

Mr C Webb reported that to date the industry had signed up 52 NVQ's at levels 3-5. EPIC has launched new training publications for the quarry industry including a new recruitment video. Primarily aimed at young employees, it covers school leavers, college students and the wide range of jobs that are available. Also available six shotfiring guidelines covering:

- Misfires;
- Operators rules;
- Blasting specification;
- Training, company appointments;
- Surveying, and
- Duties

Also available from EPIC the new publications including the booklet 'Competence assurance: A guide to competence in the extractive mineral processing industries', the leaflet 'Transport safety, health and environmental guide', and the video 'Driving down accidents'.

6. **CLIMATE AND BEHAVIOURAL SURVEYS – M BEACHAM**

Mr M Beachham – Hanson presented his findings:

The task was to identify Hanson's strengths and weaknesses this was done by using a site-by-site benchmark using the HSE climate tool.

Main Factors;

- To encourage workforce participation;
- Identify the weaknesses and discuss the reasons;
- Complete two behavioral audits by the end of 2003;
- Prepare an audit for 2004 based on site needs;
- Assistance with training in various topics during the remainder of 2003/04;
- Accident reduction of 20% per year – on target

Points raised

Were contractors also included in the survey?

- Those who worked on site for a long period were, however they were conscious not to be too overloaded with information.

Did Hanson have a problem with recruiting Safety Reps?

- They did have a problem but they no longer do.

7. **SILICA – R PEARCE**

Members were informed about the work currently being carried out by Mr C Davy (HSE) to coincide with the reduction of the respirable crystalline silica exposure levels. It is felt that members must get more involved in this project as their input would determine the content of the final report, which is due to be released in July 2004.

Agreed Action: **MEMBERS TO CONTACT COLIN DAVY (HSE) BY MARCH 2004 – TEL, 0151 951 3261 COLIN.DAVY@HSE.GSI.GOV.UK**

8. **ACCIDENT AETIOLOGY UPDATED**

Item not discussed due to the absence of Mr P Foster.

9. **TARGETS FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS – R PEARCE**

Targets for phase two will need to be set. It was proposed to reconvene the original hard target subcommittee, and for them to

review the options and present their findings to the next QNJAC meeting.

Points raised

Some members felt that additional targets should not be set until the present one's had been completed. Also felt that a baseline would need to be produced before any health targets were set.

Agreed Action: **ROB PEARCE TO CONTACT MEMBERS TO RECONVENE THE HARD TARGET SUBCOMMITTEE**

10. LIFE AFTER SHCMOEI – R PEARCE

The Shcmoei committee has now ceased due to EC enlargement. It was felt that much of this work could be continued as part of the American alliance, by including the European elements. Some of the guidance produced by this committee can be found on: www.osha.eu.int

It was suggested that a conference be held in May 2004 at Camborne School of Mines, where members from the Shcmoei committee would be invited.

Agreed Action: **ROB PEARCE TO TAKE FORWARD**

11. ROAD HAULAGE ASSOCIATION CONCERNS

The Road Haulage Association has some genuine concerns about the safety of their drivers. It has been decided to hold a working group meeting so that these concerns can be address. The meeting will take place on 24th November 2003 in Rose Court, London.

Agreed Action: **ROB PEARCE TO SETUP MEETING**

12. NEXT YEARS HSE PROJECTS – R PEARCE

Inspectors will again concentrate on stress, workplace transport, falls from height and musculoskeletal problems such as manual handling, and in addition they will concentrate on assured competence, evidence of continuing professional development (CPD), and geotechnical assessment reports. They will do this by looking at the duties and responsibilities set out in the management structure (for managers and supervisors on and off site) and the competencies required to do the job, and comprising this with the competence the management are able to demonstrate.

Points raised

Will their be a consistent approach with Open Cast Coal Sites

- Yes the mines inspectors will come through the sector.

13. RATIFY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO STEERING COMMITTEE

Following the resignation of Mr M Pemberton and Mr D Pimblett from the steering committee, it was proposed that Mr P Fairlamb (Coalpro) and Mr M Mellow (T&G) take up these positions.

Agreed Action: THESE MEMBERS AGREED TO

14. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 16th March 2004 to be held in Rose Court, London at 10.30am

Close