

Health and Safety Commission Paper		HSC/05/64	
Meeting Date:	10 May 2005	Open Gov. Status:	Open
Type of Paper:	Above the line	Paper File Ref:	
Exemptions:	None		

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

Proposed location, timing and content of HSC meetings

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Issue

1. The paper sets out proposals on the Commission's residential and public meetings in 2005 for comment so that arrangements can be put into effect, and the Commission has an overview of forthcoming events.

Timing

2. Routine

Recommendation

3. That the Commission:
 - i notes and comments on the proposals for their Residential (para 5i)
 - ii notes the proposals for an open meeting in Bootle (para 5ii);
 - iii agrees proposals for the public meeting in November (para 5iii);
 - iv agrees the suggested dates for 2006 open business meetings in Annex A.

Background

4. The Commission have a range of meetings and visits scheduled over the coming months, in addition to the routine open business meetings held in Rose Court. The meetings, proposed locations and agendas, are detailed below for comment and information.

Argument

5. Proposed meetings

- i. June 21 – 23 HSC Residential

Location: Lakeside Moathouse hotel, Stifford near Grays

Proposed agenda:

21/6 – Commission private dinner

22/6 - 9.00 – 9.30 briefing on visits

9.30 – 3.30 visits to major hazard chemical plants

6.00-7.30 session with board and facilitator on how can the Executive and Commission can work better together to make best use of their time.

7.30 dinner with HSE Board

23/6 – 9.00 -10.30 continuation of previous evening's session

10.30 – 15.00 session on societal risk

Further details on the visits are given in Annex B.

ii. October 11 - HSC open business meeting at Bootle

The Commission agreed that one of its open meetings should be held in Bootle. Staff will be moving into the new building throughout August so that if the Commission wish to combine the meeting with the opportunity to meet HSC staff, October would be the most suitable date. We will be looking at the finished space to assess the feasibility of holding the Commission meeting there and will report back in June. An alternative location could be Liverpool town hall.

iii. November 8 – HSC Public meeting – London (venue to be arranged)

Discussions on the release of the 2004/05 accident statistics and main highlight reports identified that it would be possible to launch these earlier in November than had been done in the past. The statistics will be particularly significant as they will relate to the mid-point of the Revitalising target period. It was felt that launching them at the public meeting and structuring the event around a presentation on the statistics and then workshops to consider related issues, would provide an excellent opportunity to engage and involve key stakeholders.

The original intention had been to hold the public meeting outside of London, possibly in Newcastle, in order to reach a different audience. But if we are to attract our key stakeholders – which we believe should be the main purpose of this meeting – and coincide with the publication of the statistics, then holding it in London is likely to be the most successful venue because of its accessibility.

We therefore propose to hold the public meeting in London, based around the launch of the statistics and that one of the Commission's routine open business meetings should be held in Newcastle.

iv. March 2006 – HSC open business meeting – Newcastle

The Commission suggested the Centre for Life, Newcastle would make an interesting venue. The main theme of the meeting could be a presentation on the work of Hazardous Installations Directorate (HID) Specialised Industries Division – Mines, Gas & Pipelines,

Explosives and the Process Safety corporate topic group, followed by a more detailed presentation on current issues in Biological Agent.

6 Dates of 2006 HSC open business meetings

Annex A gives suggested dates for 2006 for your agreement.

7. Other events to note

19 May Opening of new HSL buildings at Buxton

18/19 October UK Presidency occupational health and safety conference Liverpool

9/10 November EU Senior Labour Inspectors' Committee at Lancaster House

Presentation

8. Communications Directorate will be taking the lead on the public meeting and as part of that will develop a communications plan with a media handling strategy.

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

9. The estimated cost of the public meeting is £30 000; plus £10500 salary costs for 3 months of a B3. The additional travel and subsistence costs for open meetings outside of London are estimated at around £39000. The hire of the Newcastle facility would be around £500.

Environmental and other Implications

10. None

Next steps

11. Details of the arrangements for the residential will be sent to Commissioners nearer the date. Dates for 2006 meetings will be placed on the web site. The Commission will be kept informed on how it is proposed to take forward the public meeting.

HSC MEETINGS 2006- PROPOSED DATES AND LOCATIONS

17 January

14 February

14 March (Newcastle)

***11 April**

9 May

6-8 June (Residential away day)

4 July

August no meeting

5 September

10 October (Public Meeting)

7 November

5 December (Christmas Reception)

*** Easter 2006 Good Friday 14 April, Easter Monday 17 April**

HSC AWAY DAY – Societal risk

Suggested Theme

Aim: To inform/refresh Commissioners on the key issues relating to societal risk
To show with practical examples how consideration of societal risk issues has and is continuing to affect the chemical, oil and gas industries in the Thames Estuary Area.
To explain HSE's role in balancing these issues to ensure we act consistently and are not seen as a 'risk averse' organisation.

Background: Societal risk was first considered by HSE/HSC as a result of the first and second reports of the Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances (ACHS) when proposed developments in the Canvey Island area of Essex gave concern to the local populace and expressed in Parliament by the local MP in 1978. These reports looked at potential risk levels and made recommendations as to what developments were and were not advisable.

Over the next 20 years much has changed and it is appropriate to examine the pressures behind these changes and compare current levels of safety to those that pertained then.

Key factors for the change have and continue to be :-

- Reduction in the chemical/oil processing industries
- The reduction in the output of gas from the North Sea and the consequent need to provide facilities to import and store alternative supplies close to areas of usage.
- The planning and population pressures in the South East and in particular the Thames Gateway project which is set to intensify development along the Thames Estuary.

Itinerary : (details still being developed)

22 June 2005, Lakeside Moat House Hotel, Stifford, Essex

1. Presentation from HSE, to include:
Outline for the day
Summary/Reminder on Societal Risk/Current Policy Position
Significance of Thames Estuary – Maps showing key sites etc.
Practical difficulties for operational units in dealing with societal risk/land use planning matters.

2. Travel to Coryton
3. Induction
4. Presentation by BP/HSE on issues associated with societal risks at Coryton and offsite emergency plan.
5. Tour of Refinery
Visit : Catalytic Cracker
Jetty
See Alkylation Unit (not visited as 30 minute induction required)
Control Room – see provisions made for occupied buildings(re: how risks to people on site are controlled compared to societal risk issues.
6. Return to Hotel

23 June 2005 at Lakeside Moat House Hotel.

Commission discussion on societal risk

1. 2 Societal risk case studies:-
Nufarm Belvedere - Chlorine Storage
Transco Isle of Grain- Phase 1 & 2 of expansion to store much larger quantities of LNG.
2. Key policy issues on societal risk
3. Possible presentation by consultants on results of recent public consultation exercise exploring whether there are general principles for the public in determining the level of scrutiny required on major hazard sites.