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HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

The HSE Board

FINE TUNING REVIEW – MAJOR HAZARDS

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Issue

1. Progress update on the Fine Tuning – Major Hazards action plan.

Timing

2. None.

Recommendation

3. To note progress.

Background

4. The Fine Tuning Action Plan identified the following work streams for major hazards.
 - a. Increase the momentum for the creation of a sharing and learning organisation for major hazards within HSE. An initial action being the development of a purpose statement.
 - b. Hold a one-day SCS major hazard workshop in June 2007 to plan the next phase of the approach for creating a sharing and learning organisation.
 - c. Hold a major hazards summit in April 2008, one year on from the NSD report on Thorp, the CSB report on Texas City and the Buncefield MIIB report, to catalyse sharing and learning across the major hazard industries.

This paper details progress against these work streams.

Argument

7. Progress against the Fine Tuning – Major Hazards action plan is detailed below.

a) Major Hazards Purpose Statement

A major hazard purpose statement has been developed and agreed in the statement “Regulating Major Hazards – Meeting the Challenge”, see Annex 1.

b) Creation of a Sharing and Learning Organisation for Major Hazards

A one-day SCS major hazard workshop was held on 7 June with the aims of, broadening the buy-in amongst the SCS, generating ideas in terms of leading and managing the change, and delivering commitment for action.

With input from John Mogford (BP Vice President for Safety and Operations), the workshop outlined the attributes and behaviours of a learning organisation, and identified practical ways in which these could be developed within HSE. At the workshop it was agreed that the HID and ND Management Boards would jointly review their business plans to identify opportunities for working together.

A second one-day SCS major hazard workshop is planned for 5 October 2007 to present the outcomes from the HID and ND review and agree the next steps in this work.

c) Major Hazards Summit 29 April 2008

The concept is to hold a summit for industry leaders to gain their commitment to achieving excellence in process safety leadership and culture. The Queen Elizabeth II conference centre in London has been booked for the major hazards summit. Kevin Allars has been appointed as the project manager and a support team has been created. Detailed planning of the summit and engagement with the major hazard industries will commence in mid August.

Consultation

8. None.

Costs and Benefits

9. To be determined.

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

10. None.

Environmental Implications

11. None.

Other Implications

12. None.

Action

13. None.

ANNEX 1:

REGULATING MAJOR HAZARDS - MEETING THE CHALLENGE

THE CHALLENGE

Any failure to control risks created by major hazard industries can have very severe consequences in its direct impact on people and from the reaction of society more widely. There is no room for complacency (as several recent incidents have demonstrated) and we must always seek to increase what we can do with our finite resources.

The environment affecting these industries changes constantly and rapidly, and public expectations of assurance are increasing. As regulators we need to update and refresh our approach to monitoring and responding to such changes.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Operating under the HSE umbrella we have a real opportunity to share best practice gained from within the industries and from our experience of regulating them across major hazard sectors . There are many common challenges and collective experiences which can be harnessed to increase HSE's effectiveness and enrich the work of our major hazards staff, for example:

- management systems,
- human and organisational factors,
- ageing of plant and equipment,
- performance indicators.

To make the most of this opportunity we need to operate better as a learning organisation where knowledge and experience is shared and used by major hazard staff across sectors. This doesn't only apply to knowledge generated within HSE: we should also stimulate the sharing of best practice between major hazard operators in the different sectors.

We believe that major hazards staff already see the potential of this approach, but to realise it we need to do more to encourage and facilitate it.

THE FUTURE

We aim to create an environment within HSE's major hazard sector where the sharing of knowledge and experience is an embedded value for all staff. To further this aim we will provide opportunities for staff to develop relationships, share knowledge and work together on practical regulatory activities.

We expect the use of best practice developed in other sectors to spread and become part of "the way we do business around here". We will learn from our collective experiences and build on this in our individual regulatory sectors, to regulate with much greater influence than would otherwise have been possible.

By delivering this outcome, we will demonstrate to ourselves and our stakeholders how this approach adds value. We will be open and transparent, and will set out the benefits we intend to deliver and how we will monitor progress, so that we can ultimately achieve our vision of Great Britain leading the world in the control of major hazards.