

Meeting date: 22 June 2010

Open Gov. Status: Fully open

Type of paper: Minutes

Paper File ref: 2010/551134

Exemptions: None

Minutes of the meeting of the Offshore Industry Advisory Committee held on
22 June 2010 in Lord Cullen House, Aberdeen

ATTENDEES

Present

Steve Walker, Chairman, HSE
Lyndsey Bennett, Secretariat, HSE
Jim Neilson, HSE
Peter Mills, HSE
Rob Ashdown, BROA
Jane Bugler, IMCA
Neaz Hyder, MCA
Phil Ley, OCA
Ian Mackie, ABS
Jake Molloy, RMT
Robert Paterson, O&GUK
John Taylor, Unite - TGWU
Glenn White, IADC

Observers

Mike Readitt, HSE

Presenters

Ahsan Saleem, HSE
Lyndsey Ross, BP

Apologies

Susan Elston, COTA
Allan Graveson, Nautilus UK
Brian Negus, GMB
Mark Robinson, Unite (Amicus Section)

Item		Action
1	Introduction, apologies and minutes from last meeting	
1.1	Steve welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.2	Steve welcomed new members: Ian Mackie from ABS, who was attending on behalf of the verification bodies; Craig Bunyan from DECC, who was attending on behalf of John Arnott; and Mike Readitt from HID Policy.	
1.3	Steve confirmed that all actions from the previous meeting were complete, in that they would be included on the agenda for the November meeting, to be held at Buxton. Steve asked Jake Molloy and John Taylor for an update on progress with the Permit to Work questionnaire. Jake and John confirmed that they were making good progress.	Secretariat to include items from June meeting on November agenda
1.4	The draft minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2010 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
2	Policy Update – Jim Neilson	
2.1	Jim explained that the purpose of his presentation was to update members on three areas: the different environment that HSE finds itself	Secretariat to circulate

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	in following a new administration and how this will impact on regulatory change; the forthcoming consultation on proposals to amend the offshore legislative framework; and other consultations and policy work being taken forward.	presentation to members
2.2	Jim explained how the new coalition government is very keen on reducing burdens on industry through the introduction of a 'one-in, one-out' approach to legislation and the inclusion of 'sunset' clauses, to ensure regulations are regularly reviewed. How this will impact on HSE is still materialising; any new rules should be established within a relatively short time period (i.e. 6 months).	
2.3	<p>Jim went on to inform members about the forthcoming consultation relating to amendments to offshore regulations. This will include a full three month consultation with stakeholders which HSE hopes to publish in August 2010. Jim highlighted to members that there are two areas that will not be included in the consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offshore accommodation – there is a new enforcement strategy exploring this area to gather more evidence; and • UK registered office requirements – further information is required to justify this change in the current climate. <p>Jim informed members he would share the draft consultation documents with them in the next couple of weeks and went on to outline the key proposals included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To update the definition of licensee and operator (installation and well); • To ensure HSE can regulate the dismantling of offshore installations that are used for other purposes; • To clarify that separate sleeping accommodation is required for men and women; • To update the definition of offshore installation; • Jurisdiction to regulate Emerging Energy Technologies – carbon dioxide storage and underground coal gasification; and • To maintain jurisdiction to regulate beyond the territorial sea for activities associated with wind farms. 	
2.4	Jim took the opportunity to update members on the recent consultation for proposals to amend the Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996. The consultation closed in March and a summary of the results will be available on the HSE website soon. There are several outstanding issues following the consultation that HSE will be seeking further views on. For further details please visit http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd228.htm	
2.5	Jim concluded his policy update by advising members of future policy work. This includes a review of the 92/91 Directive in 2013 which Jim discussed at the previous OIAC meeting; and proposals to amend the Gas Safety Management Regulations (onshore gas infrastructure) and Diving at Work Regulations.	

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2.6	<p>John Taylor sought clarity on whether the offshore regulations would apply to decommissioning of offshore installations when this work commences next year.</p> <p>Steve Walker clarified that offshore installations that have not been used for any other purposes will continue to be covered under offshore regulations. However, if the installation has been used for another purpose, (i.e. helicopter base), before decommissioning or demolition, then the offshore regulations may no longer apply. In such cases, HSE would not have any jurisdiction to regulate such installations using the Safety Case regulations and this is the issue that HSE is trying to address by proposing this amendment.</p>	
2.7	<p>John Taylor also sought clarity on the issue with UK registered offices. Jim explained that the issue was related to how UK courts conduct their proceedings against a European organisation that did not turn up for a court case against them. It has been suggested that requiring organisations to have a UK registered office would reduce this risk. Jim stressed that further work is required on this issue to explore if such an amendment would address this issue.</p>	
2.8	<p>Jane Bugler sought clarification on the work to amend the Diving at Work Regulations. Jim confirmed that the Regulations are currently being applied in areas they were not intended for. HSE is also taking this opportunity to consider if there are any other operational needs that can be addressed as part of this review work.</p>	
2.9	<p>Glenn White sought clarification on the issue with separate sleeping accommodation for men and women and whether industry would be involved with any re-word of the Regulations. Jim explained that the consultation document would be shared with members of OIAC and they would have an opportunity to comment on the proposed wording.</p>	
3	Operational Update and Health and Safety Statistics Bulletin – Peter Mills	
3.1	<p>Peter explained the purpose of his presentation was to provide members with details on enforcement information, to refresh people's knowledge of safety bulletins and to provide an example of real incidents that have prompted safety bulletins; and to provide information on accident and incident statistics.</p>	Secretariat to circulate presentation
3.2	<p>Peter highlighted the importance of safety bulletins, explaining to members that there are some teething problems with the web page but they can be accessed through the left hand side of the offshore pages on the HSE website http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/index.htm</p>	
3.3	<p>Peter provided members with details of real incidents that have prompted safety bulletins. Peter highlighted that although each incident dealt with a specific issue, it was pertinent to raise awareness of the cause throughout the industry and to ensure similar incidents of this nature could be avoided; the safety bulletin was a vehicle to do this.</p> <p>Robert Paterson confirmed that the safety bulletins were being shared through many forums.</p>	
3.4	<p>Peter highlighted key areas from the health and safety statistics bulletin, such as the number of fatalities and the recent increase in</p>	

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	<p>hydrocarbon releases.</p> <p>Peter confirmed that HSE will respond to the increase of HCR's by carrying out more independent investigations in a timely manner.</p>	
3.5	<p>Members were interested to know how industry would be addressing this issue and raised their concerns regarding how it was a limited number of installations who were responsible for the releases. The concern stemmed from the risk to workers from installations that are continually responsible for releases.</p> <p>Steve Walker acknowledged the point and went on to say how each HCR is different. Therefore, HSE needs to identify the root causes of each release and encourage an improved performance from these installations. Steve validated Peter's earlier comment about independent investigations by saying HSE would be taking a more intrusive investigative approach. John Taylor expressed how workers would be encouraged by the intrusive approach.</p>	
3.6	<p>Steve concluded the item by confirming that the formal launch of the health and safety statistics would be during July 2010.</p>	
4	e-Chemicals Essentials – Ahsan Saleem & Lyndsey Ross	
4.1	<p>Ahsan Saleem from OSD's Occupational Health Team and Lyndsey Ross from BP provided members with a presentation on the e-Chemicals Essentials guidance sheets, which are currently out for consultation.</p> <p>The consultation had been circulated to members previously and members were asked to provide any comments directly to Bill Davidson by 31 August. However, Ahsan and Lyndsey wanted to take the opportunity to provide members with the background as to why there was a need for the guidance and how it was produced.</p>	<p>Secretariat to circulate presentation to OIAC members</p> <p>Members to provide comments on consultation direct to Bill Davidson by 31 August 2010</p>
4.2	<p>Ahsan explained to members how potentially there are many workers offshore who are exposed to many dangerous substances, which can lead to ill health. This project was a joint exercise with industry and HSE to develop bespoke guidance which would encourage good practice on control of exposure to chemicals in the offshore industry. HSE consulted industry to identify representatives to be involved in a working group with topic groups dealing with specific topics.</p>	
4.3	<p>Lyndsey Ross was the topic leader for the group that dealt with process safety and drilling. Lyndsey provided members with an overview of how each topic group identified relevant processes/tasks and developed good practice guidance for these areas.</p>	
4.4	<p>John Taylor commented that he thought the process of developing the guidance had been dealt with very well. He added that the success would be measured by how this guidance was communicated to industry.</p> <p>Ahsan explained that the project team are in the process of producing a</p>	

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	<p>communications plan which has been aided by research looking at the communication networks across the offshore industry. Members suggested ways of raising the profile of the guidance which Ahsan took on board.</p> <p>Robert Paterson suggested the launch of the guidance would coincide with a schedule Oil & Gas event with the medical profession on 2nd March 2011. It was suggested the event could be used as a platform to publicise the guidance more widely. Members viewed this as a welcome suggestion.</p>	
4.5	Ahsan said the final guidance should be available close to December 2010 and rolled out during January to March 2011.	
4.6	Steve thanked Ahsan and Lyndsey for their presentation. Steve also thanked John Taylor for his supportive comments.	
5	WIG Update – Steve Walker	
5.1	Fraser Easton was unavailable to attend OIAC but provided members with a written paper updating members on WIG issues and activities prior to the meeting. Steve briefly summarised the content and asked members to accept the update. Members agreed.	
5.2	Robert Paterson asked for a progress report on the SI971 inspection programme. Steve confirmed that this could be provided at the next OIAC meeting in November.	Fraser Easton to include update on inspection programme at November OIAC
6	OIAC and Step Change – Jim Neilson & Steve Walker	
6.1	Jim Neilson provided members with an outline of the OIAC paper that had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. OIAC and Step Change both work to secure improvements in health and safety in the offshore oil and gas industry. The paper considers the scope for increasing the effectiveness of these bodies by improving communications and reducing any duplication in the work being initiated.	
6.2	The first proposal in the paper was for Step Change to be invited to join OIAC. This would facilitate the sharing of information and allow for Step Change to provide a short update on key operational and policy issues at future OIAC meetings. Members supported this proposal.	Secretariat to invite Step Change to join OIAC
6.3	Members agreed that there are overlaps with the groups but also recognised their differences. Robert Paterson suggested that OIAC should look at the synergies to get the best out of the groups.	
6.4	<p>Steve recognised it was an important point that there are differences between groups. Steve added that where there is duplication we must look to improve efficiency. This could be achieved by tasking Chairs of the working groups to undertake a gap analysis in their areas of work.</p> <p>The point was made that OIAC should retain authority to address an issue even if the Step Change leadership team did not think it</p>	Steve Walker to ask the Chairs of OIAC Working Groups to undertake a gap analysis

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	appropriate. Members agreed.	
7	Deepwater Horizon – Steve Walker	
7.1	Steve explained to members that the purpose of this agenda item was to provide feedback to members on how HSE are monitoring the situation in the Gulf of Mexico following the fatal explosion on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in April 2010. Steve added that details of the incident are still emerging and HSE has been regularly considering information and developments received from the US. In addition, Steve reported he was to attend two European Commission meetings in Brussels later that week to consider any implications for the EU.	
7.2	HSE has been working jointly with DECC to identify the gaps between safety and environmental matters. Steve went on to explain that although HSE was not proposing changes in its approach, it will be giving the three deep water wells which will be drilled in the UKCS later this year a high priority, with increased use of peer reviews.	
7.4	Robert Paterson explained to members the purpose of the Oil Spill and Response Advisory Group (OSPRAG). He explained the remit of the group was to pull information, and organisations, together to establish how we would prevent and respond to a similar incident in the UK. The advisory group is supported by technical groups. The group will look at regulatory efficacy of national response and share information with trade associations to ensure we align with other European countries, such as Norway.	
7.5	Craig Bunyan also provided a brief update on DECC's role and explained how they were in a similar position to HSE. DECC will be recruiting for four new posts to enable a change to their inspection strategy to enable an increase in the number of inspections on drilling rigs.	
7.6	Members had a discussion about environmental and financial factors that could have led to this incident. They said it is important to recognise that these could contribute to a similar incident in the UK if they are not managed effectively.	
8	AOB	
8.1	Members did not have any other business.	
8.2	Steve thanked members for their contributions and closed the meeting reminding members that the next OIAC will take place in Buxton on 18 th November.	