

Offshore Industry Advisory Committee		OIAC/MIN/3/2010	
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**Minutes of the meeting of the Offshore Industry Advisory Committee held on  
18 November 2010 at HSL Buxton**

**Present:-**

Chairman Steve Walker HSE, Secretariat Mike Readitt HSE, Jim Neilson HSE, Peter Mills HSE, Fraser Easton HSE, Susan Elston COTA, Adrian Lester BROA, Phil Ley OCA, Ian Mackie ABS, Jake Molloy RMT, Robert Paterson O&G UK, Glenn White IADC, Dave Nicholls Step Change, Paul Wilkins MCA.

**Presenters:-**

Rob Miles HSE, Rosemary Whitbread HSE

**1. Introductions**

- 1.1 Steve welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly our new member Dave Nicholls from Step Change, also, Adrian Lester representing BROA and Paul Wilkins from MCA.

**2. Apologies**

- 2.1 These were received from Allan Graveson, Nautilus UK, Brian Negus GMB, Mark Robinson Unite (Amicus Section), Jane Bugler IMCA, Neaz Hyder MCA, John Taylor Unite – TGWU, John Arnott DECC, Andrew Campbell WSCA, Simon Milne MCA and Ian Tasker STUC.

**3. Actions from previous meetings**

- 3.1 All outstanding actions from the March 2010 and June 2010 meetings with the exception of Action 6.4 (June) had been cleared. This action is being carried forward to the March 2011 meeting.

**4. Minutes from the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 meeting**

- 4.1 These were accepted without change.

## **5. Workforce Involvement Group (WIG) and Safety Reps Inspection programme (SI 971) Updates**

5.1 Fraser provided a comprehensive overview of WIG's recent initiatives and forthcoming events which highlighted the good progress being made through engagement activities, which included:-

- Meetings with Frank Doran MP, the Norwegian Safety Forum, Step Change Workforce Engagement Group and Offshore reps. on the Kittiwake installation.
- Forthcoming engagement events are scheduled at the Thainstone House, Aberdeenshire on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2010 and planned offshore visits to the Tiffany and Britannia installations during April – June 2011.

### **Safety Reps Inspection programme (SI 971)**

5.2 It was reported the programme had now completed 38 out of the planned 40 inspections. Feedback from both the workforce and HSE Inspectors had been very positive. A formal report will be prepared following the conclusion of the programme.

**Action 1 Nov 10:- Fraser Easton to provide at the March 2011 OIAC meeting the findings and any recommendations arising from the SI 971 programme.**

5.3 The proposal to provide additional training for Safety Representatives was agreed to be taken to the Step Change Leadership Team (SCLT) meeting in Jan 2011.

**Action 2 Nov 10:- Fraser Easton to prepare a paper outlining the proposals for additional Safety Rep training that Steve Walker can present to the SCLT.**

5.4 Dave Nicholls informed the meeting on the Step Change '4<sup>th</sup> Indicator' work which had also looked at workforce engagement, particularly in relation to 'Cultural Aspects', 'Barriers to engagement' and 'Behaviours of individuals'. Step Change are planning a questionnaire survey, hopefully to be undertaken during 2011.

## **6. Policy and Legislative Update**

- 6.1 Jim Neilson confirmed the Government are only going to introduce legislation that was seen as essential. In addition, this would have to comply with the 'one in one out' rule. This rule required that for any new legislation introduced that placed a burden on industry, legislation removing a similar financial burden had to be withdrawn. The key points summarised from his 'Update briefing' were as follows:-
- A new 2011 Variation Order is to be introduced (maintaining the requirements of the 2009 Variation Order).
  - HSE is aiming to consolidate and simplify the Application Outside Great Britain Order (AOGBO) at an appropriate time (unlikely to be before 2013).
  - Future policy objectives are to ensure Hydrocarbon gas storage is effectively regulated, Inspectors can be transported offshore to conduct inspection, investigative and enforcement activities and decommissioning and demolition activities are regulated.
- 6.2 Members were informed of HSE's recent activities associated with Deepwater drilling, in particular attending the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee, and responding in conjunction with Dept. of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to the European Union's (EU) communication "facing the challenge of the safety of offshore oil and gas activities".
- 6.3 In response to the EU's communication the Chairman confirmed that:-
- HSE's and DECC's objective is to retain the UK's robust regulatory regime and bring other regimes up to our standard.
  - The Oil Spill Prevention Response Advisory Group (OSPRAG) would be the group to consider the lessons learned from the Deepwater investigations once they are published.

## **7. Operational Update & Health and Safety Statistics Bulletin**

- 7.1 From the comprehensive Operational report, Peter Mills brought to member's attention the Verification issues associated with two Prohibition Notices. An investigation into this concluded that some Duty Holders management / assurance arrangements for the integrity of safety critical equipment (SCE) / verification schemes were not suitable or sufficient. It was reiterated that verification is a key part of Safety Management Systems and the lessons learned from the report will be submitted to the verification sub group.
- 7.2 The key points from the Interim statistics report were:-
- No fatalities
  - Major injuries had increased
  - There is a downward trend associated with the over 3 day injuries
  - Preliminary Hydrocarbon Release (HCR) indications for 2010/11 are predicted to be in the region of 60 releases. (The industry reported that the Step Change Leadership Team are shortly expected to confirm their commitment to a 50% reduction in Hydrocarbon releases by March 2013.

## **8. Permit to Work Systems**

8.1 A brief summary of Permit to Work (PTW) questionnaires received by Jake Molloy indicated the key issues were a need for the process to be simplified, less people involved and a reduction in the associated paperwork. This information had been passed to Rob Miles (HSE) who had included the information in his analysis of the PTW accident / questionnaire data.

**Action 3 Nov 10:- Jake to circulate to members his questionnaire results to members**

8.2 Rob Miles delivered a succinct overview of his review of the existing PTW system, which considered permit failures, results from inspections and analysis of human factors issues. Some of the key findings revealed there were:-

- Analysis of a number of incidents found 114 instances of failures in the permits relating to these incidents
- Failures to operate the PTW system effectively
- Workers working outside of the PTW system
- Poor task descriptions
- Routine work activities overloading the system
- Failures (of many types) within the PTW system are widespread
- Usability
- Variations in the operation of the PTW system within individual companies

8.3 Following a debate on the findings it was noted that the key issue to be addressed was not the need for a common permit to work system. The emerging issues now focus on the overall management and control of work, of which the PTW system is an important element, and on how the workers interface with the permit system and how this work was subsequently, monitored, supervised and managed. There was a commitment to take action to address the range of issues identified from the analysis of the PTW system. It was agreed:-

**Action 4 Nov 10:- Secretary to circulate the PTW presentation to members**

**Action 5 Nov 10:- Members to provide Rob Miles with their thoughts on addressing the PTW issues**

**Action 6 Nov 10:- Rob Miles to discuss with Dave Nicholls possible input from the Human Factors Working Group to consider PTW issues**

**Action 7 Nov 10:- Rob Miles to prepare an 'Options' paper for presentation at the next OIAC meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March on the ways forward with the PTW issues.**

## **9. Emerging Energy Technologies (EET) Update**

- 9.1 Rosemary Whitbread, the EET Programme Manager, provided members with an informative insight into the development, progress and challenges that faced the EET Team and Industry. It was confirmed that HSE's objectives linked to EET were to ensure all health and safety issues associated with these new technologies are identified and addressed, and HSE is an enabling regulator. Members were informed that in December the EET Team will present the HSE Board with proposals for their Knowledge, Intervention, Regulatory, Resource and Communication strategies.

## **10. Any other business**

- 10.1 As the Wells Services Contractors Forum no longer existed as a separate body (now part of Oil & Gas UK), members agreed for them to be represented by Oil & gas UK.
- 10.2 The Chairman informed the members of the impact on HSE of the Govt. Spending Review, which was to deliver a 35% saving over the next 4 years. To contribute to this, it was proposed to reduce OIAC meetings to two per year and hold all meetings in Aberdeen.
- 10.3 Members agreed to these proposals subject to them being 'full day' meetings with the option to convene another meeting should there be a pressing need.
- 10.4 It was suggested OIAC considers the viability of retaining its Helicopter Liaison Sub Group and WIG due to the overlaps between similar Step Change groups. Members were reminded there was an ongoing action (6.4 June) for OIAC working groups to report back their views on any overlaps with Step Change groups at the March 2011 meeting. The Evacuation, Escape and Rescue Technical Advisory Group (EERTAG) group is to be continued.

**Action 8 Nov 10:- Steve Walker to discuss with Tom McLaren and Fraser Easton the need to report on the overlaps between the sub groups**

## **Date and venue for the next meeting**

This will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Lord Cullen House, Aberdeen.