Thorough Review
Conference – DH feedback

Bill Miller
Q: Did HSE inspect your procedure for carrying out a TR?
A: In most cases yes, or at least discussed.

Q: Did you refer to published HSE guidance on TR and was it useful and easy to find?
A: Yes & yes in all responses.
Q: How long did it take you to carry out the TR?
A: Responses varied anything from 3 – 9 months. Also 800 – 1000 staff hours.

Q: Did you involve safety reps / workforce in the TR process?
A: In all cases yes, including how & in what depth they were involved.
Q: What are the resource implications comparing new system with old?

A: Resources focussed differently but overall no great difference. More in house – less contractor, but worth it. Greater internal awareness of SC.
Q: What do you see as the advantages or disadvantages of the thorough review system compared to the previous 9(4) 3 yearly resubmission and acceptance system?
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DISADVANTAGES:

• Lack of feedback. How are TRS used by HSE?

• Perceived reduction of input, knowledge & advice from inspectors. Is HSE losing its bite?

• No formal acceptance process risks less pressure on organisations to Keep SC up to date.
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DISADVANTAGES cont’d.

• Potential for some operators to do only a cursory review, resulting in more reliance on inspection regime. More onus on HSE.

• Tendency for some HSE inspectors to expect the TR summary to address every piece of guidance related to specialist topics.
ADVANTAGES:

• Less bureaucracy and paper chasing.
• Promotes fundamental questions, more holistic review.
• Less time spent answering question on specific topic issues raised during SC assessment.
ADVANTAGES cont’d

• Encourages broader input from operator stakeholders.

• Encourages more involvement from safety reps / workforce.

• HSE inspection more focussed on operational matters rather than bits of paper.

• Reduction in dependence on consultants.
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Q: What more could be done that would improve or assist you in the TR process?

A: Not a great deal, perhaps make sure HSE guidance is kept up to date in light of experience.

Maintain contact with HSE specialists to benefit from industry wide knowledge.
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Q: Anything else?

A: Going in right direction, need to continue to make it work.

Thorough review system has resulted in less wasted resources getting bogged down in detailed SC assessment issues, which did not result in improvements in safety.