



## MINUTES

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OFFSHORE LIAISON (EPOL) GROUP

**DATE:** Wednesday 20 September 2017  
**LOCATION:** Statoil - meeting held at Maersk Training,  
Prime Four, Kingswells

**CHAIR/MINUTES:** Rob McRobb and Len Braun

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shirley Daniel (Statoil)	Loraine Shellard (Marathon)
Wendy Aden (Centrica)	Hannah McIntosh (ConocoPhillips)
Alison Jansch (Apache)	Barry Quin (Noble Drilling)
Glen Pinsent (Bristow)	Sinead Watson (TAQA)
Gary Hunt (TAQA)	Brian Tadeo (Apache)
Andrew Taylor (BEIS)	Tommy Clark (BP)
Les Chapman (SOSREP - guest)	Pete Lowson (MCA)
Andrew Lang (Premier Oil)	Andrew Park (Total)
Sharon Robertson (WGPSN)	Colin Sellar (Subsea7)
Peter Campbell (BP)	Peter Reilly (Petrofac)
Ed Miller (Teekay)	John Hogg (TAQA)
Karen Anderson (Repsol Sinopec)	Rob McRobb (Police Scotland)
James Lowe (Noble Drilling)	Len Braun (Police Scotland)
Derek Hart (IADC)	
Nick Bailey (HSE)	
John Duncan (Maersk Oil)	
Chris Shawcross (Bluewater)	
Alix Thom (Oil & Gas UK)	

#### 1. WELCOME AND DOMESTIC ISSUES

Shirley Daniel welcomed everyone to the Statoil venue and outlined the domestic issues.

## 2. OPENING OF MEETING AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair formally opened the meeting and welcomed those who were new to the group. He also welcomed Les Chapman, the new SOSRep as a guest to the meeting.

## 3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following:-

John Entwistle (ENI)	Sharon Wilson (Technip)
Callum Chesshire (Enquest)	Ruth Evans (Marathon)
Lynne de Boer (UK Oil & Gas Chaplaincy)	Ross Zaccarini (BP)
Peter Ratcliffe (Parenco)	Heather MacLeod (Floatel International)
Gordon Bradley (Petrofac)	Michelle Aitken (Total))
Ian Greenwood (Shell)	Jennifer Poole (Perenco)
Eddie Nicol (Noble Drilling)	Steve Collins (Chrysaor)
Colin Patterson (Teekay Offshore)	Rob Inglis (CNRI)

## 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 28 June 2017 were approved.

## 5. SUB GROUP UPDATES

### 5.1. MEDIA SUB GROUP

Len Braun provided an update to the Group on behalf of Jennifer Phillips regarding the Vuelio project. The next meeting is scheduled to take place at 2pm on Thursday 28 September 2017 at TAQA House, Westhill to progress the rollout of the software to Group members. (The meeting was subsequently cancelled and rescheduled for 2pm on Monday 13 November 2017).

The Vuelio software was trialled by Alison Jansch at an Apache in house ERT training day. Alison was asked to provide feedback on the trial.

Alison reported positive feedback from the participants. There were a number of questions around access and who can view draft press releases.

Alison also asked if the Police would share a contact telephone for the Police Media Office. **Len Braun took a task to circulate the contact number as requested.**

The Apache team would like to test the software further but saw the benefit of it.

Andrew Taylor (BEIS) asked if he could be registered as a user to enable him to view draft releases for pollution incidents.

## 6. BRUCE PLATFORM PRESENTATION

Pete Lowson (MCA) supported by Tommy Clark (BP) delivered a presentation to the Group about an incident on 22 June 2017 when the Bruce Platform, 90 nm northeast of Sumburgh suffered a failure of its main and backup power supply.

The Group then considered issues around requesting the assistance of SAR helicopters to down man staff to receptor platforms in such circumstances. They also considered the lessons learned following the incident and actions that were recorded for future incidents of this nature.

## 7. MCA UPDATE

Pete Lowson confirmed the new Coastguard telephone numbers are working well. The offshore numbers should be used for offshore emergency situations such as alarms and incidents. The onshore numbers should be used for routine calls to the Coastguard regarding exercises, environmental alerts and routine calls from onshore teams.

A request was made for Pete to circulate the Coastguard fax number and email address for use by the offshore industry. Pete identified that although the Coastguard in Aberdeen still have a fax machine, it is stand-alone and not integrated into their command and control systems. Like the new telephone numbers the email addresses are zone specific. Callers should telephone the appropriate Coastguard Operations Centre on the zone specific numbers and the Ops Room will advise on the email address to use.

Pete ran a workshop for training providers at the Aberdeen CGOC on 31 August 2017 as feedback received from OIMs suggested there may be inconsistencies between some of the content provided in industry training courses relating to current Coastguard procedures. The workshop was very productive and was attended by representatives of OPITO.

The feedback on the workshop raised a number of points:

- The Integrated Offshore Emergency Response Document could be expanded to include information required by HM Coastguard and other agencies such as the Police so that OIMs and regulators are fully aware of expectations.
- The OIM standards could then be amended to reference this document which would also allow for audited content.
- Training providers are not members of the EPOL Group but it was suggested that OPITO as their representative may make a valuable contribution to EPOL.

Rob McRobb spoke further about the suggestion of representation on the Group from OPITO. Brian Tadeo confirmed the issue of OPITO joining EPOL had been tried on various occasions over the years but never proved productive. Following a short discussion on the merits of the proposal, **Len Braun took a task to email all members seeking opinions to be further discussed at the December meeting in relation to inviting a representative from OPITO to a future meeting to establish what they could offer to the Group.**

## 8 HSE UDATE

Nick Bailey provided the following HSE update.

- HSE's Energy Division Emergency Response team has successfully recruited Colin Hart and Nigel Taylor - bringing the team to full strength (Team Lead + 5 specialist inspectors)
- HSE has had discussions with MCA in regard to their concern that voluntary down-manning of installations at night in the event of power loss (when helicopter crew-change flights are not available) was not an emergency situation. MCA has taken the line that SAR aircraft are not to be used for incidents such as power failures without actual risk to life, and that the IAMSAR emergency phase must be identified before any subsequent tasking. It is proposed that this matter be discussed further at EPOL in December.
- HSE is in the process of reviewing and revising its online guidance, information sheets and operations notices. Over the next 6 months these will be updated on the HSE website.
- The ERRV management Guidelines produced by ERRVA / OGUK are being reviewed. HSE (Paul Young) will be participating within the working group set up to revise the guidelines. Unsure of timescales at present.

## 9 BEIS UPDATE

Andrew Taylor thanked the Group for offering membership of the Group to BEIS. He spoke to the Group about OPEPS and exercises, the portal for submissions to BEIS. He also spoke about Shoreline response plans, discussions with MCA and Local Authority guidance. Andrew also highlighted a BEIS workshop taking place towards the end of November.

Andrew introduced Les Chapman, the newly appointed SOSRep, to the Group. Les then spoke the Group about his background and new role.

## 10 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS UPDATE

Derek Hart had no update from the IADC. Derek however sought information, on behalf of his members, from those present about how decisions are made to convey

injured or ill staff ashore for assessment and treatment. His understanding is that the default position from topside medical providers is to send such persons ashore. He asked if this was common in all companies. It was also highlighted that this extended to employees with toothache and other dental issues which is not considered during the offshore medical fitness examination.

Following discussion it was confirmed as common practice as the decision is made by a Doctor.

Pete Lawson advised Derek that he chairs an offshore medical group and has previously spoken to that group about the conditions of use of SAR helicopters for this purpose.

Barry Quinn informed the Group that Noble Drilling had installed 'tele-medicine' on all of their installations so doctors can remotely examine sick or injured workers, or provide guidance for their offshore medics. The tele-medicine provides a better level of care and shows a reduction in incidents requiring medivac by 30-35%.

As part of this process medical examinations for the two yearly offshore medical certificates for Noble employees are conducted whilst the employees are offshore.

Alix Thom is to raise the issue of dental fitness with Dr Graham Furnace as it appears no medivacs have been identified during medical group discussions. She also identified the opportunity to invite Dr Furnace to a future EPOL meeting if beneficial.

## **11 OIL & GAS UK UPDATE**

Alix Thom provided an update to the Group regarding the ongoing industrial dispute in the offshore catering sector.

## **12 POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE**

The Chair spoke about the tragic and sudden death of Dennis Sutherland (Stena) on 30 June 2011, two days after the previous EPOL meeting. The Chair recognised the contribution and commitment from Dennis to the Group over a number of years.

The Chair also provided an update to the Group on the retirement of Fay Tough from Police Scotland and her new position with the Scottish Government.

He confirmed that, since the last meeting, Police Scotland had received 26 requests for Police Liaison Officers to attend company emergency response exercises. Of these, PLOs attended 23 of the exercises.

The Chair updated the Group with regards to his current seconded position as Temporary Inspector in the Emergency Planning Unit. This post along with that occupied by Inspector Fay Tough prior to her retirement will merge when a substantive Inspector will take on the new role. At that point the Chair will return to his former post in the Energy Industry Liaison Unit (EILU) along with Len Braun. He also intimated the contact numbers for the EILU would be highlighted in the minutes

of this meeting. They are as follows:

**Sergeant Rob McRobb - 01224 305692.**

**Len Braun - 01224 305693.**

The Chair acknowledged the high standard of services being provided by local training providers following feedback from PLOs about the new innovative and challenging offshore exercise scenarios they have encountered of late.

The Chair then provided a brief update of the September meeting of the UK Police Offshore Energy Group (UKPOEG) which was hosted by Oil & Gas UK. In relation to the Southern North Sea that are still issues for companies from both the oil & gas and renewable energy sectors identifying which Police Forces have jurisdiction for the various offshore installations.

It was previously intimated that the EILU had been invited by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies to deliver a training course in Norwich for PLOs to upskill staff and enhance their knowledge regarding deployment to primary or secondary emergency response rooms during offshore incidents. The course was to take place in early August but was cancelled when the threat level from international terrorism was raised to critical following terrorism related incidents in London. The course will be rescheduled.

Alix Thom spoke about an item on the UKPOEG agenda regarding the training of Officers from relevant Police Forces who may be deployed offshore to incidents in the Southern North Sea and the standards set in relation to BOSIET.

### 13 **INFORMATION SHARING/ OPEN SPACE**

- Barry Quinn spoke to the group about the outcome of the debrief by his company and the lessons learned following the incident in May this year when a member of staff from a contractor company went missing from the Noble Lloyd Noble drilling rig.

He identified the issue of how companies manage lone workers on offshore assets when that worker is employed by a sub-contractor and has not been buddied with anyone offshore.

Barry also took the opportunity to recognise the good work carried out by Police Scotland Officers and the UK Oil & Gas Chaplain Gordon Craig who attended offshore in response to the incident.

- A member spoke to the Group about the results of compulsory drug tests following initial non-negative screening and confirmed that 10% of positive tests identified the drug of choice being abused by offshore workers is cocaine.

**14 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 6 December 2017, at Apache North Sea, Caledonia House, Prime Four Business Park, Kingswells, Aberdeen AB15 8PU. 9am for 9.30am start.

**15 AOCB**

None.