

OFFICIAL



MINUTES

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OFFSHORE LIAISON (EPOL) GROUP

DATE: Wednesday 10th March 2021

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting hosted by Police Scotland

CHAIR/MINUTES: Dave Cowie and Len Braun

MEMBERS PRESENT: The following members intimated their participation

Lynne Murray (Wood)	Gwen Thomson (Bristow)
Christy Birnie (Repsol Sinopec)	Duncan Innes (Ithaca Energy)
Norman Thomson (Spirit Energy)	Ewan Donald (CNOOC)
Shiela Tait (BP)	John Duncan (Total)
Nick Bailey (HSE)	Heather Gavin (Babcock)
Gordon Craig (UK Oil & Gas Chaplaincy)	Richard Bevan (Enquest)
Toni Hutcheson (Dana Petroleum)	Hannah Curd (Shell)
Stuart Clow (IADC)	Ed Miller (HSE)
Marc Duncan (Chrysaor)	Paul Ray (Norfolk Constabulary)
Alix Thom (OGUK)	Julian Bosley (Suffolk Constabulary)
Lynne McLeod (INEOS)	Stuart Clark (Police Scotland)
Mark Ward (AGR)	Dave Cowie (Police Scotland)
Sandra Henderson (CNR)	Len Braun (Police Scotland)
Rob Inglis (CNR)	
Craig Robertson (Serica Energy)	
Grace Cameron (TAQA)	

1. WELCOME AND DOMESTIC ISSUES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting brought about by the ongoing Covid-19 issues.

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2. OPENING OF MEETING AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair formally opened the meeting and welcomed those who were new to the group.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following:-

Paul Ness (Ithaca Energy)
Julia Stringer (MCA)
Pete Lawson (MCA)
Louise MacDonald (IADC)
Lynn Debore (UK Oil & Gas Chaplaincy)
Steve Golightly (Petrofac)
Andy Taylor (OPRED)
Colin Walker (BP)
Graham Wall (Perenco)
Jenny Poole (Perenco)
Sinead Watson (TAQA)
Isla Innes (BP)

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 9th December 2020 were approved.

5. EPOL SUB-GROUPS UPDATE

5.1 EVACUEE RECEPTION CENTRE SUB-GROUP

Ewan Donald advised the Group that the EPOL Relative Response Guidance document (version 2.0) was published on 18 December 2020.

The Short Life Working Group will now commence the second strand of the work stream to review and update the Reception Centre Guidance. This will include the EPOL template for reception centres when:

- Police are in attendance and
- Police are not in attendance.

Operators have generally moved away from using the current template due to its complexity and staffing requirements. The SLWG will review the guidance, supporting documents and processes with a view to identifying core documents that can be scaled up with add-on documents as necessary for Police and Medical, participation. As part of the review they will consider easy to follow flowcharts to lead staff through the process.

Revised evacuee passports / booklets are being considered. These will be carried by evacuated or down-manned staff and completed as they pass through each stage of the reception centre. At the end of the process the passports / booklets will be surrendered by the holders before exiting the reception centre.

A consultation document will be forwarded to member Companies, Training Providers and Crisis Management and Emergency Response Providers to canvass their opinions and recommendations. It is anticipated an update will be available at the June EPOL meeting and offer an opinion on what a solution might look like.

Hannah Curd identified that Shell are holding a major reception centre exercise in the third quarter of this year and she would be keen to trial and evaluate the new guidance and template during the exercise.

6. MCA UPDATE

Pete Lawson was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following update. At the December meeting Pete informed the Group that early in 2021 he would be introducing a new half day course aimed at providing Search and Rescue Awareness (SARA) until such time as the full OSARM courses can be provided. The SARA course is free of charge and delivered online. The first course went well and the uptake has been high with most courses already fully subscribed. He will consider capacity and consider additional course dates if possible.

Pete is looking to restart OSARM courses after the summer holidays however that is conditional to any continuing pandemic restrictions.

7. HSE UPDATE

Nick Bailey advised the Group that nothing had changed significantly since the last meeting. He asked members to review the minutes of the previous meeting regarding testing and exercising of emergency response management.

Nick reinforced the point that HSE are also keen to look at the inspection of onshore response arrangements. In this regard, HSE will be looking at operators and duty holders' response later in the year.

8. OPRED UPDATE

Andy Taylor was unable to attend the meeting and provided the following update. There are a number of Tier 3 (SOSREP) exercises this year which are still going ahead and we will work with individual companies as to whether they are held in person, remotely or a mix. We would hope that things will return to more normal arrangements from the summer onwards. OPRED will also start looking at the next oil & gas NCP exercise which will be due sometime around April 2022, so planning will need to consider who we can ask to be the oil & gas company to have the incident – any volunteers can let OPRED know.

9. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS UPDATE

Stuart Clow provided the following update from the IADC.

Member companies continue to face challenges with new quarantine rules, especially in relation to employees returning home to Scotland for field breaks. HR departments are now coming to terms with the regulations and there are a number of exemptions in place for those travelling back from some of the European countries including Norway, Denmark and Holland.

There is evidence of some new activity in the UK sector with members bringing in drilling vessels and although these are on short contracts, it presents good opportunities to gain other contracts or extend the existing one.

The IADC safety awards event has been cancelled this year and rescheduled for March 2022. All winners of the various 2021 safety awards were recognised for their achievements virtually.

The IADC is continuing to hold conferences virtually with the hope of being able to attend in person nearer the end of the year. All the details for the conferences are on the website.

WellSharp - A work group has completed its work stream and has recommended additions to the WellSharp Driller curriculum to include unconventional well control content. The recommendation has gone to the Well Control Committee for comment and will move to final vote of approval. The work group is now working on recommendations to add unconventional well control content to the Supervisor Drilling Operations course.

The Subsea Competency Assessment Program - Assessment for Assistant Subsea and Senior Subsea positions was piloted in November 2020. The work group is undertaking a final question review and anticipate to go live with the program at the end of Quarter 2 this year.

The IADC's WellSharp Advisory Panel have decided to raise the Well Control WellSharp knowledge assessment passing grade from 70% to 75% for all WellSharp courses. The simulator assessment passing score remains at 70%. The changes came into effect on 1st January 2021.

When WellSharp launched in 2015, there was much discussion over what the knowledge assessment passing score should be. It was agreed by the WellSharp Panel to launch the program with a required passing score of 70% with a plan to monitor performance and implement a gradual increase to the passing score.

It was mentioned at the December 2020 EPOL meeting that an IADC member company was to work in partnership with Police Scotland to undertake joint exercises and drills on a drilling vessel whilst in port. The joint exercising has been put on hold meantime due to the current COVID restrictions.

10. OIL & GAS UK UPDATE

Alix Thom highlighted the OGUK 2021 Health & Safety Conference due to take place on 24th and 25 March details of which could be found on the OGUK website.

The Pandemic Steering Group continues to meet and have been considering quarantine and vaccination issues.

11. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

The Chair spoke to the Group about preparations in the lead up to the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-26). It was recommended that COP-26 be considered as a standing EPOL agenda item meantime. The Chair asked members to consider what mitigations operators can put in place prior to Offshore Europe / COP-26. Please review documents with advice / guidance for OIMs and Onshore staff regarding Policing style and approach should their onshore premises or offshore assets be targeted by protestors. He asked members to consider whether or not an extraordinary meeting in the summer to discuss any of these issues was required.

The Chair asked members to review their Emergency Response documentation to ensure they contain the latest Police Scotland Incident Liaison Officer documents that were recently circulated and to ensure all PLO acronyms have been replaced with Police Incident Liaison Officer (ILO)

Wellbeing - Inspector Darren Bruce has spoken to Alix Thom. He can offer advice and signpost people in the right direction for wellbeing / suicide prevention advice.

12. INFORMATION SHARING / OPEN SPACE

13. AOCB

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9th June 2021 – to be hosted virtually via Microsoft Teams.