



MINUTES

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OFFSHORE LIAISON (EPOL) GROUP

DATE: Wednesday 6 March 2019
LOCATION: Premier Oil, Upper Denburn House,
Prime Four Business Park, Kingswells

CHAIR/MINUTES: Rob McRobb and Len Braun

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andy Lang (Premier Oil)	Gordon Craig (UK Oil & Gas Chaplaincy)
Alison Jansch (Apache)	Louise Thomson (Wood)
Edith McLeod (IADC)	Bill Hamilton (Noble Drilling)
Wendy Aden (Spirit Energy)	Norman Thomson (Spirit Energy)
Pete Lawson (MCA)	James Lowe (Noble Drilling)
Karen Mackay (ConocoPhillips)	Becky Heginbotham-Blount (Norfolk Constabulary) (dial in)
Heather MacLeod (Floatel International)	Gary Spark (Police Scotland)
Nick Bailey (HSE)	Rob McRobb (Police Scotland)
Chris Hornsby (Chevron)	Len Braun (Police Scotland)
Chris Wicks (Marathon)	
Andrew Taylor (BEIS)	
Karen Anderson (Repsol Sinopec)	
Ian Greenwood (Shell)	
Sinead Watson (TAQA)	
Lee Grant (INEOS)	
Rob Inglis (CNRI)	

1. WELCOME AND DOMESTIC ISSUES

Andy Lang welcomed everyone to Premier Oil 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.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following:-

Jennifer Poole (Perenco)
Mark Brosnan (CHC Helicopters)
Colin Paterson (Teekay)
Chris Shawcross (Bluewater)
John Duncan (Total)
Colin Walker (BP)
Craig Robertson (Serica Energy)
Gwen Thomson (Bristow)
Barry Quinn (Noble Drilling)
Helen Stuart (TAQA)
Emma Russell (INEOS)
Gary Hunt (TAQA)
Ruth Evans (Marathon)
Lynne McLeod (INEOS)
Sandra Henderson (CNRI)
Shirley Daniel (Equinor)
Alix Thom (Oil & Gas UK)
Catherine Jones (ENI)

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 5 December 2018 were approved.

5. MEDIA SUB GROUP UPDATE

Len Braun provided the following update from Natalie Coupar, Oil & Gas UK.

There are some concerns as to whether technology has move on quicker than the Vuelio EPOL project but she accepts that given the support for the project from the Group, ER professionals and industry there is still a need to pilot the project. Natalie will attend the next meeting in June and update the Group.

There are some concerns about ongoing customer support from the developers and the guidance documents still need to be reviewed and finalised. It was considered worthwhile renewing the software licence for another year to complete the project.

6. UK OIL AND GAS CHAPLAINCY

Gordon Craig spoke to the Group about his role as the UK Oil & Gas Chaplain which is to support families and those working in the offshore oil and gas industry. The Chaplaincy was established in 1988 following the Piper Alpha disaster and is funded by the Industry via Oil & Gas UK.

His office was formerly located within the Total offices at Altens but relocated in 2018 to Shell's complex at Altens Farm Road. He travels offshore twice a month on average which affords him a good overview of the industry.

Gordon then spoke about offshore deaths and his willingness to travel offshore in such circumstances. Offshore deaths are generally unexpected and can prove traumatic for work colleagues of the deceased person who often approach him as they wish to do something to mark the death. When carrying out a remembrance service he always seeks and uses stories from work colleagues. He then passes all the stories used to the family of the deceased.

Gordon also spoke about the annual service of remembrance for those who have died offshore. The service is attended by families and Police, Local Council and Company representatives.

He can also support Companies when families of deceased persons come to Aberdeen. He described two incidents as examples.

The Chaplaincy manages an industry trust fund which receives donations from Oil and Gas Companies. The trust fund can be used to support families at the time of death until Bank accounts, etc. are sorted out.

Gordon finished by urging Group members to call upon his services when faced with the scenario of an offshore death.

Gordon's contact details will be circulated with minutes of the meeting.

7. MCA UPDATE

Pete Lowson provided the following update to the Group.

- A reminder for all companies to please supply HMCG with an installation summary sheet for their assets. Hugely useful document which is passed to the police as well.
- A receptor installation form has been created (draft) to assist in the preparation of an evacuation from an installation. It would be useful to test the use of this form and as a result, HMCG would appreciate support from operators during exercises. If anyone could assist with this, please contact Pete.
- The Altered Mental State document, which has been developed by the Topside Medical Forum, will be ready for final distribution soon.

- The CG have not been involved in many oil and gas exercises recently, which is disappointing as they provide great learning for organisations and HMCG. Pete is aware of some which have taken place and feels HMCG would have been a benefit in taking part. Having HMCG involved reduces the requirement for role-players, is more realistic and can assist in reducing misunderstanding (or highlight gaps in knowledge – on both sides).

8. HSE UPDATE

Nick Bailey confirmed that the HSE Emergency Response Inspection Guide is still on schedule to be published in / around April 2019.

HSE's team are looking at the decommissioning and dismantling of installations and PFEER-compliant Emergency Response arrangements during these phases. The HSE is working on providing some guidance on the HSE website to assist with the developing of those arrangements, and with providing the demonstration necessary in a Dismantling Safety Case that these measures are compliant until such point as the installation is removed.

A recent HSE Operational Information Sheet (OIS 1/2019) [Considerations Walk to Work and Multi Operation Vessels – Regulatory Guidance](#) is designed assist operators / duty holder considerations in regard to the multi role-in of W2W vessels as ERRV's and /or providers of some or all recovery and rescue provisions during W2W operations.

The OGUK Technical Note [Operations Assessment during ERRV Unavailability](#) is now available from OGUK. It provides guidance as to how operational risk assessment should be used to ensure, in the event of actual / expected ERRV unavailability, sufficient review is made of the risk of continuing to conduct high risk operations – including continuing production operations - in the complete absence of recovery and rescue arrangements. It highlights relevant areas of the law and gives advice on actions necessary.

9. OPRED UPDATE

Andrew Taylor provided the follow update:

Stephan Hennig has been appointed to the post of SOSREP following a recruitment process. Recruitment for the Deputy to the SOSREP will be carried out during March-April, with Lisa McAuliffe continuing to cover the role in the interim.

The NCP Exercise Report has been finalised but not yet published. There were 13 recommendations for action by OPRED, MCA and / or Environment Group to address. The recommendations were mainly around deconflicting cell meetings, leadership in the media cell, other Member State notifications, additional exercising of government cells such as MRC and EG, clarifying some roles and responsibilities and consideration of using Resilience Direct for sharing of information

10. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS UPDATE

There was nothing to update from the IADC

11. OIL & GAS UK UPDATE

There was nothing to update from Oil & Gas UK.

12. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

The Chair provided the Group with the quarterly statistics for Police attendance at offshore incidents, industry led emergency response exercises, etc.

He explained the use and purpose of the Recognition of Life Extinct (ROLE) form which is completed by suitably qualified paramedics who make a declaration of death. A number of Training Providers have knowledge of this process and reference to it may be introduced at exercises. He confirmed what an OIM should do on receipt of a ROLE form and how it fits with the Police Scotland/EPOL notification of death form.

The Chair spoke to the Group about the EPOL Terms of Reference (TOR) document and the continuing requests from Training Providers to join EPOL. He also suggested the TOR in its current form provided ambiguity around the status of a number of current members. It was recognised however they were valued members of the Group. It was agreed to form short term working group to review and amend where necessary the terms of reference. It is intended for the working group to form and meet prior to the next full EPOL meeting in June.

The Chair advised the Group about a service delivery matter that had been brought to his attention by a member of the Group following an offshore incident. An open discussion took place with the Chair providing suitable guidance to the Group members should they encounter a similar issue in the future.

The Chair advised the Group about an approach from a local newspaper reporter to attend the March EPOL meeting as an observer to understand the role of the Group and the procedures that Companies follow when an incident occurs offshore. The request was declined until the Group were consulted. Following discussion it was agreed by all that although the minutes of the quarterly meetings were published on the website there were items discussed that could not be shared publically. As a consequence requests for observers would not be supported.

13. INFORMATION SHARING / OPEN SPACE

14. AOCB

14 DATE of Next MEETING

Wednesday 5 June 2019 – CNRI, St Magnus House, Guild Street, Aberdeen