



## MINUTES

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OFFSHORE LIAISON (EPOL) GROUP

**DATE:** Wednesday 4 December 2019

**LOCATION:** Apache North Sea, Caledonia House,  
Prime Four Business Park, Kingswells, Aberdeen AB15 8PU

**CHAIR/MINUTES:** Dave Cowie and Len Braun

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alison Jansch (Apache)	Sarah McLean (OPRED)
Amanda Hay (Bluewater)	Martin Craggs (Babcock)
Stuart Clow (IADC)	Emma Barr (Subsea 7)
Craig Robertson (Serica Energy)	Grace Cameron (TAQA)
Pete Lawson (MCA)	Ewan Donald (CNOOC)
Rob Inglis (CNRI)	Louise Thomson (Wood)
Ruth Evans (RockRose Energy)	Colin Hart (HSE)
John Duncan (Total)	Chaz Simpson (Transocean)
Marc Duncan (Chrysaor)	Dave Cowie (Police Scotland)
Sinead Watson (TAQA)	Len Braun (Police Scotland)
Gordon Craig (UK Oil & Gas Chaplaincy)	Ewan Henderson (1) Police Scotland)
Gwen Thomson (Bristow)	Ewan Henderson (2) Police Scotland)
Louise Mugford (Shell)	
Lynne McLeod (INEOS)	
Laura McKenzie (Subsea7)	
Karen Anderson (Repsol Sinopec)	
Natalie Coupar (OGUK)	
Colin Walker (BP)	

#### 1. WELCOME AND DOMESTIC ISSUES

Alison Jansch welcomed everyone to Apache North Sea 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:-

Lynne Deboer (UK Oil & Gas Chaplaincy)  
Sandra Henderson (CNR)  
Jennifer Poole (Perenco)  
Shirley Daniel (Equinor)  
Andy Taylor (OPRED)  
Mark Brosnan (CHC)  
Trish Sentence (AGR)  
Wendi Rogers (EnQuest)  
Helen Stuart (TAQA)  
Paul Keay (Repsol Sinopec)  
Gary Hunt (TAQA)  
Gary Cooper (Babcock)  
John Entwistle (ENI)  
Karen MacKay (Chrysaor)  
Nick Bailey (HSE)

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 25 September 2019 were approved.

**5. POLICE SCOTLAND / INDUSTRY – ANNUAL WEAPONS / SECURITY AUDIT**

Chief Inspector Ewan Henderson and Inspector Ewan Henderson from Police Scotland's Firearms Licensing Department provided the Group with an update on the joint working practices of Police Scotland and the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry since the introduction of the guidance relating to flare firearms procedures.

Inspector Henderson then delivered a short presentation on phase two of the joint procedures being introduced in April 2020 relating to the annual weapons / security audit submission.

Members should provide any feedback on the annual audit submission either direct to Inspector Henderson at the Firearms Licensing Department at Inverness or at the March EPOL meeting.

## 6. MCA UPDATE

Pete Lawson spoke about the evacuation of the Thistle Platform on 21 October 2019 and in particular about the process for sharing press statements with the MCA. During normal office hours company media staff are encouraged to speak directly with MCA media staff. However, when emailing copies of company press statements to the MCA media office outwith office hours the following should be considered:

- To identify and prioritise the email at the MCA Media Office Pete provided a specific title to enter in the subject line.
- Avoid the use of acronyms.
- If possible name a company single point of contact.

Pete supported by OPRED, Deputy SOSRep, HSE and Police Scotland held workshops for training providers on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Marine House to provide current working practices and requirements of each Agency. The intention was to provide the training providers with sufficient information for their staff to accurately reflect these roles during company emergency response exercises.

It should also be considered how training providers receive such updates as they are excluded from EPOL membership. Companies should be providing information to their training providers about any matters that are raised through EPOL that are relevant to emergency preparedness procedures and associated company exercises.

The MCA have acquired new fixed wing counter pollution aircraft with surveillance and oil spill capabilities.

A reminder was given to the Group about the request relating to the submission of installation summary sheets and for summary sheets already submitted to be updated to reflect any company mergers and acquisitions.

Pete also spoke about threats from severe weather and the need for action plans for down-manning before an evacuation situation arises. It should be considered that MCA SAR helicopters will evacuate to receptor installations and he is currently in discussion with industry on this topic.

Colin Hart intimated the HSE are to consider this issue when looking at emergency response plans.

## 7. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS UPDATE

Stuart Clow asked for details of the Police Scotland offshore oil and gas agency line that the IADC member companies should use in the event of an emergency situation occurring on one of their offshore assets. Stuart was provided with the appropriate telephone numbers.

**8. UK OIL AND GAS CHAPLAINCY**

Gordon Craig advised the Group that two weeks prior to the EPOL meeting whilst in conversation with an OIM, he learned of a death that had occurred offshore in November. He had not been notified of the death and as a consequence had missed out on the opportunity to support the family of the deceased person and the affected workforce offshore.

**9. MEDIA SUB GROUP UPDATE**

Natalie Coupar, OGUK spoke to the Group about the Vuelio press statement sharing software project. The project is now complete and the software is ready for release for full use. The Group members present discussed the project and the merits of its adoption. The general consensus is the original issue that led to the formation of the subgroup and the project has long since been surpassed by technology. The issue no longer exists and it was established it was highly unlikely member companies would adopt or commit to using it during an offshore incident. The feeling of those present is to abandon the project and close the subgroup.

Natalie is to raise the Group position at upcoming OGUK meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December and will report back to the Group.

**10. HSE UPDATE**

Colin Hart spoke to the Group about ongoing work the HSE are carrying out in relation to adverse weather policies and emergency response plans.

**11. OPRED UPDATE**

Sarah McLean updated the Group on the progress of work on the Integrated Reporting System (IRS) that Andrew Taylor spoke about at the September meeting.

Phase one of IRS and the associated e-PON 1 is expected to be finished by Christmas (2019) and the aim is to roll these out to industry by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

**12. OIL & GAS UK UPDATE**

There was no update from OGUK.

**13. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE**

The Chair advised the Group that the review of the Response to Protest Actions Guidelines document was complete and would be published by OGUK early in the New Year.

Companies' emergency response exercises continue to form a large part of our

workload. The number of trained Police Liaison Officers have fallen during 2019 and as a consequence the Energy Industry Liaison Unit will be running a number of training courses to increase numbers during 2020.

The Offshore Security Awareness Course continues to be well supported by industry and is held twice yearly in June and November. Details of the June course will be circulated in early March 2020.

**14. INFORMATION SHARING / OPEN SPACE**

**15. AOCB**

Ewan Donald spoke to the Group about resilience in relation to evacuee reception centres and relative response teams. He raised the question of collaboration in shared facilities and staffing. Following discussion, it was decided that a short-term working group would be set up to explore the topic.

Ewan Donald agreed to chair the sub-group and initial members also comprised Alison Jansch, Ruth Evans, John Duncan, Rob Inglis, Marc Duncan, Sinead Watson and Dave Cowie.

The Sub-group will be added to future agenda for the provision of updates to the full Group

**16. DATES of 2020 MEETINGS**

Wednesday 11 March 2020 - CNOOC, Discovery House, Prime Four, Kingswells

Wednesday 10 June 2020 - CNRI, St Magnus House, Guild Street, Aberdeen

Wednesday 23 September 2020 - Shell, Woodbank, North Deeside Road,  
Aberdeen

Wednesday 9 December 2020 - TAQA, TAQA House, Prospect Road, Westhill