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MINUTES

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OFFSHORE LIAISON (EPOL) GROUP

DATE: Wednesday 10 June 2020

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting hosted by Police Scotland via conference call

CHAIR/MINUTES: Dave Cowie and Len Braun

MEMBERS PRESENT: The following members intimated their participation

Ewan Donald (CNOOC)	Ruth Evans (RockRose Energy)
Peter Guild (Subsea7)	Gwen Thomson (Bristow)
Becky Heginbotham-Blount (Norfolk Constabulary)	Ian Leslie (Bristow)
Chris Hornsby (Ithaca Energy)	Janet Ogilvie (Ithaca Energy)
Sara Cheyne (CNOOC)	Lynne Deboer (UK Oil & Gas Chaplaincy)
Grace Cameron (TAQA)	Alix Thom (OGUK)
Marc Duncan (Chrysaor)	Rob Inglis (CNRI)
Sinead Watson (TAQA)	Colin Hart (HSE)
Amanda Hay (Bluewater)	Colin Walker (BP)
Lynne McLeod (INEOS)	Pete Lawson (MCA)
Karen Mackay (Chrysaor)	Louise Thomson (Wood)
Sandra Henderson (CNRI)	Chaz Simpson (Transocean)
Lee Grant (INEOS)	Karen Anderson (Repsol Sinopec)
Steve Golightly (Petrofac)	David Kerr (AGR)
John Duncan (Total)	Craig Robertson (Serica Energy)
Gordon Craig (UK Oil & Gas Chaplaincy)	Richard B????
Norman Thomson (Spirit Energy)	Dave Cowie (Police Scotland)
Louise MacDonald (IADC)	Len Braun (Police Scotland)
Andrew Taylor (OPRED)	
Stuart Clow	
Toni Hutcheson (Dana Petroleum)	
Andy Lang (Premier Oil)	

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1. WELCOME AND DOMESTIC ISSUES

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

Paul Young (HSE)
Gary Cooper (Babcock)
Heather MacLeod (Floatel International)
Paul Keay (Repsol Sinopec)

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 11 March 2020 were approved.

5. EPOL SUB-GROUPS UPDATE

5.1 EVACUEE RECEPTION CENTRE / RELATIVE RESPONSE SUB-GROUP

Ewan Donald updated the Group on the progress of the tasks so far. He intimated he had completed a consultation draft for the updated Relative Response Guidance. He invited members to view the draft document and provide feedback where appropriate. It was requested that members share the document with in-house and outsourced HR teams for comment.

A response date for comments was set at Monday 6 July 2020.

Len Braun agreed to circulate the draft document to all EPOL members and a selection of Crisis Management and Training companies as part of the consultation. Len also agreed to collate responses and forward them to Ewan Donald ahead of the July Sub-group meeting.

Task Complete

6. RESPONSE TO PROTEST ACTIONS

The Chair summarised the presentation delivered by Chief Inspector Anderson at the previous meeting in March 2020 and reiterated the benefits for companies having processes in place that they are comfortable with in the event of protest actions occurring at or near their premises. The Chair asked that if companies receive intelligence about potential incidents they share the information with him as soon as possible for evaluation.

The Chair again offered assistance from specialist police officers to any company who wished to review their security arrangements.

The Chair also advised the Group of work carried out by the Cromarty Port Authority regarding security assessments for mobile offshore drilling units when in port.

7. MCA UPDATE

Pete Lawson confirmed he will have a new support officer in post towards the end of August / early September and will circulate further details at that time. This should improve the engagement with the industry and allow HMCG to take part in more exercises etc.

Reminder about the Installation Summary Sheets. It is important to have these documents provided to HMCG and updated as there are continued issues with phone numbers and positions of installations.

The IOER document is not due an update until 2021 however some tweaks may be required before then which may prompt a full review. Part of this will be the change in the term MICO to something different. Maybe something along the lines of CG Liaison however if anyone has any preferences, or anything to avoid, please let Pete know. There will be consultation on any changes.

The UKSAR2G programme has launched which will see the replacement of the current UK SAR aviation contract. This will be a large contract including helicopters, fixed wing and drones. The contract will likely commence in late 2024 and interested parties can find more information online.

8. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS UPDATE

Stuart Clow provided the following update from the IADC.

- **Updated Extensions for Expiring IADC Well Control Certificates.** To alleviate concerns about limited resources and training facilities due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, IADC has made the decision to extend the expiry date for certificates for individuals currently impacted by this international situation.

WellSharp Certificates expiring between 17 February 2020 and 30 July 2020 now extended to 31 July 2020.

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- Stuart advised the Group on an IADC live webinar scheduled for 23rd June 2020 entitled 'HSE Performance during the Corona Crisis: What did we learn?'

As seen before, disruptive events often have an impact on safety performance in our industry. The Covid-19 crisis is no exception and several companies report that their performance has been improving over the past few months. In many cases this can be explained by factors such as reduced complexity, reduced level of activity or reduced number of persons present on the rig or at the production facility. However, some companies have observed that their performance has improved well above what should have been expected from these activity and complexity reductions. This begs the question of whether a crisis like this one we are experiencing has the potential of bringing about changes, which can improve safety generally. Speakers from four companies will tell us what they have experienced and how they interpret their safety performance during the Covid-19 crisis.

- An IADC member company had a rig leave Invergordon recently with no issues.
- Edith McLeod has now retired from the IADC after almost 11 years continuous service. Louise MacDonald has now taken over from Edith. Dave Cowie acknowledged Edith's role within the IADC and support for the EPOL Group. Stuart confirmed he would share our best wishes with her.
- The IADC website is continually being updated with a lot of useful information especially relevant to Covid-19 related issues.

9. HSE UPDATE

Colin Hart highlighted that the recently edited Emergency Response, Marine and Aviation guides, mentioned at previous EPOL meetings, are now freely available on the HSE website. <https://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/inspection.htm>

10. OPRED UPDATE

The following update was provided by Andrew Taylor.

- OPRED continues to undertake regulatory functions remotely including discussions with operators about their emergency response arrangements to ensure these can still be implemented under the current circumstances.
- We have also engaged with some of the 3rd Party response organisations such as OSRL, Petrofac and Restrata to confirm they can still undertake their role in a pollution response incident. We have recently tested a virtual response to see how that would work. While there were some IT issues interfacing with the 3rd party ERC IT systems, the OCU was held remotely and went well and this is likely how we would hold an OCU for the foreseeable

future. SOSREP & Deputy have been isolating themselves since well before lockdown so as to reduce risk of being impacted and are undertaking their role remotely which they did for the shipping incident in the Minches during March-May.

- Since March all SOSREP exercises had been postponed until September and we are reviewing these again to see if we hold them virtually or postpone them further. Where we postpone the exercise again we will instead inspect emergency response arrangements and have the exercise later (2021).
- IRS Phase 1 (PON1 reporting) and IRS Phase 2 (non-compliance reporting) has now been developed and is just waiting on updated guidance prior to roll out. Some industry demonstrations have been held.

11. OIL & GAS UK UPDATE

There was nothing to update from OGUK.

12. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

The Chair advised the Group that since the last meeting Inspector Gary Spark had retired from Police Scotland. Inspector Stuart Clark has been appointed to this role which includes the overall management of the Energy Industry Liaison (EILU) and Emergency Planning Units.

Since the lockdown was introduced by the Scottish Government, EILU staff have generally been working remotely. During that time they have worked with a number of EPOL member companies, crisis management companies and training providers to ensure police liaison officer participation in virtual incident management team exercises. This has established our ability to provide a policing response to a real incident should incident management rooms be set up remotely.

As training providers look towards using virtual classrooms to deliver OIM legislation and refresher courses remotely, EILU staff have undertaken familiarisation training in the use of Adobe Connect virtual classroom software with one local training provider who are shortly to start delivering online courses for OIMs. This will allow us to deliver the Police presentations remotely.

13. INFORMATION SHARING / OPEN SPACE

14. AOCB

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 23 September 2020 – Decision on location or format of the meeting will be decided nearer the time.