



## MINUTES

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OFFSHORE LIAISON (EPOL) GROUP

**DATE:** Wednesday 25 September 2019

**LOCATION:** Spirit Energy, IQ, 15 Justice Mill Lane, Aberdeen AB11 6EQ

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

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Norman Thomson (Spirit Energy)	Karen Mackay (ConocoPhillips)
Karen Anderson (Repsol Sinopec)	Sinead Watson (TAQA)
Nick Bailey (HSE)	Alan Gorham (Big Partnership)
Derek Hart (IADC)	Rob Inglis (CNRI)
Stuart Clow (IADC)	Chaz Simpson (Transocean)
Colin Sellar (Subsea 7)	Louise Thomson (Wood)
Steve Golightly (Petrofac)	Craig Robertson (Serica)
Gordon Diack (Chevron)	Rob McRobb (Police Scotland)
Alix Thom (OGUK)	Len Braun (Police Scotland)
Andrew Taylor (OPRED)	Dave Cowie Police Scotland)
John Entwistle (Eni – via telephone)	
Ruth Evans (RockRose Energy)	
Alison Jansch (Apache)	
Ewan Donald (CNOOC)	
Pete Lowson (MCA)	

#### 1. WELCOME AND DOMESTIC ISSUES

Norman Thomson welcomed everyone to Spirit Energy 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:-

Becky Heginbotham-Blount (Norfolk Constabulary)  
Chris Sherwin (Chrysaor)  
Colin Walker (BP)  
Helen Stuart (TAQA)  
Chris Shawcross (Bluewater)  
Sheila Tait (BP)  
Marc Duncan (Chrysaor)  
Gwen Thomson (Bristow)  
Andrew Gibson (Bristow)  
Shirley Daniel (Equinor)  
Sandra Henderson (CNRI)  
Graham Wall (Perenco)  
Heather MacLeod (Floatel International)  
Gary Hunt (TAQA)  
Pauline Robertson (TAQA)  
John Duncan (Total)  
Amanda Hay (Bluewater)

## **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 5 June 2019 were approved.

## **5. MEDIA SUB GROUP UPDATE**

Natalie Coupar, OGUK was unable to attend the meeting and Alan Gorham, Big Partnership who has been closely involved in the EPOL Vuelio project attended in her place. Alan advised the Group that the final testing of the software was now complete and ready for use by all member companies to utilise.

It is intended that during the week commencing 30 September 2019 the user guidance will be forwarded to all member companies along with an invitation for respective Corporate Communications teams to log on to the software.

In October 2019 one-to-one user guidance will be facilitated by OGUK and in November 2019 a survey will be carried out to gauge the feedback from companies.

## 6. MCA UPDATE

Pete Lowson provided the following update to the Group.

**Installation Summary Sheets** – all companies encouraged to complete this as soon as possible. Recently found issues with numbers and positions so key to ensuring information is up to date and details such as contact telephone numbers are accurate.

**Receptor Installation Form** – has been created in draft but would ideally like to trial it during an exercise. Please let Pete know if you can help facilitate this – it would require an evacuation of reasonable numbers.

**The Acute Psychiatric Emergencies document** - has been released and is now available on the EPOL website. It has received good feedback and is being used by doctors and SAR crews.

**Training Providers.** Feedback has been received that training providers had perhaps suggested that the CG insists on speaking to the OIM directly. This is not accurate. The CG do require to speak to the installation, however, normally this wouldn't be to the OIM.

**The Topside Medical Forum** - has been discussing the option of creating a single medical transfer form although has not been possible to date. If all helicopter operators can agree on a format that would work for them then the work will be progressed.

**Verification of Death.** Scottish Ambulance Service Paramedics, their English and Welsh counterparts and SAR Paramedics are qualified to make a declaration of death. When this occurs Paramedics will generally complete a 'Recognition of Life Extinct' (ROLE) form and leave it with a responsible person to hand to the Police who attend to investigate sudden deaths. 'Recognition of Life Extinct' is a national term and a decision has been made to change the name of the form and term to 'Verification of Death' (VoD). SAR paramedics will start to use the new term in the near future.

## 7. HSE UPDATE

Nick Bailey confirmed that after a recent recruitment effort, HSE Energy Division's Emergency Response, Marine and Aviation (ERMA) specialist team is pleased to announce that Edwin Miller joined the team in Aberdeen on 2 September 2019. Ed has a background in the Fire Service and onshore and offshore emergency response, and will be very welcome once he's up to speed within a busy team.

A decommissioning / dismantlement workshop was held at HSE's offices in Aberdeen on 12-13 September 2019 for operators involved in installation dismantlement projects in the UKCS. At the event, the ERMA team – along with a number of other specialisms - provided presentations to assist duty holders with the planning of dismantlement projects and the preparation of associated safety case

submissions. These presentations will be published on the HSE website to assist others once content has been checked and simplified.

The long-promised HSE 3x ERMA topic Inspection Guide revisions (Emergency Response, Marine Operations, and Aviation Operations) have been delayed – partly due to Brexit distractions and partly due to legal matters over interpretation of parts of the PFEER Regulations and ACOP are being challenged as part of an Industrial Tribunal. It is now unlikely that they will be published this side of the year end.

## 8. OPRED UPDATE

Andrew Taylor updated the Group as follows:

**Deputy SOSREP:** Lisa MacAuliffe has been successful in the recruitment process and is now permanently in post as the Deputy to the SOSREP.

**Integrated Reporting System (IRS):** OPRED is in the process of rebuilding the ePON1 system for the reporting of oil & chemical releases. It is currently at UAT stage internally and once it is closer to completion it will be rolled out to industry prior to it going live. There is associated PON1 and other guidance, which is also being updated and needs to be released about the same time. OPRED are also discussing the specification for phase 2 of the IRS, which will be online reporting for all other PONs and non-compliances which OPRED hopes to have this built before the end of the financial year.

**SOSREP Exercises:** In discussions with the MCA about increasing the involvement of the CPS team and EG in SOSREP Exercises as well as reviewing the scope of these. The final report for the last National Contingency Plan Exercise “Exercise Shen” is now available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/exercise-shen>

**Operator capability:** OPRED is in discussion with OGUK regarding capability / resilience of smaller operators to maintain an effective response to a long-term significant pollution incident. Discussions are around the potential for mutual aid and sharing of personnel to assist in the event that a long-term response is required.

## 9. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS UPDATE

Derek Hart informed the Group of his imminent retirement from the IADC and introduced Stuart Clow who has been appointed as his replacement.

## 10. OIL & GAS UK UPDATE

Alix Thom advised the Group that the Offshore Medical Guidelines are being reviewed and OGUK are currently liaising with member companies.

She also confirmed intimation had been received that INEOS intend to shut down the Forties Pipeline System for maintenance for a three week period from 16 June 2020.

**11. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE**

The Chair confirmed this was his last EPOL meeting as Chair of the Group due to his retirement from Police Scotland in November. He introduced Dave Cowie as his replacement in the Energy Industry Liaison Unit. With the agreement of members Dave will take on the role of Chair with immediate effect.

The Chair introduced the draft Police Scotland / Industry 'Annual Weapons / Security Audit Submission' document relating to the possession and storage of 'Flare Ignition Shotguns and ammunition' for use on offshore oil and gas installations.

**A Task was given to all members to confirm their companies had received the draft document.**

Inspector Ewan Henderson from Police Scotland's Firearms Licensing Department will be invited to the December EPOL meeting to discuss the draft document and seek feedback from members.

**12. INFORMATION SHARING / OPEN SPACE**

**13. AOCB**

A request had been received from AGR seeking EPOL membership. Following a brief discussion the request was approved. Len Braun is to contact AGR and invite them to the December meeting.

**14 DATE of Next MEETING**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Apache North Sea, Caledonia House, Prime Four Business Park, Kingswells, Aberdeen AB15 8PU**