MINUTES

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OFFSHORE LIAISON (EPOL) GROUP

DATE: Wednesday 23 September 2020

LOCATION: **Virtual Meeting hosted by Police Scotland**

CHAIR/MINUTES: Dave Cowie and Len Braun

MEMBERS PRESENT: The following members intimated their participation

Mark Ward (AGR)
Alix Thom (OGUK)
Norman Thomson (Spirit Energy)
Marc Duncan (Chrysaor)
Grace Cameron (TAQA)
Alison Jansch (Apache
John Duncan (Total)
Pete Lowson (MCA)
Colin Walker (BP)
Toni Hutcheson (Dana Petroleum)
Andrew Taylor (OPRED)
Jason Reynolds (Serica Energy)
Stuart Clow (IADC)
Louise Thomson (Wood)
Sharon Robertson (Wood)
Christy Birnie (Repsol Sinopec)
Nick Bailey (HSE)
Rob Inglis (CNRI)
David Kerr (AGR)
Sandra Henderson (CNR)
Lynne McLeod (INEOS)
Ed Miller (HSE)
Heather Gavin (Babcock)
Richard Bevan (Enquest)
Hannah Curd (Shell)
Fay Tough (Scottish Government Resilience)
Dave Cowie (Police Scotland)
Len Braun (Police Scotland)

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:-

Lynne Deboer (UK Oil & Gas Chaplaincy)
Gary Hunt (TAQA)
Sinead Watson (TAQA)
Rob Bly (BP)
Gordon Craig (UK Oil & Gas Chaplaincy)
Jennifer Poole (Perenco)
Gwen Thomson (Bristow)
Craig Robertson (Serica Energy)
Karen Mackay (Chrysaor)

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 10 June 2020 were approved.

5. EPOL SUB-GROUPS UPDATE

5.1 EVACUEE RECEPTION CENTRE / RELATIVE RESPONSE SUB-GROUP

Ewan Donald was not present at the meeting and his update was carried forward to the next meeting.

6. SUBSTANCE ISSUE – FINDS AT HELIPORTS

The Chair informed the Group that he had been contacted a member company regarding an incident during check-in for an offshore flight when an employee was found in possession of an unconfirmed substance. The representative of the affected company queried if the Group could issue a guidance document to standardise the process for companies to follow. A number of members including a helicopter provider confirmed processes were in place at heliports for dealing with such incidents that are intended to fit with companies own substance misuse policies.

7. MCA UPDATE

Pete Lowson highlighted the importance of raising any questions or feedback regarding incidents involving HM Coastguard to him as soon as possible. He'd prefer

to address any issues at the time rather than let them build up. He thanked those who had done so since the last meeting. He also stressed the importance of sharing learnings of incidents, or particularly during the national restrictions, from exercises at the EPOL meeting.

The Offshore Energy Support Officer position has been filled and this will improve the ability for HM Coastguard to attend meetings, exercises and training. The new officer will be introduced to companies once they start and all going well, will attend the next EPOL meeting. Additionally, Pete has now completed BOSIET training so once pressures due to Covid ease, he would be able to travel offshore to provide some training or support, if this would be useful. A document has been prepared outlining this capability and any companies wishing to discuss this should contact him.

Periodic reminder of the importance of an up to date Installation Summary Sheet. A couple more have been received but a lot of companies still do not have one filed with the HM Coastguard.

Following a review of HM Coastguard telephone numbers, Pete has introduced a new offshore energy air number. This will be used by helicopter operators and air traffic service units to initially contact the coastguard.

It was noted that on occasion, the coastguard has not provided frequent enough updates to installations during incidents, particularly medevacs. This has been addressed and ongoing communication encouraged throughout an incident.

Unfortunately, all OSARM courses have been cancelled for the remainder of 2020 and will be reviewed in 2021. Pete is considering what alternatives there may be, including the options of a shortened online version.

This year's National Contingency Plan exercise is being conducted remotely in October, with the final public report expected in January 2021

8. HSE UPDATE

Nick Bailey provided the following update.

HSE Energy Division have been undertaking virtual - and more recently physical - inspections of offshore installations and operations during the COVID-19 pandemic since early July 2020. Findings to date in regard to the maintenance of effective arrangements for emergency response illustrate some potential concerns. HSE will be looking carefully at these areas during our future inspections, and will consider appropriate action where arrangements for ER during the pandemic are found wanting.

Onshore ER arrangements for the assembling and function of emergency incident management teams (IMTs) have been widely reviewed and revised in view of the threat posed by C-19. It is crucial that arrangements for the testing and evaluation of onshore ER are also updated to ensure that important practice, training and ER

exercises offer demonstration that emergency preparedness is not reduced by either new arrangements for C-19 operations, or by lack of robust and regular exercise.

Offshore ER arrangements have also been revised in the light of the response to the pandemic. This has meant reduced installation manning (and, as a result, numbers of competent personnel able to undertake ER roles during a major incident), as well as amended provisions for mustering and the conduct of drills and exercises. HSE have found examples of the C-19 amended offshore arrangements for ER and – in particularly - ER exercises / drills being "less than effective". Inspectors will be looking for evidence that precautions put in place to minimise the risk of C-19 transmission do not erode either the evaluation or effectiveness of offshore emergency response preparedness.

As a heads-up, at the June 2020 virtual EPOL meeting, Colin Hart advised that reviewed and updated inspection guides for the Emergency Response, Marine Operations and Aviation Operations topics are now available of HSE's website. Taking this review process forward, we are now taking the opportunity to review and revise Safety Case assessment guides / templates for all regulatory inspection and specialist topic areas. These will include those for the Emergency Response and related topics, and should be available on the website this side of Christmas.

9. OPRED UPDATE

The following update was provided by Andrew Taylor.

OPRED continues to undertake regulatory functions remotely. Virtual inspections being undertaken while we continue our offshore inspection pause. That virtual inspection activity includes seeking assurance that responsible persons can continue to implement their pollution response. We expect to be recommencing offshore inspections from October.

SOSREP (Tier 3) exercises had been paused in March but recommenced in September with a full remote exercise. Engagement with the operator through IT solutions worked well as a software package allowing access to the operator's incident log and other information, etc. OCU's will continue to be remote for the foreseeable future so it's mainly how we would engage with the operators ERC. We need to update some of our internal procedures for remote response around ensuring everyone who is working remotely has the same situational awareness. As remote engagement with responsible persons and with NCP cells will likely remain an option beyond covid-19 it is likely we will look for some detail of the responsible persons' options for remote response in their OPEP's and will need to update the OPEP guidance for this.

Planning for 2021 exercises which includes some which slipped from 2020. Outside of those we are happy to test remote interfaces with operators. .

IRS Phase 1 (PON1 reporting) and IRS Phase 2 (some non-compliance reporting) has now been developed and is just waiting on updated guidance prior to roll out. Expected before end of the year. IRS Phase 3 (remaining non-compliances) is in development.

We had agreed with MCA and Nautical Institute an extension to OPEP level 2-4 pollution response training until end of August. Following that expiry date there remained the usual three month grace period to have training recertified so people have until end November to recertify their training. We will continue to review that given the potential for further restrictions being imposed.

10. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS UPDATE

Stuart Clow provided the following update from the IADC.

In relation to IADC Accreditation & Credentialing, approved WellSharp providers are now offering a new distance learning option – WellSharp Live. This remote instruction is live and instructor-led, and has been designed to maintain the same quality and integrity for which WellSharp is known. This remote learning option is a temporary solution.

On 13th and 14th October IADC will hold the International Well Control 2020 conference & exhibition virtually, this will be held over 2 days. Historically it has been a well-attended conference. COO and Snr VP for Seadrill, Snr VP for Equinor, Wells Operations Manager from BP are just some of the key speakers, all the info is on the IADC website should you want to join the conference.

The Safety Director of the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP), with whom IADC work closely, has raised the following concern that I would like to share with the group. Their Aviation Sub Committee reports a number of incidents whilst flying inbound from a number of rigs and platforms where there have been numerous errors/omissions on the helicopter manifests. We wish to alert all primary offshore drilling contractors that they are responsible to ensure the accuracy of the manifest for passengers (number of PAX/correct weight etc.)

Since the last EPOL meeting several of our members have entered into Chapter 11, resulting in numerous redundancies and re-structuring especially onshore. Some contacts that you've dealt with in the past may now be in a different position or possibly, made redundant.

A couple of rigs have recently left ports with no protest action.

An IADC Member have offered a warm stack rig to work with Police Scotland for exercises and drills relating to protestors, if anyone wants to get involved they should contact Dave Cowie.

An independent workgroup has been diligently working to revise the IADC Standard Equipment List for Floaters (semis & drillships) over the last 6 months. The previous

Equipment List was from 1993 and did not contain dual activity derricks and modern-day equipment, so this is a unique opportunity to modernize the list. Any operators or rig supply departments are welcome to review the list and I can send the link to interested companies. The hope is this will be a standardised equipment list that all the drilling contractors can use.

IADC continue to attend the PSG meetings every 2 weeks and we also attend a meeting with HSE & BROA every 2 weeks.

Reminder to everyone that Information is continually updated on the IADC website

11. OIL & GAS UK UPDATE

Alix Thom confirmed the Pandemic Steering Group was continuing to meet. She also advised the Group that OGUK was continuing to press for testing of asymptomatic working.

12. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

The Chair spoke to the Group about the potential for action by protest groups in relation to climate change concerns. He asked members to share information with him about ongoing protest actions and also upcoming decommissioning work to assist him in assessing policing implications.

13. INFORMATION SHARING / OPEN SPACE

14. AOCB

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9th December 2020 – Decision on location or format of the meeting will be decided nearer the time.