

A message from the CEO

Nº 25

PLEASE PASS TO ALL CONCERNED

This series of messages is aimed at keeping you informed of the establishment of the new National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA).

PERSONNEL:

- We welcome Nyuk Tsen:

Nyuk is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer with 24 years' experience in oil and gas processing, gas liquefaction and Heavy Oil upgrading. Originating from Brunei, he holds a B.Sc honours degree in Mechanical Engineering from City University of London. He has worked in BLNG (Brunei Shell) as a Maintenance and Project engineer, and continued this role after moving to Western Canada in 1980 in the field of heavy oil processing with Husky Oil. He moved to Perth in 1994, and worked for Woodside, Worley & KJV as Sr. Project Engineer covering various projects including FPSO, Well head platform and the new LNG Train (4);

- Grant Pickering (OHS inspector), has resigned to take up a post as HSE manager with ENI;
- Kevin Clary (OHS inspector), is currently located in Darwin;
- Further interviews for OHS inspectors commence on Tuesday, 2 February 2005;

PETROLEUM (SUBMERGED LANDS) LAWS:

The current versions of the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) laws that relate to NOPSA's activities are listed below for your information:

COMMONWEALTH LAWS

Controlled copies of Commonwealth laws have previously been available via the web-site www.scaleplus.gov.au. However, ScalePlus is no longer being maintained, as it is being replaced by www.comlaw.gov.au. Commonwealth legislation relevant to NOPSA's activities can be found via the following links to ComLaw:

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Management.nsf/all/bytitle/DE0101C52C6F73B1CA256F710006FB91?OpenDocument>

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Occupational Health and Safety) Regulations 1993

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Management.nsf/all/bytitle/BA009A9222F4FA9FCA256F710006B5BD?OpenDocument>

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Management of Safety on Offshore Facilities) Regulations 1996

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Management.nsf/all/bytitle/CAF09EE2FDAE1821CA256F710006B868?OpenDocument>

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Pipelines) Regulations 2001

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Management.nsf/all/bytitle/000832CBDE469256CA256F710006C3C3?OpenDocument>

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Diving Safety) Regulations 2002

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Management.nsf/all/bytitle/9B497035B59D8E39CA256F710006C67C?OpenDocument>

Note that these links provide access to pages from which it is possible to download the 2004 versions as well as the 2005 versions of the legislation. The 2005 versions are in the last line of the lists on each page, and can be identified by the fact that the characters "2005" appear in the coding in the column headed "ID".

The updated version of the Management of Safety Regulations had yet to be posted onto ComLaw, but NOPSA has requested that this deficiency be rectified promptly.

VICTORIAN LAWS

The amended Victoria PSLA and regulations relevant to NOPSA, which apply within Victoria's 3 Nm zone, may be found via the following link:

http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubLawToday.nsf?OpenDatabase

The relevant laws are the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982 and the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Regulations 2004. Note that Victoria has elected to "mirror" (i.e. re-write) the Commonwealth laws.

NORTHERN TERRITORY LAWS

The amended NT PSLA and regulations relevant to NOPSA, which apply within the Northern Territory's 3 Nm zone, may be found at the following links

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act

<http://notes.nt.gov.au/dcm/legislat/legislat.nsf/d989974724db65b1482561cf0017cbd2/82885dc7dca866f069256f81000ac7c1?OpenDocument>

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Application of Commonwealth Laws) Regulations

<http://notes.nt.gov.au/dcm/legislat/legislat.nsf/d989974724db65b1482561cf0017cbd2/d3ba0b367dc2ce1769256f81000b0e30?OpenDocument>

Note that Northern Territory uses the "application of laws" principle - it applies the Commonwealth's regulations within its area of jurisdiction.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

- Establishment tasks continue, however the balance of work is now moving to our core processes of safety case assessment, planned inspection, incident investigation and enforcement;
- Titleholders and facility owners are reminded of their legal obligation to nominate "operators" for their facilities (*ref. MoSoF Reg 6, Penalty Reg 47*);
- NOPSA have signed a services contract with DoIR for NOPSA to provide technical advice regarding OHS matters on offshore petroleum facilities in WA-designated coastal waters. This will remain in force until such time as amendments are made to *WAPSLA 1982*.
- NOPSA will be presenting at an APPEA/UKDTI/ACE seminar running in parallel with the AOG Conference in Perth in February.

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS NOTIFIED:

- A complaint was received re OHS incidents on a pipelay barge. Three improvement notices were issued on mechanical lifting and handling and permit to work;
- Man riding incident with high potential for serious personal injury;
- During the laying of a service umbilical from a construction vessel one of the crew was struck under the chin and knocked over momentarily losing consciousness and receiving a facial cut. He was medivaced for further medical assessment, returning to work the next day.
- Loss of fire pump sea water caisson resulting in shut down of facility for one week.

On behalf of

John Clegg
CEO - NOPSA
