



NATIONAL OFFSHORE PETROLEUM SAFETY AUTHORITY

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

This series of messages is aimed at keeping you informed of industry matters and the operations of NOPSA. Please pass to all concerned.

PERSONNEL:

- Recruitment process completed for an Office Administrator for the Melbourne Office. The appointee will take up the position on 15 March 2005.
- Recruitment process continues for remaining vacant OHS inspector positions.
- Kevin Clary will remain in Darwin until the end of March 2005. Continued contact with stakeholders will be maintained.
- Mr Tony Blackmore, Operations Manager, UK Health & Safety Executive, (Offshore Safety Division), met with NOPSA inspectors during his stay in Perth with the UKDTI trade group.

INDUSTRY MATTERS:

- NOPSA staff have been involved in several presentations to industry fora during the Australian Oil & Gas Show in Perth.
- Presentations were made to UKDTI/ACE workshop, pipeline conferences, DrillSafe, and NT Minerals Council.
- A presentation was made to the International Energy Authority (IEA) review team in Melbourne.
- NOPSA will hold a free two-part industry briefing regarding "*The new role of 'Operator' in the revised Safety Case regime*" and "*The impact of NOPSA on pipe-lay and construction activities offshore*" on 3 March 2005 at Parmelia House, 191 St Georges Terrace, Perth and, by video link at 440 Collins Street, Melbourne.

NOPSA BOARD:

- The inaugural meeting of NOPSA's Advisory Board took place in NOPSA's Perth Head Office on 10 and 11 February 2005. All seven members were present. The Board members are: Bob Alderson (Chair), Barry Adams, Dale Bond, Peter Coghlan, Meg Cornelius, Margaret Donnan, and Rob King.
- The CEO reported to Board members on progress with the establishment of NOPSA.

CORE PROCESSES:

- NOPSA continues with its core processes of safety case assessment, inspections, investigations and enforcement. A recent inspection of a pipe-lay barge resulted in the issuing of two Improvement Notices related to permit to work and unsafe work practices.

INCIDENTS & COMPLAINTS:

- Electric shock incident with high potential for serious personal injury;
- A rigger on a pipe-lay barge sustained injury to his left hand when a rope messenger line parted with the excessive tension between heaving vessels. NOPSA investigated and initiated an improvement notice in relation to work practices on the barge.
- A complaint was received regarding excessive noise on a support vessel engaged in a pipeline operation. The operator of the pipeline had the vessel returned to its home port.
- A diver was stung by a jelly fish whilst swimming a pipeline. Prompt action by his supervisor, the availability of proficient medical support and evacuation procedures assisted in the injured diver making a good recovery.

The NOPSA official office opening is to be held on Wednesday, 13 April 2005.

Paul Finnigan
on behalf of John Clegg
CEO—NOPSA