

Our Vision

Health and safety risks in the Australian offshore petroleum industry are properly controlled.

This series of messages is aimed at keeping you informed of the operations of NOPSA. Please let us know if you would like to be added to the [distribution list](#).

Reminder to Operators: Please circulate this newsletter to your workforce.

PERSONNEL:

- Paul Finnigan, Deputy CEO, has resigned to take up a position with a company in the offshore petroleum industry.
- Due to restructuring within the Authority, a number of positions are being made available:
 - General Manager (Regulatory) replacing the Deputy CEO post; General Manager (Business); External Affairs Officer; Data Analyst.
- Due to ongoing recruitment NOPSA is seeking to fill these existing positions:
 - Team Leader; Finance Officer; OHS Inspector; Administration Assistant.

Some of these positions have already been advertised and are on the NOPSA website. Others will be advertised early in September.

INDUSTRY MATTERS:

- Chief executives of upstream oil and gas companies and contracting businesses have used APPEA's first Safety Leadership Forum to pledge that the industry will pursue a strong improvement in safety performance. Meeting in Perth during APPEA's 2007 National Safety Conference, 30 CEOs agreed that their target for the industry will be to improve safety outcomes in the near term by 25 percent year-on-year. CEOs made personal and corporate commitments to improve collaboration on safety issues in the industry, to foster cultural understanding and to develop a caring culture, to further develop workforce competency, and to develop and advance senior leadership safety commitment. The CEOs agreed to meet again in April and August next year to review safety progress and to renew their commitment.
- NOPSA will begin conducting themed audits of operators' noise management systems in November. Operators are expected to demonstrate compliance with the approved National Code of Practice for Noise Management and Protection of Hearing at Work (NOHSC 2009), which establishes the minimum mandatory requirements for managing noise exposures on offshore facilities.
- NOPSA recently commissioned a research report on accommodation standards in the offshore petroleum industry. A [Discussion Paper on Offshore](#)

[Accommodation Standards](#)¹ is presented for public comment on the NOPSA website. Following public comment, the document will be revised and form the basis of guidance material for both new and existing facilities. Please address comments to information@nopsa.gov.au by 30 November 2007.

- NOPSA reminds operators of the requirement to have a policy relating to occupational health and safety which has been developed in consultation with members of the workforce, consistent with clause 3.(2)(i) of Schedule 7.
- NOPSA encourages companies to participate in the [Safe Work Australia Week](#)² programme, occurring from 21 to 27 October.
- A [policy on inspection of mobile facilities](#)³ before or on arrival in Australian territorial waters is now on the NOPSA website.
- NOPSA has updated its compliance and enforcement policy and enforcement management model (EMM) to clarify the process before taking enforcement action.
- NOPSA encourages operators to develop leading and lagging indicators of health and safety in monitoring their performance. Suggested leading indicators are listed in the [NOPSA presentation](#)⁴ given at the APPEA conference.

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS:

- As part of an on-going program of raising staff awareness of our stakeholders interests, Derek Morrow of the local IADC chapter attended a morning tea at NOPSA offices and spoke to the staff about the history and the role of the IADC, and his view of current drilling industry issues. We are very grateful to Derek for making his time available and have plans to hear from representatives of other stakeholder groups in the future.
- A regular meeting was held with the Australasian chapter of the IADC where issues of interest included noise management, lost time injury rates. Comments were obtained on issues identified in the recent [Stakeholder Survey](#)⁵.

1

<http://www.nopsa.gov.au/document/Discussion%20Paper%20on%20Offshore%20Accommodation%20Standards.pdf>

2 <http://www.ascg.gov.au/ascc/NewsEvents/SafeWorkAusWeek/>

3 <http://www.nopsa.gov.au/document/N-2000-PL273%20Policy%20-%20Inspections%20of%20Facilities%20Before%20or%20On%20Arrival%20in%20Australian%20Territorial%20Waters.pdf>

4

<http://www.nopsa.gov.au/presentation/NOPSA%20presentation%20to%20HSR%20Forum%20&%20APPEA%20Safety%20Conference%20August%202007.pdf>

5

<http://www.nopsa.gov.au/downloads/NOPSA%20Stakeholder%20Survey%20Report%202007.pdf>

- A review of the first three years of NOPSA's operation is required under the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967*. The review is scheduled to commence in mid February 2008 with a 2–3 week consultation period. The Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources is seeking submissions from industry, contractors and workforce on issues for consideration by an independent review team. Submissions are due 30 November 2007. The Terms of Reference and contact details are available on the [DITR website](#)⁶.
- NOPSA met with representatives of the Designated Authorities including Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia to discuss regulatory issues.

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

- NOPSA draws your attention to a [list of good practices](#) in the management of Facility Integrity that were identified by the UK HSE.
- [Presentations](#)⁷ from the Facility Integrity National Programme have been posted on the NOPSA website. They include statistics from planned inspection results and accidents and dangerous occurrences.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES:

- The [HSR Forum](#)⁸ on 7 August 2007 conducted several idea generating sessions on topics which included the safety case regime, communication between HSRs and management, standards, safety culture, noise and fatigue, risk identification, and emergency response.

NOPSA made presentations to the Forum on safety leadership and industry performance in Lifting Operations and Facility Integrity. A dedicated [online forum](#)⁹ for HSRs, funded by NOPSA, was launched to enable continuing online discussions.

- NOPSA congratulates Jimmy Nugent of Atwood Oceanics on being awarded the HSR of the Year award.
- NOPSA has prepared a document on [completing a Provisional Improvement Notice](#)¹⁰ to provide further guidance for HSRs.

CONFERENCES:

- The APPEA National Oil and Gas Safety Conference commenced with reviews of Australian safety performance from the senior management of offshore operators. This included a [presentation by NOPSA](#)⁴. Discussion of the impact of

⁶ <http://www.industry.gov.au/content/itrinternet/cmscontent.cfm?objectID=45588390-65BF-4956-BC4372FFC10BCEC2>

⁷ <http://www.nopsa.gov.au/presentation/FI%20overview%20-%20A&DO%20to%20Jun07.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.2007safetyconference.com.au/>

⁹ <http://www.hsronline.com.au>

¹⁰ <http://www.nopsa.gov.au/document/Guidance%20on%20completing%20a%20PIN.pdf>

Australian culture on safety performance was followed by a report from the HSR Forum and contractor and industry case studies that included lessons from the BP Texas City Refinery accident.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES in August 2007:

Disclaimer: Activity and incident quantities identified here may vary as further information becomes available. Statistics are prepared just prior to the last Friday of the month.

Safety Case Assessment

3 new and 2 revised Safety Cases and 1 PSMP were accepted. 2 Scope of Validations were accepted. 3 revised Safety Cases were rejected / refused (insufficient detail; incorrect and inappropriate information included; inadequate definition of scope of activities and inadequate formal safety assessment).

As at 31 August 2007:

26 Safety Cases (including 0 PSMP, 0 DSMP) are still under assessment, of which 17 are five year revisions of a large group of related facilities and 3 are Scope of Validations.

Planned Inspections

9 Inspections were conducted. Issues included rescue limitations due to unsuitable equipment; lifting equipment certification and certification plates; and multiple corrosion issues including small-bore piping and pig receivers.

Incidents & Complaints:

11 Dangerous Occurrences and 1 Lost Time Injuries were reported, under the MoSOF classifications as follows:

- 1 was a significant gas release; 1 was an LTI involving a knee injury while loading containers; 3 could have caused death or serious injury; 2 incidents could have caused lost time of three days or more; 2 were events requiring immediate further investigation.
- There were 4 complaints reported that included: issues of crew bullying and intimidation by superiors; crane driver competency; noise and vibration issues; hygiene; fatigue; asbestos management; and the general industry/facility safety culture.

Enforcement

1 Improvement Notices was issued for noise management.

1 letter of warning/advice was issued for recurring lack of heat stress controls.

Past issues of this newsletter are available from the NOPSA website at:

http://www.nopsa.gov.au/CEO_emails/