

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](#). Operators and other employers are encouraged to circulate the newsletter to their workforce.

INDUSTRY MATTERS:

- NOPSA notes the appointment of the Hon. Martin Ferguson as the Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism. NOPSA also notes the appointment of Dr. Peter Boxall as Secretary of the Department.
- NOPSA has updated its [Guidelines for Reporting Accidents and Dangerous Occurrences](#)¹ after a period of consultation. The guidelines clarify the nature of dangerous occurrences and should improve consistency of notification and reporting across the industry. As noted in last month's newsletter, the guidelines highlight that the site of a dangerous occurrence or accident must not be disturbed except as set out in the Regulations.
- NOPSA remains concerned, as a result of a number of recent inspections and incident investigations, about the level of properly trained, competent people to respond to emergencies offshore.
- Following requests from industry stakeholders, NOPSA has extended the deadline for comment on the [Discussion Paper on Offshore Accommodation Standards](#)² until 31 January 2008.
- NOPSA reminds industry that the period for comment on the [Review of Offshore Helicopter Operations](#)³ closes on 31 January 2008.

¹ <http://www.nopsa.gov.au/document/N-3000-GL99%20Guideline%20-%20Notification%20and%20Reporting%20of%20Accidents%20and%20Dangerous%20Occurrences.pdf>

²

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

³ <http://www.nopsa.gov.au/operator.asp#helicopters>

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES:

- NOPSA will be conducting a National Programmes workshop regarding Lifting Operations and Facility Integrity on Monday 25 February in Perth and Friday 29 February in Melbourne. Both events run from 9am to 12am and include presentations from NOPSA, operator and contractor representatives. Invitations will be sent out early in the New Year, so please note the dates in your calendar as seating will be limited.

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS:

- NOPSA held its annual cost effectiveness review meeting with industry representatives. There was a useful exchange of views about the level of income and expenditure. These matters will be taken forward to the 3 year cost recovery review to be convened by the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism in 2008.

INTERNATIONAL:

- NOPSA attended the International Regulators Offshore Safety Conference and International Regulators Forum meeting in Miami. The three day conference programme addressed many aspects of asset integrity, with the final day focussing on approaches to leadership. Presentations were received from nine countries and over 170 delegates attended, including representatives from APPEA and Woodside. Workshop sessions during the programme identified industry and workforce expectations for asset integrity management and international consistency in health and safety regulation. The programme and presentations are available from the [Conference website](#)⁴.

NOPSA PERSONNEL:

- Louise Dumas joins NOPSA in the position of External Affairs Officer. Louise has extensive experience in public relations and media management for corporate and government agencies. She has managed communications programmes for a range of organisations covering areas including gas and power, land development and local government

⁴ <http://www.mms.gov/international/IRF/IRF.htm>

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES in December 2007:

Disclaimer: Activity and incident quantities identified here may vary as further information becomes available. Statistics are usually prepared just prior to the last Friday of the month (except during the Christmas period due to early publication).

As at 20th December 2007:

Safety Case Assessment

A total of nine assessments were accepted,

- one new Safety Case
- four revised Safety Cases
- one Diving Safety Management System (DSMS)
- two Pipeline Safety Management Plans (PSMP)
- one Scope of Validation (SoV)

One advice was provided and one Safety Case was withdrawn by the operator.

One new Safety Case was rejected.

A total of 25 submissions are still under assessment:

- six new Safety Cases
- eleven revised Safety Cases
- one Pipeline Safety Management Plan
- five Scope of Validations
- two Field Development Plans

Inspections

Five Inspections and one Audit were conducted. Issues included:

- New Safety Improvement Plans
- Training
- Close out of OHS action items
- Noise management
- ESDV function test failures to meet Performance Specification

Incidents & Complaints:

A total of 16 incidents were reported: fourteen dangerous occurrences, one lost time injury and one unconfirmed (as yet unclassified) incident were reported. There were nil complaints reported.

Of the reported incidents, significant points to note include:

- two were fires - involving accommodation quarters and a generator exhaust
- one was an LTI – back injury
- one was a dropped object that could have caused death/serious injury
- one was a gas release <= 300 kg
- one was a diesel spill <= 12 500 L
- one involved a SC breach of maximum POB
- three were unplanned events – an accidental triggering of an alarm and two faults
- three involved equipment damage – failed valves, FRC engine and emergency lights
- two could have caused LTIs – one dropped object and one fall through crane window

Enforcement

A total of two enforcement actions were undertaken:

- One Improvement Notice - for failure to provide training (addressed in prior recommendation)
- One Letter of warning/advice - for failure to address recommendations regarding management of OHS actions and noise management.

Nil Prosecution Briefs were prepared.

Nil Prohibition Notices were served.

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

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