



A weekly message from the CEO

PLEASE PASS TO ALL CONCERNED

For those of you who may have missed my initial message, my name is John Clegg and I have recently been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the new National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA). I took up post on 1 July 2004 and I have commenced a regular series of weekly updates on how the process of establishing NOPSA is going. As I said in my previous email, I welcome dialogue and feedback on the establishment of NOPSA and it is my intention to visit as many of you as possible in the period leading up to NOPSA commencing operations on 1 January 2005.

Here are a few developments since last week.

NOPSA Logo

As you can see above, we have selected a logo for NOPSA. In accordance with the principle of a 'joint' authority espoused by the Ministerial Council on Mineral and Petroleum Resources on 13 September 2002, and in recognition that establishment of NOPSA under Commonwealth legislation was seen as the most convenient legislative vehicle available by the States/NT, we sought and received an exemption from Federal branding rules. The logo will give NOPSA the individual character it should have as an organisation providing safety regulation on behalf of all resource ministers, State/NT and Federal.

Recruitment

I am delighted to be able to announce the appointment of two of the four Team Leaders for NOPSA. They are Paul Finnigan formerly with Nexen, and Simon Schubach from WorkCover NSW. Both Team Leaders will be involved in the selection process for NOPSA's regulators and they will both formally commence with NOPSA in the first week in September. The remaining two Team Leader positions will be filled in due course.

Last week I intimated that the Corporate Manager had recently completed interviews for the NOPSA Financial Controller and Finance Officer and I can now announce that Kevin Hall will take up the position of Financial Controller from 9 August and that the Finance Officer will commence in the first week in September. As I reported last week, gazette notices and advertisements for the remaining support staff for NOPSA will appear in the Gazette and West Australian newspaper on 5 and 7 August respectively.

In relation to interviews for the regulator positions, short listing has been completed, and early next week I will be notifying all applicants of the results of that process. As we are still working out the logistics of the interview process, I will be unable to give those selected for interview a date and time, however, I hope to be able to do so by the end of next week. Again, as I said last week, I will endeavour to ensure that you are given as much notice as possible. Interviews are still likely to be conducted in late August, early September, and interviews will be held in Perth, Melbourne, and other locations as necessary so as to cause the minimum disruption to all concerned.

NOPSA Board

At this time, I am unaware of the outcome of the Ministerial Council on Mineral and Petroleum Resources deliberations on the NOPSA Board, however, I will provide you with an update next week.

Infrastructure

Progress on infrastructure acquisitions remains on track and initial cabling of the NOPSA premises is underway.

Progress with amending the PSLA Regulations

Numerous minor changes are needed to the existing regulations made under the PSLA to accommodate the formation of NOPSA and to implement improvements agreed by the tri-partite Technical Working Group which comprised industry, ACTU, and State/NT Designated Authority (DA) representatives. We are now in the final stages of implementing these changes and attention is now turning to ensuring that all parts of the industry are adequately briefed on them.

Safety Case Guidelines

A revised version of the guidelines, which are intended to help Operators produce safety cases, has been prepared in consultation with industry, workforce and the existing regulators in the DAs. The existing Guidelines had not been reviewed for some time and all parties agreed that they needed re-working. The Guidelines had not kept up with developments and needed amendment to be consistent with the imminent arrival of NOPSA and the amended regulations. The new Guidelines will be "launched" in the near future. In contrast to the existing Guidelines it is most likely that the new ones will be posted on the website (initially the DITR website pending NOPSA's website going "live"), will not be formally published in hard copy.

General

NOPSA staff levels continue to build as people come on board and we look forward to the time in a few weeks, when we can occupy our permanent home in Perth. By the end of this month, six of the 35 staff will be in place with all other interviewing and selection processes underway.

John Clegg

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