

NOPSA

A weekly message from the CEO

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PLEASE PASS TO ALL CONCERNED

This is the fifth in the series of messages aimed at keeping you informed on what is happening in the establishment of the new National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA). Here are a few developments since last week.

Accommodation

The fit out of the premises at 44 St George's Terraces is well underway and on track for occupation in October.

Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure

Following completion of an appropriate scope of work, it is expected that a contract will be signed by the end of August for this important part of NOPSA's infrastructure..

Recruitment

Interviews for the inspector positions are sixty percent complete and will be finished by Tuesday 24 August.

Remaining support staff interviews will commence on Thursday next week and the Information Officer position will be advertised shortly.

Industry Briefing in Melbourne 17 August

Project team members gave a briefing on NOPSA on Tuesday 17 August to a wide range of oil companies, large and small, drilling contractors, service companies and consultants. The project team gave presentations on

- the revised PSLA, including the new duties of care, the structure and governance of NOPSA,
- the modified PSLA Regulations,
- the new, (but yet to be launched) safety case guidelines, and,
- cost recovery arrangements,
- progress with recruiting staff, acquiring offices and building the NOPSA infrastructure.

Further presentations will be made in Melbourne and Perth as we get closer to the start of NOPSA.

Regulations

Regulations amending the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967 MOSOF, OH&S, Diving and Pipeline Regulations were made by the Federal Executive Council (EXCO) on 19 August. We are currently finalising an **unofficial** version of these four amended sets of regulations and we will circulate them early next week to assist the States/NT and industry as much as possible. Even though we will take as much care as possible in providing a version of the regs as it is expected they will appear on 1 January 2005, we would ask that you do treat them as unofficial and as an aid to working towards NOPSA's commencement on 1 January 2005.

It is expected that regulations to give effect to the cost recovery of NOPSA's operations under the Offshore Petroleum (Safety Levies) Act 2003 will be finalised shortly and submitted to EXCO in early September.

General

John Clegg will be completing the inspector interviews in Melbourne on Monday and Tuesday, and will be back in the office from Wednesday.

Ian Senini

for

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