

NOPSA

A weekly message from the CEO

Nº 8

PLEASE PASS TO ALL CONCERNED

Recruitment

Negotiations are taking place with the successful regulator candidates. Unsuccessful candidates have been notified. We thank all applicants for their interest. A second round of regulator interviews (based on the original applications) will be held in the near future.

Ray Wells has been successful in the regulator interviews, and has been promoted to acting Team Leader for the Melbourne office.

Accommodation

Fit-out of the Perth office is still on track for 1 October. A search is being undertaken for suitable accommodation for 5 staff in Melbourne.

Website

A simple, non-interactive website is currently being designed.

New Safety Case Guidelines - Release

1 Introduction

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) has released revised offshore safety case guidelines. This has followed a collaborative process including the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, oil and gas companies, representatives of the workforce and staff of the existing State/NT petroleum regulators.

2 What are the main changes?

There are two main changes. The format of the guidelines has been changed significantly and minor changes have been made to reflect the amended regulations to improve readability. The Guidelines consist of three parts.

Part 1 includes a guide to the amended Management of Safety on Offshore Facilities Regulations and provides advice on preparing and submitting safety cases. Background information on the legislation is also provided as well as answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

Part 2 replaces the existing Guidelines issued by the former Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Resources. The Guidelines have an entirely new format, although much of the content is similar to the old guidelines.

Part 3 of the Guidelines give definitions, abbreviations and references.

Part 4 answers frequently asked questions.

3 Why have these changes been made?

As part of the work to establish NOPSA a review was carried out of the existing Guidelines which reported that improved technical requirements and guidance would assist in raising the standard of safety cases. The review also recommended that guidance be expanded to provide information on the regulatory processes for submission and assessment.

4 What Status do they have?

The status of the revised Guidelines are no different to the current guidelines. Operators must comply with their duty of care as set out in the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967* and the Regulations, but how they do so is a matter for the companies. However, following the Guidelines, and implementing them in the Safety Case will, in most circumstance, mean that they are complying with the law.

5 When will they be implemented?

The Guidelines will be implemented from 01 January 2005, although operators commencing new projects are recommended to start using the new guidelines straightaway. Operators planning to revise their safety cases or modify their facilities are also recommended to start using the guidelines.

After 01 January 2005, safety cases produced in conformance with the old guidelines remain valid but should be reviewed to ensure they are kept up to date.

6 When will they be revised?

The Guidelines will be kept under review and revised as necessary. If you have any comments on the Guidelines, please send them to NOPSA by 01 November 2004.

7 Who do I contact if I want to discuss or comment on the Guidelines?

In the first instance phone or email Alice Gibson in the NOPSA office:

Telephone 02 6276 1277

Fax 02 6213 7950

Email alice.gibson@industry.gov.au

8 Where can I get a copy of the Guidelines?

It is anticipated that they will be available on the internet in the next few weeks, at www.nopsa.gov.au. In the meantime, please email Alice Gibson (above) for a copy.

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For the time being, my contact details are:

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