

UNITED KINGDOM ONSHORE PIPELINE OPERATORS ASSOCIATION**UKOPA Statement on Public Awareness**

UKOPA's view is that the current operating record and experience relating to UK onshore pipelines confirms that pipelines are a safe and economic form of transport for any hazardous or non hazardous product. Information relating to pipeline parameters, locations and use is already freely provided to all stakeholder groups, particularly those groups likely to cause damage to pipelines. UKOPA therefore considers that as information is available and all stakeholders are properly informed, there is no need for a formal public awareness initiative.

Issues Relevant to the UKOPA position:

- Pipelines are safe, there have been no injuries or deaths in the UK.
- There is no justified need for public awareness initiatives, as information is readily available through, pipeline operators, pipeline markers and Local Authority Emergency Planners.
- Regular contact is made with Local Authorities and landowners / tenants.
- The public would be immediately aware of a pipeline leak due to the noise emitted.
- The European and UKOPA pipeline fault databases confirm that such leaks are generally reported by the public.
- UKOPA would require consultation at an early stage of any legislative development.
- Consistency with Europe must be demonstrated.
- Land Use Planning issues are already considered for pipelines, and additional legislation could disadvantage pipeline transportation and impact on existing land values.
- The benefit of any further action must be demonstrated.

Actions required to justify / qualify the UKOPA position:

- Interpretation of SEVESO II requirements.
- Definition of UK requirements for fixed installations (COMAH).
- Review of current UK nuclear transport and European pipeline practice.
- Investigation of impact on operators – eg resources for records and public interface (eg. maintenance of databases etc).
- Review of information already supplied to Local Authorities, landowners etc.
- Review of the potential for strengthening PSR Regulation 15 – Prevention of Damage to Pipelines.
- Consideration of statutory requirement to demonstrate use of information (one-call system).

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Recommendation:

No action required at this time.