

UKOPA

UNITED KINGDOM ONSHORE PIPELINE OPERATORS' ASSOCIATION

Notes of Meeting held at Rheidol Power Station
on 14/15th June 2001

Present:

M Harrison, Storage & Distribution Operations Manager, Huntsman Petrochemicals (UK) Ltd. (Chairman)
E Findlay, Process & Technology Manager, Pipelines, bp Chemicals
N Jackson, Transmission Policy Engineer (representing P Siddals), Transco
R Ellis, Manager, Engineering Pipelines Group, Shell UK Ltd.
S Wilson, Manager, Pipelines, Powergen Gas Ltd.
K Curtis, Powergen Gas Ltd
K Thomas, Pipelines Superintendent, Huntsman Petrochemicals (UK) Ltd.
R Michie, Engineering Manager (Transmission), BG Group
H Morris, Law and Wayleaves Superintendent, BPA
R McConnell, Consultant, Eutech
R Hobby, Manchester Jet Line
P Joyner, bp Forties Asset Manager
J Varden, Oil and Pipelines Agency
D Cullen, Senior Pipeline Supervisor, Shell Expro
A Thayne, Health & Safety Executive (15th only)
P Williams, Operations Manger, Transco
R Grey, Esso Petroleum Ltd.
S Thomas, PIG
J Haswell, Advantica Technologies Ltd
W P Jones, Secretary

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 Welcome

M Harrison welcomed all and thanked S Wilson (PowerGen) for hosting the meeting and the tour of the Power Station, and R Michie (BGI) for hosting the evening meal.

M Harrison extended a special welcome to Phil Joyner who has replaced Derek Park as the bp Forties Pipeline System representative. M Harrison requested that the secretary write to Derek to wish him well in his new position and to thank

him, on behalf of all members, for his commitment and contribution to UKOPA during his term as bp Forties representative.

Action: P Jones

M Harrison also welcomed Dr Norman Sanderson of bp who attended to make a presentation to the Association.

1.2 Presentations

M Harrison noted that six presentations were scheduled on the agenda:

- (i) Pipeline Cost Reduction Project by Dr Norman Sanderson of bp – Item 9 on the agenda,
- (ii) Legislation Update from HSE by Alan Thayne – Item 14 on the agenda,
- (iii) UKOPA Competency Framework by Donal Cullen – Item 16 on the agenda,
- (iv) UKOPA Website by Ross Michie - Item 17 on the agenda,
- (v) AC Corrosion by Roger Ellis – Item 18 on the agenda,
- (vi) Occupied Buildings adjacent to Pipe Tracks by Rod McConnell – to be given under Any Other Business (Item 19 on the agenda).

2. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were recorded:

P Davis, BPA
K Shah, Terra Nitrogen
D Bruce – Manchester Jet Line – Ron Hobby deputized
R White, General Manager, FINA
T Taylor, Pipeline Plant Manager, Esso Petroleum Co. Ltd.
P Siddals, Transmission Policy Manager, Transco

3. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (10/11th January – UKOPA/01/0020)

P Jones noted the following corrections:

4.7.1 “Snell” should have read “Snee”.

8.2.1 The action should have been on R McConnell – not W P Jones.

Subject to the above corrections, the notes were accepted as a fair record of discussions.

**4. ACTIONS ARISING (not covered on the agenda)
(Note of previous meeting in brackets)**

4.1 Actioned Work List – Progress Publication with article in Pipes and Pipelines International (4.2)

Article published in the March/April edition - **Action closed.**

4.2 PERO Training – Circulate Register of Attendance (4.4)

Register circulated – **Action closed.**

4.3 Gasolene Pipelines - Circulate PIG Position Paper (4.8)

P Jones reported that he had received a copy of the paper, but had later been requested not to circulate - **Action closed**

4.4 National Emergency Management Standards - Presentation (4.9)

R McConnell reported that he had turned down the offer - **Action closed**

4.5 Pipeline Cost Reduction Initiative – Presentation (4.10)

Presentation to be given under agenda item 9 – **Action closed**

4.6 Report on Fault Database Seminar (8.3.2)

(i) Publish in Pipes and Pipelines International - published in the March/April 01 issue. – **Action closed.**

(ii) Publish in the PIG magazine - S Thomas to follow-up.

Action: S Thomas

(iii) Access to database by independents

R McConnell reported that the FDMG had agreed that any enquiries received by Advantica would be assessed on a case by case basis as, at this stage, there was no obvious commercial opportunity.

(iv) Income associated with the seminar

R McConnell reported that the FDMG had agreed that any surplus income would go to Advantica on account of the time allocated to presentations for the seminar. Advantica is to submit an invoice for the surplus amount identified by P Jones. J Haswell agreed to arrange via R Owen of Advantica.

Action: J Haswell

4.7 Review of 2000 Activities – Written Summary (14)

J Haswell reported that she had prepared a draft based on a simplified format to facilitate future updating. This draft was with P Jones for circulation, and is attached as UKOPA/01/0043. Members were requested to review and comment.

Action: P Jones / Members

4.8 Members of UKOPA Working Groups etc (15.1)

P Jones reported that he had received Terms of Reference and membership details from all Working Groups, but work plans and deliverables were still outstanding. R McConnell agreed to update the membership details for the Risk Assessment Working Group.

WG Chairmen were actioned to supply outstanding details to P Jones by the end of June. Once received, the actioned UKOPA Working Group document would be progressed.

Action: P Jones

4.9 MSc Course in Pipeline Engineering - UKOPA Award/Prize (15.2)

R McConnell reported that the offer had been accepted, and he agreed to progress as appropriate - **Action closed**

4.10 PIG Seminar on Pipeline Testing (15.3)

P Jones reported that he had unintentionally neglected to circulate the paper he had received from Steve Thomas. S Thomas reported that the seminar had been well attended. One of the main issues raised was the variable standard of industrial training available for pressure testing, and PIG were considering how to progress this. P Williams suggested the most appropriate route would be through the GWINTO work to develop an occupational standard for Pipeline Engineering. J Haswell supported this, and noted that competency requirements for hydrotesting

were being developed in the UKOPA Competency Framework. J Haswell agreed to raise the issue with GWINTO.

Action: J Haswell

4.11 HS&E Issues – Draft Safety Information Notice (15.4)

R Michie presented a draft proforma for the reporting of incidents to enable sharing of learning and good practice by UKOPA. The proforma and its use was agreed subject to removal of incident categorisation, and inclusion of installations in the scope. A revised version will be circulated electronically.

Action: P Jones

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Actions Arising

Recording of Association Correspondence on CD (5.2)

P Jones reported that he had not progressed this action but would endeavour to do so before the next meeting.

Action: P Jones

5.2 Updated Correspondence List

P Jones had circulated an updated correspondence list and advised that he had experienced some problems e-mailing information to some members. It was proposed and agreed that P Jones would zip electronic documents to reduce size, and future consideration would be given to placing documents on the website. In the meantime, P Jones requested that any members who had not received correspondence to inform him, and he would e-mail further copies or send hard copy.

Action: P Jones

6. MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

6.1 Actions Arising

No actions arising.

6.2 Progress on Memorandum and Articles of Association

M Harrison reported that, as actioned at the last meeting, P Jones had reviewed and prepared a revised draft of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and had circulated copies at the meeting of the Management Council earlier in the day. The redrafts will now be considered by members of the Management Council with the intention of finalising and circulating to all members within 4 weeks.

Action: M Harrison / E Findlay / P Siddals / R Ellis

6.3 Update on Membership Applications

P Jones had been actioned at the last meeting to contact BGE, Montel and Enron to confirm whether they wished to join the Association. He now reported that he had been unable to obtain a response from BGE or Montel, and considered there was no interest from these organisations. Contact had been made with P Docherty of Enron who was circulating the enquiry internally. M Harrison/R McConnell agreed to progress this enquiry directly with Duncan Gerrat at Teesside.

In addition P Jones reported that John Pallet of BHP had made contact to express interest and request further information.

Action: P Jones

6.4 Membership Details

P Jones circulated the current recorded details for immediate checking and updating by members present.

7. FINANCE REPORT / ISSUES

7.1 Actions Arising

- (i) VAT Return December 2000 - Submitted and paid – **Action closed.**
- (ii) Membership Fees – include item on agenda for next meeting – **Action closed.**
- (iii) Audit arrangements – Robinsons Chartered Accountants appointed – **Action closed.**

7.2 Report on Accounts for Year Ending December 2000

M Harrison reported that the accounts for year ending 2000 had been prepared by P Jones and audited by Robinsons Chartered Accountants, and that a full report had been presented to the meeting of the Management Council held earlier in the day. A copy of the report is available for members to peruse at this meeting, and a full copy will be circulated with the minutes of this meeting.

The report had been prepared in accordance with The Companies Act requirements and reports a surplus of £42,236 for the period. This figure includes for all accruals (membership fees) and liabilities at the time.

M Harrison also reported that the current bank balance is £29,451.19.

7.3 VAT Return

P Jones to report that the VAT return for quarter ending March 2000 had been completed and paid in the sum of £2173.99.

7.4 Membership Fees 2001

M Harrison reported that the matter of membership fees for the current year had also been discussed at the Management Council meeting, and that the Council recommends that the fees for 2001 be maintained at the same level as 2000, ie Full Members £7500, Associate Members £3000. M Harrison stated that the reason for this recommendation was that UKOPA would require funding to progress and deliver work programmes being undertaken, and the Management Council was aware that specific requests for funding were being progressed by some Work Groups.

The recommendation was approved. P Jones was requested to issue invoices on this basis.

Action: P Jones

7.5 NJUG Membership Fees

Membership of NJUG, for which an invoice had been received, had also been discussed at the Management Council, and M Harrison now reported that the Council considered that membership would be actioned only on the advice of the One Call Working Group. This would be considered further under item 15.

8. HS&E ISSUES

M Harrison asked members if they had any information to report/share:

- (i) R Ellis stated Shell's experience regarding AC corrosion would be covered in his presentation, under Item 18.
- (ii) K Thomas raised the fact that the Skywatch system for early warning of helicopter collisions had been approved for fitting by the CAA, and proposed that UKOPA should review this as the costs would eventually pass to pipeline operators.
- (iii) The possibility of separating the meeting into open and closed sessions to facilitate sharing of sensitive information was considered. It was proposed that this would enable notes of the open session to be circulated, particularly to HSE. This was agreed, P Jones agreed to review the structure of the agenda to accommodate this.

Action: P Jones

9. PIPELINE COST REDUCTION INITIATIVE – Presentation by Dr Norman Sanderson of bp

M Harrison welcomed Dr Norman Sanderson and thanked him on behalf of Members for attending to present the background and status of this important and high profile bp project.

Dr Sanderson is a Senior Pipeline Technology Manager for the Pipeline Cost Reduction Project. This project started in 1998, and the objective is to achieve a 25% CAPEX saving through the application of new technology across a scope which covers downhole to distribution. Dr Sanderson's presentation gave details of the technology application areas which have been considered (these include reliability based design and alternative materials and welding processes), and the key contacts responsible for these areas. He stressed that bp were sharing their findings as in order to deliver full cost savings, it was essential that all stakeholders bought into the initiative.

Dr Sanderson agreed to provide details of his presentation for circulation to members.

Action: P Jones

10. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM PIG

M Harrison requested S Thomas and/or J Varden to report.

S Thomas reported that PIG were hosting :

- i) a Cost Optimisation in Pipeline Construction Conference in Amsterdam on 10th/11th July (Dr N Sanderson was presenting at this conference, details would be forwarded via Richard Glenister) and
- ii) a seminar on common carriage in the water industry at the PIG offices in London on 12th September.

Additionally he advised that:

PIG are planning to hold a seminar on whole life pipeline costing in November, details of which would be provided to UKOPA by Richard Glenister.

The PIG AGM is scheduled for 28th June.

Details of all conferences and seminars can be obtained from the recently commissioned PIG website at the address www.pipguild.co.uk.

J Varden reported that Bill Nimmo of National Corrosion Services had made a presentation to PIG, and noted that he offered a contact service between operators and specialist service providers (contact number 02089 436142).

S Thomas noted that through its BSI links, PIG was aware of the move to prepare a Published Document to replace BS 8010, which was being withdrawn when the new ISO standard is published. The UK view was that the Published Document PD 8010 was essential to ensure consistency of industry practice with the ISO standard. S Thomas was requested to forward a recent article he had prepared for PIG on the issues to UKOPA for circulation.

Action: S Thomas

S Thomas noted also that the chairman of the BS 8010 committee, which would be responsible for the drafting of PD 8010, G Gascoyne, was standing down, and suggested that it may be useful for UKOPA to consider some involvement in the process. J Haswell strongly supported this. She drew attention to the recently published IGE/TD/1 Edition 4 for high pressure natural gas pipelines, which was now a fully risk-based code, and proposed that the Risk Assessment Working Group review this and make recommendations to the PD 8010 committee for the incorporation of a similar approach to other gas and liquid pipelines. R McConnell supported this and agreed to action.

Action: R McConnell

11. REPORT / PRESENTATIONS FROM THE RISK ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

11.1 HSE Liaison Update

11.1.1 Actions arising

T Findlay, P Siddals, R McConnell and J Haswell to meet with Nick Starling (8.1.1)

Meeting took place on 9th February, at the ABB Eutech office at Daresbury, and notes of the meeting have been circulated as **UKOPA/01/0027**.

K Allars (currently deputising for N Starling) was accompanied by R Turner (Major Hazards), N Briscoe (Pipeline Policy) and D Bosworth (HSE fundamental review of risk).

R McConnell reported that the meeting had included a full discussion on Risk Assessment and Land Use Planning, which clearly demonstrated the need for a proactive dialogue between UKOPA and HSE.

In response to UKOPA's request for a formal input to ACDS, K Allars had proposed that a pipelines specific Work Group reporting to the Major Hazards Sub Committee be formed. This would provide a more useful forum to discuss and progress pipeline issues, and would ensure that a proper interface with input to the MHSC and ACDS would be overed in more detail than at present.

This proposal is covered in detail in item 12.

11.1.2 HSE Liaison Update

R McConnell reported that HSE had updated UKOPA on the HSE fundamental review of risk. The review was likely to propose that risk levels for different industries be reviewed and revised. D Bosworth had stated that UKOPA's input to the development of pipeline risk criteria would be of value, and that this was an obvious action for the Pipeline Sub Group (see item 12).

11.2 Land Use Planning Strategy

11.2.1 Actions Arising

R McConnell to arrange meeting of RAWG (8.2.1)

R McConnell reported that the RAWG meeting will be arranged to align with, and input to, the proposed Pipelines Sub Group.

Action: R McConnell

11.2.2 Update

R McConnell stated that all issues had been fully updated under item 11.1.

11.3 Pipeline Damage Database

11.3.1 Actions Arising

- (i) Income associated with Seminar (8.3.1)

R McConnell reported that the FDMG had agreed that income available from the seminar should be paid to Advantica via R Owen. J Haswell to progress.

Action: J Haswell

- (ii) FDMG to consider merit of extending database to cover installations (8.3.2 iii a)

R McConnell reported that this will be discussed at the next meeting of the FDMG.

11.3.2 Update

R McConnell made reference to the recently issued meeting notes, and confirmed that the database will be updated every two years. The FDMG considered that access to the data should be enabled in order to promote its use as UK data. Enquiries would be directed to Advantica, who would consider requirements on a case by case basis. At this stage, there appeared to be little commercial potential. J Haswell noted that the real benefit and commercial opportunity would arise when the modeling capability for specific pipeline failure frequency predictions was available. R McConnell confirmed this was scheduled for completion in November 2001.

R McConnell reported that the FDMG had discussed the modeling requirements for failure of ethylene pipelines. Proposals by Advantica and Shell Global Solutions were currently under consideration. In addition, HSE may be interested in experimental investigations, and a joint industry project covering both numerical (3D CFD) and experimental investigations may be proposed.

12. HSE PROPOSAL FOR MHSC PIPELINES SUB-GROUP (UKOPA/01/0027)

R McConnell reported that K Allar's proposal for a Pipelines Sub-Group reporting to the Major Hazards Sub Group had been viewed as a major step forward by all who had attended the meeting. K Allars had proposed that the Group be chaired by an independent, who should also represent the Group on the Major Hazards Sub Committee.

In terms of membership, he suggested that the Group be limited to 8-10 members, comprising 2 representatives from UKOPA, 2 from Transco, 2 from HSE and 2 independents. After the meeting, R McConnell had responded in writing – **UKOPA/01/0025** confirming UKOPA's agreement.

With regard to Chairman, R McConnell reported that HSE had suggested Dr Gordon Walker - Principal Lecturer in Geography at Stafford University, with J Haswell as Technical Secretary. R McConnell proposed to meet with Dr Walker and report back. He also reported that T Cox (current chairman of ACDS) had recommended Mike Hough of bp to J Haswell. Bp representatives supported this recommendation. It was agreed that R McConnell would approach both parties and make a recommendation to UKOPA.

Action: R McConnell

In terms of membership, R McConnell advised that discussions with HSE had indicated that two Transco representatives (P Siddals and J Haswell), plus 2-3 UKOPA representatives (M Harrison, R Ellis and B Hughes) would be appropriate, in conjunction with 2-3 HSE representatives (nominations are R Turner and N Briscoe) and 2 independent experts (one of which will be R McConnell).

In addition to the immediate priorities of Risk Assessment and LUP, HSE had requested that the Pipelines Sub-Group also represent stakeholder interest in gasoline pipelines. UKOPA considered this to be practical, and P Davies had confirmed that he would represent these interests on the Group.

R McConnell agreed to progress on behalf of UKOPA.

Action: R McConnell

13. REPORT FROM THE EMERGENCY PLANNING WORKING GROUP

13.1 Update on Emergency Planning Issues

13.1.1 Actions Arising

No actions arising.

13.1.2 Update

J Haswell stated that at the meeting between UKOPA and HSE on 9th February, HSE (K Allars, N Briscoe) had confirmed that ACDS had approved HSE's recommendation that the domestic programme for amendment of PSR be progressed.

HSE had stated that a middle ground between UKOPA's requirements and HSE's actions had not been possible to establish. However, it appears that ACDS have approved continuation of the domestic programme on the assumption that stakeholder interests will be addressed, an ACoP for testing of emergency plans will be developed as proposed by UKOPA, the regulatory impact assessment would be carried out following the drafting of the ACoP, and the timescale for the introduction of the amended regulations will be revised.

J Haswell stated that the EPWG had identified that as a minimum, UKOPA's involvement in the preparation of the ACoP for emergency plan testing was essential. In addition, UKOPA needed to develop a revised influencing strategy now targeted at implementers (ie the Home Office, in its capacity as being responsible for Emergency Planning). The WG intended to concentrate on the development of this strategy.

The WG had actioned a comprehensive response to HSE addressing all aspects of stakeholder interest and requesting HSE's confirmation that these would be addressed. This action is ongoing.

Action : J. Haswell.

HSE have requested stakeholder input to the regulatory impact assessment, and have requested information from UKOPA. The EP WG have prepared cost emergency plan cost estimates on behalf of UKOPA for approval **UKOPA/01/0035**. Members were requested to review and confirm approval of these cost estimates within two weeks for input to the regulatory impact assessment. No comment would be taken as approval of both the figures and submission to HSE.

Action: All

J Haswell also reported that as ACDS had approved the extension of special duties to gasoline pipelines, a relevant UKOPA representative on the WG was required. J Haswell reported that R White (Total Fina) had agreed to join the WG to represent these interests.

Action: R White

13.2 Public Awareness

13.2.1 Actions Arising

- (i) Presentation on HSE research carried out to date (9.2.1 ii)

A Thayne reported that as the UK Competent Authority, HSE is waiting for an update on European Legislation before progressing.

- (ii) UKOPA Statement on Public Awareness (9.2.1 iii)

J Haswell reported that the statement had been prepared and circulated to members as **UKOPA/01/0031**. Members were requested to submit comments within two weeks, no comment was agreed to be acceptance as the UKOPA position.

Action: Members

13.3 PERO Issues

13.3.1 Actions Arising

- (i) Include PERO training in the Competency and Training Framework (9.3)

Actioned – to be reported further under agenda Item 16.

- (ii) Preparation of questionnaire relating to need for further PERO Courses (9.3)

K Thomas reported that this is being progressed. D Cullen noted that work on the Competency Assessment Framework had identified the need for refresher courses for defined training. A 3 year update programme was considered appropriate.

- (iii) UKOPA position paper on definition of emergency levels (9.4)

K Thomas reported this was still to be progressed.

13.3.2 Update

K Thomas stated there was nothing additional to report.

14. LEGISLATION UPDATE

14.1 Amendments to PSR 19

14.1.1 Actions Arising

Members to comment on draft guidance on Definition of Operators (10.1.1 ii)

P Jones reported that no comments had been received from members and, as a consequence, had concluded that members had no objections to the proposals.

However, following discussions at the last meeting, P Jones had contacted A Thayne who had agreed to provide an overview of the proposed guidance at this meeting.

M Harrison welcomed A Thayne to the meeting, thanked him for his cooperation and invited him to present the overview.

A Thayne presented the additional guidance drafted to clarify issues associated with the Definition of Operator under PSR 1996, which specifically addresses the meaning of the terms “person” and “control over the conveyance of fluid”, and gives criteria for determining where ownership lies.

14.1.2 Update

M Harrison commented that HSE had advised UKOPA that the drafting of an ACoP was to be prepared to support the proposed amendments to PSR covering testing of emergency plans, and asked A Thayne to advise on how UKOPA can be involved. A Thayne replied that he was not sure of the status of this initiative, but that initial contact should be via Neville Briscoe, as this may be progressed through the Pipeline Emergency Planning Forum. J Haswell reported that at the meeting between HSE and UKOPA on 9th February, N Briscoe had indicated that the PEPF would not be reconvened. A Thayne agreed to investigate this.

Action: A Thayne

J Haswell stated that the EPWG considered that UKOPA should be proactive with regard to the development of the ACoP, and was prepared to direct effort to this, provided this was supported by the main committee. This was confirmed. J Haswell agreed to contact N Briscoe as suggested by A Thayne.

Action: J Haswell

14.2 HSE Operational Strategy

A Thayne then went on to explain that HSE operated a three year rolling strategy covering the operational aspects of HSE's involvement with the natural gas industry, which is used to develop the CHID/HID work programme. A copy of the 2001/2004 Strategy is attached as **UKOPA/01/0044**.

A companion operational strategy for the onshore and offshore pipelines, entitled "Operational Strategy for Pipeline Safety 2001/2004" has been prepared for the first time, and that relevant industries and trade unions were being consulted. A copy of this document is now attached as **UKOPA/01/0045**.

A Thayne requested that UKOPA provide comments via P Jones by mid-July. In particular, he requested views regarding proposals to strengthen Regulation 15, avoidance of damage to pipelines, and the necessary influencing of utilities.

Action: Members / P Jones

14.3 Definition of Modifications

This item was included on the agenda at the request of A Thayne, and M Harrison invited Alan to initiate discussions.

A Thayne presented a discussion document relating to draft proposals for further guidance relating to Regulation 22, notification of change, copy attached as **UKOPA/01/0046**, and invited comments from UKOPA members by mid-September. P Jones agreed to collate comments and respond to HSE on behalf of UKOPA.

Action: Members / P Jones

14.3 Pipelines Safety Instrument

A Thayne stated there was nothing to report at this stage.

14.4 Routing Guidelines

As 14.3 - Following discussion, it was agreed UKOPA would write to A Thayne confirming that UKOPA considers there is no benefit in the Routing Guidelines, and that a relevant, recognized code for routing pipelines should be followed. P Jones agreed to progress.

Action: P Jones

15. ONE CALL SYSTEM

15.1 Actions Arising

- (i) UKOPA to request representation on Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of Sir John Cullen (11.2)

M Harrison asked K Thomas to update members.

K Thomas reported that the PIG National Working Party had met in May, and has recommended a system configuration based on a front end which interfaces with Utility databases and deals with both e-mail (via a website) and phone/fax/letter enquiries. Also, it agreed to form a Management Group comprised of PIG, HSE, NJUG, Ordnance Survey and a suitable body to represent the Highways Authorities, which would be responsible for driving the initiative forward and provide a timeframe where a pilot One -Call System could be progressed and have direct contacts with users. A key problem area identified was the lack of commitment of senior management in the Utilities to apply the system. Sir John Cullen has written to all PIG members seeking confirmation of support for this approach before the Working Party progresses the actions. His letter requests a response before the next PIG National Working Party meeting, which is scheduled for 4th July 2001.

In addition, a meeting with HSE (Bill Callaghan) had taken place at which initial support had been indicated, and would be confirmed when the business case had been developed.

UKOPA is represented on the main Working Party and Subgroups. The representation is:

D Grey - Main Working Party
 P Davies - Subgroup - Business Case
 J Vardon - Subgroup - Location of Equipment
 K Thomas - Subgroup - Training

15.2 Update

J Haswell reported that the Advantica proposal, which is being headed by Paul Gerrard, is being held until the outcome of the PIG initiative is clear. In a briefing note to J Haswell, Paul Gerrard stated that he is aware that Advantica's proposal is being considered by the Business Case Work Group. However, since Advantica presented their proposal to the PIG Working Party, another commercial company, Geodesys, has produced an identical offering, but at a lower cost as it already has an existing Web infrastructure. P Gerrard has advised that some organisations have already indicated to Advantica they would be interested in progressing the

existing proposal if the PIG initiative moves too slowly. Advantica are keen to retain contact with the UKOPA WG.

K Thomas advised that the UKOPA One Call WG is waiting further developments at this stage.

15.3 NJUG Exchange of Records Trial

15.3.1 Actions arising

NJUG Membership

Based on advice from the One Call Working Group, it was agreed that P Jones should confirm that UKOPA will pay the Associate membership fee when NJUG have confirmed that the exchange of records trial will be extended.

Action: P Jones

15.3.2 Update

M Harrison asked K Thomas to update members. K Thomas presented an update – UKOPA/01/0047, and noted that UKOPA would be updated after the PIG National Working Party meeting scheduled for 4th July.

16. COMPETENCY AND TRAINING ASSESSMENT

16.1 Actions Arising

- (i) Develop UKOPA framework as UKOPA guidelines including monitoring of work and PERO requirements (12.1)

J Haswell/K Curtis reported that the Work Group has included “monitoring of work” in the framework, and produced a competency profile for emergency response which includes the PERO requirements.

The Work Group has also defined a work programme and timescale required to produce the UKOPA Competency Framework, including profiles. Guidelines will be produced following approval of the framework.

- (ii) J Haswell to contact Alistair Hay of Petrotechnics relating to development of a competency management assurance system (CMAS) (12.2)

J Haswell reported that Alistair Hay had attended the meeting of the Work Group meeting held on the 20th February to present the CMAS system, and that it was the view of the Group that the system would not supercede the development of the UKOPA Competency Framework..

16.2 Update

D Cullen tabled Version 1.0 of the UKOPA Competency Framework – **UKOPA/01/0042** and presented a progress report on behalf of the WG. This progress report covered the background to the initiative, review work (and its results) completed, the relationship with GINTO, the status of work to date and an outline of work proposed to complete the competency framework. In addition, D Cullen requested UKOPA's approval for the WG's proposed work plan on behalf of the WG, and approval to spend £3k (out of an estimated total of £8k) to develop the tools, database and guidance.

The WG requested that UKOPA comment on the framework, approve the work plan and approve the current request for expenditure.

R Michie expressed support for the framework, and stated that BGI would provide a representative to contribute to development work. P Williams also offered support for development work, providing the relationship with the GWINTO project was transparent.

Following the presentation, the competency framework, together with the work programme to deliver it, was approved in principle. It was agreed that members would review the details and provide any comments to the Competency and Training Work Group within two weeks.

Action : Members.

Funding for the initial database development was approved, subject to detailed approval of a specified work/resource programme by the Competency and Training Work Group.

It was agreed the Competency and Training Work Group would progress in accordance with the work programme.

Action: C&T WG

17. UKOPA WEBSITE

17.1 Actions arising

Ross Michie to progress UKOPA Website (4.7.2)

R Michie reported that a meeting had been held on the 7th March at Loughborough and that notes of the meeting had been circulated – **UKOPA/01/0032**.

R Michie then presented the proposals for the Website using slides to demonstrate how the website is likely to appear after development. He advised members that the site could be developed for an estimated cost of £5700, and requested Members' approval to commission the work.

Detailed discussions regarding the value, scope and format were held. In discussions, it was clear that the potential value to UKOPA was a concern, and while PR was considered a valid reason to consider progression, practical uses such as exchange of information with other stakeholder organisations and lodging/storage of documents for members access were considered essential overall. In total, the cost estimate provided by Visual Software was considered reasonable.

J Haswell stated that information exchange with other professional websites would be of great value to the organisation and management of UKOPA as a distributed organisation. This was agreed, but R Michie warned that this level of functionality was not included in the cost estimates under discussion. It was agreed that if the selection criteria was PR, this was as a minimum equivalent to the cost of an advert placed professional/commercial publication.

Following extensive discussion, it was agreed that the website should be progressed, but that the implementation format should be approved before being actioned, and the value formally reviewed on an annual basis. R Michie agreed to action the design, and arrange for a CD presentation of the designed website at the September meeting for approval by UKOPA before implementation.

Action: R Michie

18. PRESENTATION ON AC CORROSION

M Harrison invited Roger Ellis to make his presentation.

Roger started by referring to the HSE letter to pipeline operators drawing attention to AC corrosion as a potential damage mechanism, and presented details of the investigations carried out by Shell on the 400 km 10" dia 5.65 mm wt Glasgow to Stanlow pipeline.

Part of the pipeline had been pigged in 1996, and metal loss of up to 40% of w.th. had been found which had every indication of microbial action. The whole pipeline was pigged in 1999 and new metal loss of 30 –40% was detected At

certain points, the pipeline route is close to and parallel with high voltage overhead power lines, and the possibility of the problem being due to AC corrosion was therefore considered and confirmed. A large diameter (42") Transco pipelines, and another pipeline in the immediate vicinity had been investigated and nothing found. The coatings of both pipelines were in good condition, (as was the coating on the Shell pipeline) and no instances of metal loss had been detected. However, R Ellis explained that the damage mechanism may be self-limiting in size, and therefore its occurrence on large diameter thicker wall pipelines could be below the inspection pig reporting threshold.

As part of the investigation, Shell had monitored the AC voltage levels in the adjacent power lines. This had shown that AC voltage levels varied daily and were very high between 12 am and 6 am, so constant monitoring was needed to identify critical conditions.

R Ellis stated that technical research has indicated that the following levels of current density apply in terms of identifying criticality:

<20 A/m², probability of AC corrosion is low,
 20-100 A/m², AC corrosion can occur,
 >100 A/m², AC corrosion greater than 1mm per year.

In conclusion Roger advised that the root cause of the problem is still not absolutely clear, but it can occur very quickly and mitigation can be achieved through use of preferential earthing systems.

The presentation prompted active discussion. T Findlay stated that the problem was widely recognized in parts of Europe, and software was available to identify potential hot-spots in which the existence of contributory factors could lead to AC corrosion. R Ellis agreed to pass the presentation material to P Jones for circulation, and to keep members informed of future developments.

Action: R Ellis / P Jones

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 Occupied Buildings Adjacent to Pipetracks

R McConnell presented a proposed methodology for defining safe distances between occupied buildings and pipetracks located on operational sites based on an interpretation of guidance published by the Chemical Industries Association (CIA) in 1998 – UKOPA/01/0040. R McConnell drew UKOPA's attention to the difficulties which occurred, especially when looking at existing buildings and the need for new buildings on existing sites. R McConnell considered there was significant potential to apply a risk-based approach, similar to that being

developed for pipelines. Such a development would benefit significantly if the UKOPA fault database was extended to cover installations. It was agreed the approach had potential. R McConnell agreed to provide further information for circulation and to keep members informed of further developments.

Action: R McConnell

20. DATE(S) OF NEXT MEETING(S)

- (i) 12th/13th September at Aberdeen – hosted by Shell Expro (D Cullen)
- (ii) 9th/10th January 2002 at Bolton – Hosted by Transco (P Williams)