

E mail received by the UKOPA Management Council from Peter Kinsman of the Casella Group dated 3rd January 2003.

UKOPA Directorate

I was recently discussing the risks from petroleum pipelines with Richard Gray of Esso Petroleum Ltd and he suggested that I contact the Directorate of UKOPA in order to introduce the risk services of the Casella Group.

The Casella Group has for the past 7 years has worked closely with the HSE at Bootle on gas pipeline risk assessment. We have developed the computer program MISHAP which is currently used by HSE in the assessment of land use planning applications.

About 3 months ago we presented to HSE a new approach to the assessment of the risks from petroleum (non-flashing liquid) pipelines incorporating the topographical influence on liquid flow, since our attempts to modify the gas pipeline program failed to properly address the full spectrum of hazards. Although there was considerable interest in this, the fact that petroleum pipelines are not yet classified as hazardous meant that the priority assigned to our proposals was low. In spite of this we still believe there is a need for a risk assessment methodology that can account for all of the thermal radiation hazards that could conceivably arise following the failure of a petroleum pipeline.

I am therefore writing to enquire if UKOPA would be interested in receiving a presentation introducing Casella Group risk assessment credentials generally and outlining specifically how we envisage the development of a risk assessment methodology, equivalent to MISHAP for petroleum pipelines. This could be made at any venue convenient yourselves and would be completely free of charge. Our objective would be to demonstrate that a reliable means of assessing the risks petroleum pipelines is viable and could be developed at a relatively low cost.

Based on our long association with HSE on gas pipeline risk assessment, we believe we have the necessary expertise and background to ensure that any approach we developed for the industry would be reliable and respected by HSE.

Dr Peter Kinsman
Principal Risk Consultant - Casella Group