

18th January 2007

Via email c/o PIE Ltd
Phill.jones@pieuk.co.uk

UKOPA/07/0004

Mr Phill Jones
Secretary to UKOPA
Pipelines Maintenance Centre
Ripley Road
Ambergate
Derbyshire
DE56 2FZ

Dear Mr Jones,

UKOPA and its Member Organisations' Exercise-Based Training Needs and Requirements

I am writing to provide you with the background information regarding the outcome of initial consultations with petrochemical industry companies regarding their training needs and requirements and how that interfaces with the role of the FRS and the work that we do here at the Fire Service College through the delivery of our training.

Our first round of consultation focused on the needs of COMAH sites with storage facilities, whilst further, subsequent consultation has focused on the more specific needs of Pipeline Operators and therefore member companies of the UKOPA.

Changing Market Needs

The Fire Service College was originally consulted by UKOPA in late-1999 to early-2000 in order to provide the original PERO Course, provided as a series of Open Courses during the period 2000 to 2002. Since then, aspects of the PERO Course and relative training has continued to be offered, though they have been tailored and offered in conjunction with other modules as bespoke courses, dependant on individual petrochemical company requirements.

Feedback from Pipeline Operators continues to highlight a recurring theme relating to the need for complementary, integrated practical exercises dovetailing into the current PERO course available through SembCorp Utilities, with particular emphasis on the interplay between the Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) and other Category 1 responders and how they interact with the operating company's own Emergency Response personnel during an Emergency Incident.

The need being expressed, therefore, indicates a requirement for more intensive, integrated exercise opportunities providing Emergency Response teams with various scenarios whereby the theoretical learning outcomes of the PERO Course can be played out in practice.

Revised Legislation and the Civil Contingencies Act (2004)

Furthermore, we recognise that the Petrochemical industry and operators are continually under pressure, lead by changing market needs, including legislative, regulatory and environmental aspects, therefore requiring continual reassessment of organisational needs, particularly in relation to Emergency Response pre-planning and relational training, exercising and assessment of best practices.

All our Courses are designed, delivered and instructed by experienced Fire and Rescue Service instructors who themselves have in-depth, first-hand experience in addition to years of knowledge. Furthermore, the Fire and Rescue Service continually review best practices based on both its experience in dealing with Major Incidents and on the changes in legislation and how best to apply and deliver such experience so as to offer the most current, up-to-date knowledge in training industry Emergency Responders to deal more effectively with Major Incidents.

In this regard, I would like to meet with you to share feedback and to discuss UKOPA's own views and requirements relative to training objectives and guidance thereto and any specific areas where the Association feels that further advice, guidance and/or training would be of further benefit to meeting the Health & Safety requirements and training needs of its member companies, with particular focus on Emergency Response and Preparedness in dealing with Major Incidents.

Thank you for your consideration, Mr Jones. I will be in touch with you shortly to discuss this further, however, please feel free to contact me in the interim.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Glanfield
Head of Commercial Activities

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