

Onshore Technical Panel

Terms of Reference (2006)

UKOPA/07/0083

The Onshore Technical Panel is made up of a group of Pipeline Industry experts with experience in the manufacture, operation, maintenance, design, construction, commissioning, decommissioning and health, safety, security and environmental aspects of pipeline engineering. Its members include practitioners, managers, legal representatives and consultants. The primary roles of the forum are as follows:

- To act as a focal point for technical issues related to pipelines on behalf of Guild Members and helping in communicating on these to members (by e-mail and on the Guild's website, by giving presentations at conferences and seminars and by arranging appropriate technical visits for Guild members)
- To maintain a matrix showing the network of expertise available to the Panel (available on the website)
- To meet on a regular basis and discuss current areas of concern to members (e.g. the debate on the development of a national grid for water, foreign ownership of water assets, implications of wind farm developments re proximity to pipelines, etc)
- To propose solutions to technical questions and issues both for individual members and for the Guild's Board
- To provide information to allow lobbying of appropriate bodies on any pipeline-related issues
- To liaise with the Utilities and Offshore Panels on areas of common interest and to invite their representatives to attend the Onshore Panel
- To propose topics and assist with the organisation of annual Technical Forums on subjects of key interest to Guild Members
- To consider recent incidents from around the world and to assess whether the UK pipeline industry is taking sufficient precautions to prevent similar occurrences and to prevent damage – the most urgent of these is still the matter of establishing a central data reference system for all underground pipelines, cables and equipment (such as that being proposed by NUAG)
- To consider any forthcoming changes to legislation and standards and how that may impact on members
- To review presentations from external experts such as the Health & Safety Executive on possible future issues or areas of interest with a view to their inclusion in future Technical Forums.