

UKOPA/07/0084

PIPELINE INDUSTRIES GUILD

ONSHORE TECHNICAL PANEL

BUSINESS PLAN 2007 – 2008

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 in the health, safety, security and environmental aspects of pipeline engineering. Its members include practitioners, managers, legal representatives and consultants. Contacts are maintained with a range of related interest groups including UKOPA and the HSE. Several members receive the Panel's papers but do not attend its meetings.

The Panel meets on a regular basis – typically four times per year - to discuss current areas of concern to members (e.g. the protection of buried assets, lessons to be learned from recent incidents affecting pipeline, 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)

The Panel's meetings include a visit in June to an operational site (National Grid's Control Centre in Warwick in 2007) and to the Northern Branch's Innovation Day in October. (This may extend to other Branch's such as Wales and Western if they develop similar initiatives.)

The Panel organises technical forums and seminars on subjects of key interest to Guild Members that complement the network of contacts and the technical presentations organised by the Guild's Branches. It aims to provide these seminars at minimal cost to individual members and is dependent on sponsorship from corporate members.

The Panel has organised a seminar to be held at The Belfry on 16th November 2007 titled "KEEPING ONSHORE PIPELINES SAFE – TEN YEAR PERSPECTIVE" where nine papers will be presented. The event has been organised to be at the same date and venue as the Midlands Branch's annual dinner. A similar event is being planned to coincide with the Northern Branch's annual dinner in Harrogate on 7th November 2008. The topic has yet to be fixed but may be on training, competence and skills shortages and will be coordinated with the Utilities and Offshore Panels.

The Panel's aims to focus on a small number of higher profile events to promote the Guild as an authority and leader in specialist areas.