



United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association

## **Notes of the UKOPA Meeting to be held at the Thorpe Park Hotel Leeds on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

#### **In Attendance:**

Neil Jackson, Process Safety Manager, UK Distribution, National Grid – Chairman.  
 Roger Ellis, Manager, Pipeline Group, Shell UK Ltd.  
 Ed Reeder, Services Manager, Ineos Manufacturing Scotland Ltd.  
 Graeham Pailor, SABIC UK Petrochemicals Ltd.  
 Kevin Farthing, BP.  
 John Smith, Senior Pipeline Engineer, Shell UK Ltd.  
 Martin Price, Operations Manager, BPA.  
 Jon Anstee de Mas, Pipeline Protection Engineer, Esso Petroleum Co. Ltd.  
 Barry Mackay, Asset Engineering Manager (Pipelines and PRSs) Scotia Gas Networks.  
 Barry Dalus, Network Integrity Engineer, Northern Gas Networks. (24<sup>th</sup>)  
 Terry Williams, Operations Manager - FinaLine & Colnbrook Total UK Ltd.  
 Geoff Glover, Pipeline Team Leader, SABIC UK Petrochemicals Ltd.  
 Ken Curtis, Assessment Management Project Manager, E'ON.  
 Xiaoguang Huang, E'ON.  
 Bob Lawson, Divisional Manager, GreyStar UK.  
 Kevin Tribe, Q H S&E Manager, GreyStar UK.  
 Ian Rose, Transmission Operations Engineer, BGE (UK) Ltd.  
 Ross Michie, Senior Project Manager, BG Group.  
 Geoff Gilbert – BG Group.  
 Jeremy Sandford, National Grid Transmission.  
 Andy Fuller - Network Integrity Officer, Northern Gas Networks.  
 Jane Haswell, Consultant, Pipeline Integrity Engineers Ltd.  
 Rod McConnell, Consultant.  
 Phill Jones, Secretary, Pipeline Integrity Engineers Ltd.  
 Peter Harper - HSE – 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
 Karen McDonough - HSE 23<sup>rd</sup> February

#### **Apologies**

#### **Apologies were received from:**

Tony Stonehewer, Compliance and Monitoring Manager, National Grid UKT  
 Richard Halford, Pipeline Manager, Esso Petroleum Company Ltd.  
 Peter Davis, Director and General Manager, BPA.  
 Andy Skinn, Trigas Engineering & Maintenance Team Leader, E'on.  
 Conor Ahern, Transmission Operations Manager, Bord Gais Eireann.  
 Terry Williams, Operations Manager - FinaLine & Colnbrook Total UK Ltd.  
 Michael Antoniou – Total UK Ltd.  
 Grant Rogers, Asset Integrity Manager (>7bar), Wales and the West Utilities

Wilson Santamaria – Esso Petroleum Co. Ltd.  
Chris Lewis – PLUG.

## **2. Presentations**

The following presentations were received at the meeting and a copy of the slides used for each of the presentations has been posted on the website using the reference numbers listed:

- 2.1 Prediction of the effect of wind turbine failures on buried high pressure pipelines - Bob Andrews and Lindsey Mortimer, BMT Fleet Technology – UKOPA/11/0010.
- 2.2 The HSE's draft competence inspection delivery guide – Shane Wakefield, HSE – UKOPA/11/0011.
- 2.3 General Overview of the Pipelines Industries Guild – Ian Harrison, National Grid – UKOPA/11/0012.
- 2.4 Review of the UKOPA Competency Framework Version 2.3 August 2002 – Jane Haswell and Ken Curtis – UKOPA/11/0013.
- 2.5 Competent Resources – Bob Lawson, GreyStar – UKOPA/11/0014.
- 2.6 BGE UK, NGEP and Exercise Avogadro – Ian Rose, BGE – UKOPA/11/0015.
- 2.7 Management of UKOPA's infringement data and potential synergies between the Infringement Work Group and Linewatch for improving pipeline safety – Andrew Jackson, Fisher German – UKOPA/11/0016.
- 2.8 National Grid HAZ/5 - Management Procedure for Compliance with the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations – Jeremy Sandford, National Grid – UKOPA/11/0017.

## **3. Acceptance of the summary notes and actions of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010 – UKOPA/10/0058**

The summary notes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010 were accepted as a fair record of the proceedings and discussions.

## **4. Actions arising not covered on the agenda (number of relevant note included in brackets)**

### **4.1 UKOPA Terms of Reference (Item 4.1 of the notes of the last meeting)**

*Phill Jones to circulate a copy of the copy of the amended UKOPA terms of reference*

**Action completed and closed** (document circulated as UKOPA/10/0049).

### **4.2 HSL Intranet (Item 4.2 of the notes of the last meeting)**

*Roger Ellis to contact Helen Barnforth to ask if she needs any further information from UKOPA*

Roger reported that he had written to Helen but had received no reply and that it is assumed that HSL requires no further information from UKOPA at this stage.

**Action closed**

#### **4.3    Mecanthus** (Item 4.4 of the notes of the last meeting)

*Ed Reeder to circulate to Members information which confirmed that the root of the Mecanthus would not pose a problem if pipelines were laid to a depth of 1.2 metres*

**Action carried forward: Ed Reeder.**

#### **4.4    Tree Planting Guidelines** (Item 4.4 of the notes of the last meeting)

*Neil Jackson also agreed to circulate a copy of National Grid's current guidelines relating to the planting of trees within the pipelines easement.*

**Action completed and closed** (document circulated as UKOPA/10/0071).

#### **4.5    UKOPA Requirements for the Siting of Wind Turbines close to Pipelines containing Hazardous Fluids** (Item 13.1 of the notes of the last meeting)

- (i)    *Phill Jones to amend document by deleting reference to additional work being done.*

Amended document has been approved by the Management Council and is to be circulated to Members. A copy is also to be placed on the open section of the website.

**Action: Phill Jones**

- (ii)    *Phill Jones to insert reference to be provided for the background work carried out by GL on behalf of National Grid.*

The background information is confidential and not available for circulation. The reference to the work has therefore been withdrawn.

**Action closed.**

- (iii)    *Northern Gas Networks (Barry Dalus) to provide a copy of work done by BMT Fleet for review by the RAWG.*

A copy of the document has been received and will be posted on the website – reference UKOPA/11/0018.

**Action closed.**

#### **4.6    Weights of Equipment Working over Pipelines** (Item 13.2 of the notes of the last meeting)

*Members to check whether they have, and are prepared to share, company recommendations relating to limits on weights etc of equipment working over pipelines.*

Neil Jackson reported that there had been no further communication on this issue and the action is closed.

#### **4.7 Young Persons' Paper Competition** (Item 13.3 of the notes of the last meeting)

*An email to be issued to Members with the details of the competition and Members to circulate widely within their respective companies.*

**Action completed.**

The Chairman advised that a small number of entries have been received and the papers are to be judged by Roger Ellis, Phill Jones, and himself by the end of March, and that the winner will be invited to attend the Technical Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Action: Neil Jackson, Roger Ellis and Phill Jones.**

He also advised that the competition will not be repeated next year but may be repeated the following year.

#### **5. The Proposed Amendments to the Pipelines Safety Regulations (PSR) 1996 and the Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations - Overview of the new guidelines introduced by the Coalition and of the further work that now needs to be undertaken – Karen McDonough, HSE**

Karen McDonough explained that the Coalition Government had introduced a new regulatory approach and due to this all government departments had been instructed to undertake a thorough review of any proposed regulatory changes currently in the pipeline.

The Coalition's key priority is to reduce regulations and to avoid the burdens of regulation and to only introduce regulation as a last resort. Due to this, any regulatory options will need to:

- Be fully supported by robust evidence to show that it is the best option;
- Show that consultation has been undertaken with industry and that there is support for the proposals;
- Show that all alternate approaches to regulation have been explored/discounted – with robust arguments as to why; and
- Be supported by a robust cost impact assessment.

The proposed amendments to PSR have now been postponed so that further work can be carried out to show that all regulatory and non-regulatory options have been fully explored. Karen advised that HSE has commissioned work to update the Atkins and AD Little research reports that were prepared in 1996 and 1999 to take into account all world wide pipeline events that have occurred since those dates, this information will be used to provide the evidence to support the option that will be taken forward. HSE would also like to discuss the cost impact assessment with UKOPA.

The HSE wanted to explore the option of the consequences of gasoline becoming a dangerous fluid being implemented on a voluntary basis by industry and other stakeholder groups including Local Authorities. This would include preparation of MAPD, notifications development of emergency plans and land use planning distances controls.

Karen explained that she is required to report back to the HSE Board in June as to whether the option of developing industry guidance instead of additional regulation is a realistic option. It was agreed in discussion that the issue required further consideration and a full understanding of what is expected and Karen was invited to attend a meeting of the UKOPA Risk Assessment Working Group (RAWG) to be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. (Note: Karen confirmed later that she will attend the RAWG meeting).

It was noted that UKOPA would want to participate in the setting of land use planning zones irrespective of whether the regulatory amendments are progressed or whether industry guidance is established as an alternative.

It was agreed that the RAWG would discuss the matter further and report back to the Membership with recommendations in order to allow UKOPA to provide a formal response before the HSE Board meeting in June.

**Action: Neil Jackson/RAWG**

## **6. Reports from Working Group Chairmen**

### **6.1 Fault Database Management Group (FDMG)**

#### **6.1.1 Actions Arising** (Item 6.1 of the notes of the last meeting)

- (i) *FDMG to consider how collection of fault data for non MAHPs should be progressed.*

Covered in the update.

- (ii) *Ian Rose to investigate whether BGE would be prepared to provide damage and failure data for the UKOA databases*

**Action carried forward: Ian Rose**

#### **6.1.2 FDMG Update**

Roger Ellis provided an update on the work being carried out by the FMDG. The update included a review of why the database is necessary, the work carried out during 2010, the work programme proposed during 2011 and the timetable for the development of the new excel based fault database. The slides used by Roger have been posted on the website – reference UKOPA/11/0019. The following work is planned for 2011:

- Publish damage statistics
- Publish failure data to end of 2010
- Launch the new database
- Review the inclusion of other pipelines
- Action requests from the risk assessment work group
- Promote best practice in the pipeline industry

In discussion Roger recommended that that damage data (third party interference and corrosion) be collected from all pipelines.

Rod McConnell gave an update on the progress relating to the fault database migration to an excel based system – as detailed on slides which have been posted – reference UKOPA/11/0020.

## **6.2 Risk Assessment Work Group (RAWG)**

### **6.2.1 Actions arising**

There were no actions arising

### **6.2.2 RAWG Update**

Neil Jackson provided an update on RAWG activities covering progress update and the current technical work programme. A copy of the slides has been posted on the website – reference UKOPA/11/0021. He noted that the sleeve workshop which was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November was well attended and that a further workshop is to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March.

## **6.3 Emergency Planning Work Group (EPWG)**

### **6.3.1 Actions arising**

There were no actions arising

### **6.3.2 EPWG Update**

Barry Dalus reported on the activities of the EPWG covering document review, documents under development and PERO courses. Three documents are currently being developed in discussion and collaboration with the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit:

- Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (MAHP) – Emergency Plan Template
- Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (MAHP) – Emergency Response Plan Guidance on Testing
- Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (MAHP) – Emergency Response Plan Testing and Exercising Proforma.

Details of dates for four PERO courses had already been circulated to Members (May 2011, September 2011, November 2011 and March 2012), and it was noted that the courses will only go ahead if all the required nominations (12 number) are received before the listed cut off dates.

A copy of the slides have been posted on the website – UKOPA/11/0022.

## **6.4 Process Safety Work Group (PSWG)**

### **6.4.1 Actions arising**

There were no actions arising

### **6.4.2 PSWG Update**

Jane Haswell and Andy presented the PSWG update in the absence of Tony Stonehewer and a copy of the slides covering PSAT and process safety key performance indicators have been posted – reference UKOPA/11/0023:

**(i) Process Safety Self Assessment Tool (PSAT)**

The following points are noted:

- Eight members have completed the questionnaire to date and a draft report has been prepared based on these returns.
- Companies have until 5<sup>th</sup> March to complete the questionnaire and the draft report will be reissued to include all results.
- Process safety sharing workshop to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> March, and only companies that have completed the questionnaire will be invited to attend.
- Generally agreed that PSAT needs a “save” facility and that this should be investigated.

**Action: Tony Stonehewer**

**(ii) Process Safety Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**

The following points are noted:

- Proposed indicators that had been circulated – UKOPA/11/0006 are meant to be example KPIs, and that Members should select what best suits their particular circumstances.
- If accepted the indicators will be included in an update of the UKOPA best practice document, UKOPA Recommendations for Pipeline Maintenance and Inspection - UKOPA/06/0032.
- The indicators are not intended to be used for comparison of performance between pipeline operators.
- Outline UKOPA Process Safety Annual report had been circulated – UKOPA/11/0007. This would be published as an internal document initially with a view to publishing the document externally in future years.

Members were asked to submit comment on the proposed indicators and outline process safety annual report to Tony Stonehewer by 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Action: Members**

**6.5 Infringement work Group (IWG)**

**6.5.1 Actions Arising** (Item 6.5 of the notes of the last meeting)

*(i) Tony Stonehewer to investigate whether the SRP system could be linked to the UKOPA system and allow automatic transfer of data for the required categories of infringements.*

**Action carried forward – Tony Stonehewer**

**6.5.2 IWG Update**

Roger Ellis presented the update on behalf of Tony Gillard and the IWG, which included a list of 2010 activities, the plan for 2011 and a breakdown of reports received. A copy of the slides has been posted on the website – UKOPA/11/0024.

He noted that the data was being managed by Fisher German and that a report is to be produced. However there are still serious problems with the quality of data being submitted and that this requires the attention and commitment of Members in order to improve the situation. This is being considered by the IWG and it is possible that additional training may be recommended in order to improve the quality of the data being submitted.

## **7. H, S & E Issues and UKOPA Safety Alerts.**

### **7.1 Actions Arising** (Item 5 of the notes of the last meeting)

*Roger Ellis to issue safety alert relating to a near miss on a 28" dia crude oil pipeline located within the boundary of a water treatment works when approved.*

This was issued and has been posted as UKOPA/SA/0064.

### **7.2 Update**

(i) Three safety alerts have been issued since the last meeting:

UKOPA/SA/0065 – Jacking of flat bottomed storage tanks.

UKOPA/SA/0066 – Virus designed to attack industrial control systems.

UKOPA/SA/0067 – Product alert – Biffi, Elga and WGA models of electrical actuators/

(ii) St Bruno Pipeline Failure – UKOPA/SA/0055

Neil Jackson reported that it had been confirmed that the failure had initiated at a defective seam weld.

(iii) Pigging Incident involving valve closure

A member reported details of an incident where the magnetic field of an MFL inspection vehicle caused an electrically operated valve to close trapping the vehicle. The matter is still under investigation but early indications are that it will be recommended that planning of such works should include an assessment of the valves and isolation of the electrical supply.

### **Nitrogen Pipeline Failure**

A failure of a nitrogen pipeline was reported. The facts have yet to be confirmed but it appears that nitrogen gas was being delivered into the pipeline via vaporisers which developed a fault. The pipeline apparently failed due to brittle failure of a weld and whilst the cause is unclear one possibility is that the problem with the vaporisers may have resulted in liquid nitrogen entering the pipeline. The pipeline failure led to the shutdown of an associated refinery for a period of two weeks.

## **8. 2011 Technical Seminar**



**8.1 Actions Arising** (Item 6 of the note of the last meeting)

(i) RAWG to develop the programme a programme for the 2011 seminar.

**Action closed and covered in update.**

(ii) Members to suggest any topics for the seminar or if they wished to contribute to the agenda item on case histories.

Covered in update.

**8.2 Technical Seminar Update**

Neil Jackson confirmed that the theme of the technical seminar is Pipeline Integrity Management and outlined the proposed agenda as follows:

Introduction – Neil Jackson 9:30 - **9:45**

1. Pipeline Standards (Jane Haswell).**9:45 – 10:30**
2. Assessing Pipeline Dents (Julia Race).**10:30 -11:15**
3. Regulatory Inspection of Ageing Assets (HSE).**11:30 – 12:15**
4. Pipeline Sleeves (Robert Owen).**12:15 – 13:00**

**Lunch 13:00 – 14:00**

5. Risk Based Inline Inspection (Rod McConnell).**14:00 – 14:30**
6. Integrity Management Case Histories of pipeline damage and repair:
7. Open Discussion and Concluding Remarks **16:00 – 16:15**

He advised that no offers had been received to date relating to participation in case histories, and requested Members to consider participating in this part of the seminar which has proved very successful at previous seminars.

**Action: Members**

He also asked Members to submit up to three nominations for attendance by end March 2011. The nominations to be sent to Phill Jones.

**Action: Members**

The Chairman to speak to Jim Stancliffe regarding an HSE representative to make the presentation on regulatory inspection of ageing assets.

**Action: Neil Jackson****9. UKOPA Strategy** (UKOPA/10/0047 and 0048)**9.1 Actions Arising** (Item 7 of the notes of the last meeting)

- (i) Phill Jones to circulate a copy of the SWOT analysis to all members.

**Action completed and closed.**

- (ii) Peter Davis to prepare a one page questionnaire relating to the strategy which Members would be asked to complete and return.

**Action completed and closed.**

## **9.2 Update**

Neil Jackson reported that the completed questionnaires had been reviewed and summarised the results by confirming that all returns supported the documented strategy, all returns considered it to be in line with UKOPA's aims and all returns agreed that there is appropriate Member involvement. The results are listed in UKOPA/11/0021.

He also advised that it had been agreed that in future the strategy should be updated on an annual basis and that the 2011 update should be completed by end June 2011.

## **10. UKOPA Risk Workshop**

Rod McConnell confirmed that following feedback from the technical seminar a risk workshop will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> April and the objective is to gain a better appreciation of quantified risk assessments (QRAs) as applied to major hazard pipelines. Full details are included on the slides which have been posted as UKOPA/11/0025 and UKOPA/10/0026, and Phill Jones was actioned to circulate a copy of the agenda and to request Members to submit nominations for attendance by the end of March 2011.

**Action: Phill Jones.**

## **11. UKOPA Website**

Phill Jones reported that the proposal that was received from Linux internet (formerly Visual Software) relating to the freshening of the site was considered at a meeting of the PSWG held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, when it was decided that a greater amount of change was probably needed and justified. As a result of discussions this ultimately resulted in two options for redevelopment and Linux were asked to provide costed proposals for both options.

Estimates had recently been received but had not yet been reviewed, and it was proposed that the estimates should be reviewed by the PSWG and that a recommendation on the way forward be submitted to the Management Council in due course. This was accepted and the PSWG was requested to ensure that any associated costs such as annual support and maintenance costs are taken into account.

**Action: Tony Stonehewer**

## **12. Agenda/Presentations for the October 2011 Meeting**

The presentation by Andy Fuller on "Northern Gas Networks' approach to competence and training will be given at the meeting in October.

The following topics were suggested for presentations:

- Inspection
- Cathodic Protection
- Assessment and Prioritisation of Pipeline Damage
- Papers to be given at the technical seminar
- Commissioning procedures

No specific presentations were identified but Members were invited to submit proposals to the Chairman or Secretary.

**Action: Members.**

### **13. Any Other Business.**

- 13.1** Phill Jones reported that he had been approached by BGE and asked if UKOPA would be prepared for them to use the script in the “UKOPA People and Pipelines Working Together” DVDs for the purpose of making Irish versions. It was agreed that UKOPA would have no objections and that BGE should be informed.

**Action: Phill Jones.**

### **14. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings/Activities.**

May 25<sup>th</sup> 2011 - Technical Seminar to be held at Eakring.

19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> October 2011 – Wales and the West Utilities - Redwood Lodge Hotel, Failand, near Bristol