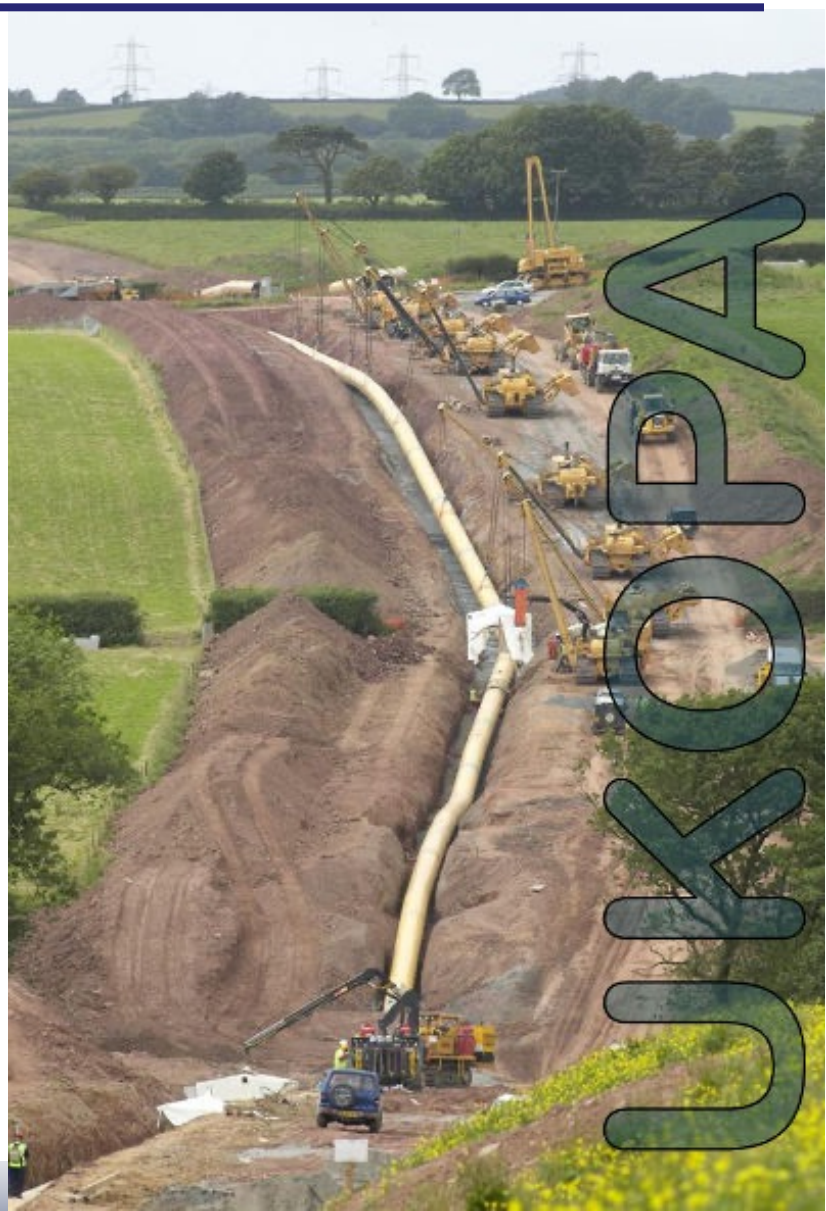
UKOPA

United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association

PSWG Update (inc Learning Brief sharing)

Martin Cook (WWU)

PSWG Chair



PSWG 2023

There have been 3 meetings in 2023

- (26th January – Meetpoint Midlands (and via TEAMS),
- 18th May – Meetpoint Midlands (and via TEAMS),
- 28th September – WWU offices Bristol (and via TEAMS))

Focus areas include

- GPG on Human Factors
- Learning Briefs
- 2023 PSAT

We have 12 Members (including Board rep) from 11 members companies

We have reviewed and updated our Terms of Reference

PSWG Terms of Reference

New members, many of whom have a process safety background, a new Chair, and a review of the terms of reference for the group has led to a reignited passion to drive the group forward

Prior to 2023 PSWG had slightly lost its focus with its purpose and direction being unclear.

The PSWG terms of reference was reviewed at the May meeting (after which Martin Cook (WWU) and Sophie Turner (NG) agreed to take on the roles of Chair and Vice Chair respectively), questions raised were taken to the Board, and a final version was prepared at the September meeting

The aim of the group is to provide information and expert opinion, direction and guidance on pipeline process safety to UKOPA members and industry stakeholders.

NB:- The full TOR will be shared via the UKOPA website, following it review by the Comms group.

Process Safety Work Areas

In 2019 members of PSWG each considered key process safety topics affecting their respective organisations and wider industry.

Process Safety Reviews	• GPG035 compiled in 2022 • GPG035 Update provided at 2023 Technical Seminar
Behavioural Safety / Human Factors	• GPG046 to be shared tomorrow
Safety Culture and Leadership	• This is being considered for the 2023/24 workplan
Management of Change	• This is being considered for the 2023/24 workplan
Process Safety KPI	• GPG003 – A full review included in 2024 Workplan

PSWG – points raised at October 2022 Members meeting

Remit of PSWG not clear – new TOR developed

PSAT – will take place after 2023 returns have been analysed

Human Factors and Safety Critical Task Analysis – GPG046

PSWG 2023/24 Key Outputs

- Continue publication of Learning Bulletins / Safety Alerts – Learning Briefs
- Review GPG003 ‘Pipeline Process Safety Performance Monitoring’ and KPI considerations (Included as a key deliverable in 2024 workplan)
- Publish GPG035 Process Safety Reviews
- Publish GPG046 Human Factors
- Issue PSAT Questionnaire, analyse results, present findings (To date 10 returns awaiting 18 to enable completion)
- Carry out review of PSAT questions (Included as a key deliverable in 2024 workplan)

Process Safety Forum

PSWG represent UKOPA on the National PSF - There will be a brief overview of the PSF tomorrow

Process Safety

defined as a blend of engineering and management skills focused on preventing catastrophic accidents and near misses, particularly structural collapse, explosions, fires and toxic releases associated with loss of containment of energy or dangerous substances such as chemicals and petroleum products

Manging Process Safety

is essential and very often the issues that arise in one sector have direct relevance in other sectors. Useful general lessons can be learnt and principles adopted to promote a culture where good safety management is viewed as having a direct impact on the profitability and viability of any organisation be they large or small

Learning Briefs

Learning Briefs

- Safety Alerts / Learning Bulletins – Theses are now referred to as Learning Briefs
- These have been a key focus for PSWG as we offer a mechanism and opportunity for the sharing of important learning from across industry

Share Learnings

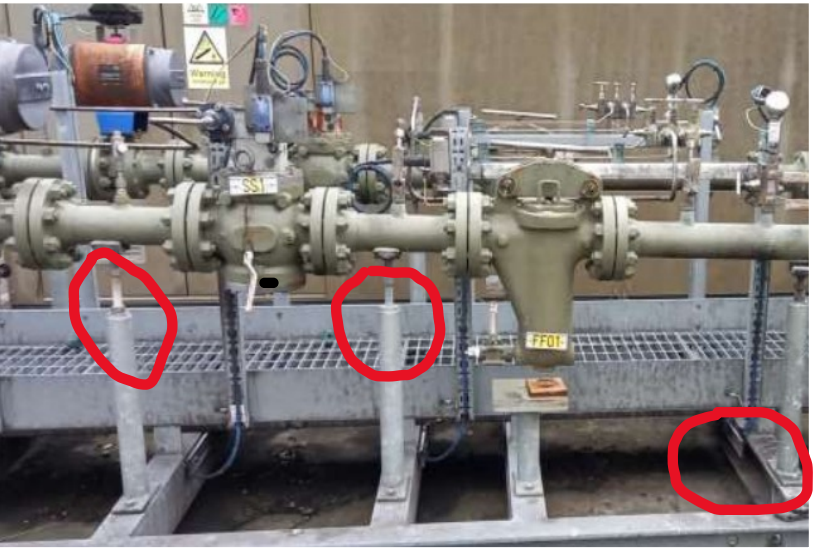
- The PSWG are concerned about the low volume being communicated
- We encourage all members to share both best practice and learnings from near misses / incidents

Process

- We use an external facilitator to prepare briefs and from Sept 2023 John Ferrari has been engaged
- To simplify process and remove administrative burden John will liaise directly with members to produce the briefs.(Anonymity can be retained)
- Content is then validated and published by PSWG

Learning Brief

Pipe Supports Lifting in Freezing Temperatures



What happened?

During maintenance 100 NB pipework was found to have been displaced due to the pipe-support saddles lifting and remaining in a raised position (see top photo). The pipework was therefore put under stress.

The pipe supports consist of the following components: 50 NB tubular base c/w top-bush + bottom mounting flange. Threaded upper stud-bar c/w top pipe saddle. The stud-bar can slide through the bush and is adjusted and secured in the required position with two lock nuts.

Findings and key learning points

The tubular supports filled with rain-water. In sub-zero temperatures the water froze, expanded and lifted the stud-bar and saddle component and product pipework upwards.

When the ice melted, the upper stud-bar did not drop back due to also being displaced horizontally and the threads becoming ‘snagged’ (see bottom photo). Intervention was required to return pipework to it proper position.

The support design and installation did not allow for self-draining.

A simple modification (fitting spacers between the bottom flange and skid frame) was made to facilitate drainage and avoid reoccurrence.

Recommendation

Operators are advised to check similar pipe supports to ensure that they cannot trap water and to consider alternatives at the design stage

Questions?