



**International Regulators' Forum Annual General Meeting**  
**October 6 & 7, 2021**  
**Held By Video Conference**

**Participants:**

Australia	Stuart Smith Derrick O'Keeffe Graeme Waters	NOPSEMA NOPSEMA NOPTA
Brazil	Daniela Goni Mariana Franca Raphael Moura (October 6) Thiago Pires Bruna Rodrigues	ANP ANP ANP ANP ANP
Canada	Scott Tessier (Chair) Paul Alexander Dan Chicoyne Christine Bonnell-Eisnor Robert Normore Stuart Pinks Keith Landra (regrets)	C-NLOPB C-NLOPB C-NLOPB CNSOPB CNSOPB CNSOPB CER
Denmark	Bénédicte Crapez Mikkel Laurentzius (October 6)	DWEA DWEA
Ireland	Paul Nagle Liam Murphy Ben Browne (regrets) Phil Hemmingway (regrets)	CRU CRU CRU CRU
Mexico	Blanca del Carmen Martínez Mendoza Jazmin Santinelli (regrets)	ASEA ASEA
Netherlands	Theodor Kockelkoren (October 6) R.P.H. (Rob) van Elsen	SSM SSM
New Zealand	Donna Ellis Nick Dawtry	WorkSafe New Zealand WorkSafe New Zealand
Norway	Anne Myhrvold Finn Carlsen (October 7) Ingvill Hagesather (October 6)	PSA PSA PSA
United Kingdom	Wendy Kennedy Chris Flint David Walker	OPRED HSE HSE
United States	Lars Herbst Julie Fleming Stacey Noem Bryan Domangue (October 6) Megan Elliott Staci King (October 6)	BSEE BSEE BSEE BSEE BSEE BSEE

**Special Guests (Session 8):**

Jim Rocco	International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC)
Mike Dubose	IADC
Olav Skår	International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP)



## MINUTES

### WELCOMING REMARKS

Scott Tessier, Chair of the Management Committee (Chair), delivered opening remarks and welcomed IRF Members to the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

A Safety Moment was provided by Canada and focused on fire safety in recognition of Fire Prevention Week in Canada.

The Chair provided an update on the status of inquiries by other regulatory organizations into potential IRF membership.

### 1 SESSION 1 – COVID-19 UPDATES & COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Members provided updates as pre-reading materials, focusing on three key areas: (1) Country Highlights; (2) Regulatory Measures and Issues Related to COVID-19; and (3) Current or Possible Future Roles in Regulating Offshore Renewables.

#### (1) Country Highlights:

Themes / key messages included (not necessarily applicable in all jurisdictions):

- Decommissioning – concerns expressed in terms of timeliness and adherence to proper standards when work is conducted. Necessity for appropriate regulatory enforcement tools and actions, and for posting of financial security instruments was discussed.
- Concerns about deferral of maintenance due to COVID travel restrictions and that experienced personnel are leaving the oil and gas sector.
- New risk factors presented by advancements in digitalization.
- The ongoing need for improvements in safety culture, both within Operator and third party contractor organizations.
- Efforts being made in a number of jurisdictions to reduce fugitive methane emissions.

#### (2) Regulatory Measures and Issues Related to COVID-19:

Discussion topics included:

- Vaccination policies in place within regulator and Operator organizations.
- The benefit of transparency of COVID case statistics to enable Operators to make appropriate decisions on COVID requirements and protocols.
- Regulators continue to be challenged in performing offshore inspections due to COVID; virtual inspections are being used with some success.
- Concerns around worker fatigue and mental health due to a reduced workforce and due to COVID restrictions.

#### (3) Current or Possible Future Roles in Regulating Offshore Renewables:

The following topics were discussed:

- Transitioning away from oil and gas – trends in repurposing of offshore oil and gas facilities, and the ongoing development of an offshore renewables industry globally.
- A potential role for IRF in the energy transition / offshore renewable sector in terms of advancing offshore safety (further discussed during session #4).



<b>2</b>	<b>SESSION 2 – VIRTUAL INSPECTION CASE STUDIES</b>  The purpose of this session was to share learnings from case studies of virtual inspections, as presented by three IRF Members.  Key points raised included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Internet speeds can pose a challenge, especially on older facilities without fibre-optic capabilities.</li><li>• More pre-planning is required (which may be seen as a positive).</li><li>• Concerns were noted with not being in direct control of cameras.</li><li>• Effectiveness of inspections is hampered by the loss of face to face contact, the loss in ability to read body language, and the absence of discussions that take place on the periphery of the inspections when they are done in person.</li><li>• The administration of enforcement actions and the associated evidentiary requirements are perhaps more difficult when an inspection is performed virtually rather than in person.</li><li>• A noted advantage in conducting virtual inspections is that opening and closing meetings can include a broader attendance.</li><li>• Overall, virtual inspections are seen as a useful tool to supplement onsite inspections, but should not be considered as a replacement for them, with careful predetermination of the topics which are suitable for a virtual inspection.</li></ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>SESSION 3 – DECOMMISSIONING AND ABANDONMENT</b>  The key points raised included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IRF Members have previously identified concerns regarding Operator funding / pooling / posting of financial securities with respect to decommissioning and abandonment of offshore facilities.</li><li>• A questionnaire was circulated to IRF Members in July, 2021 addressing: authorities (legislative / regulatory authorities and responsibilities regarding decommissioning of wells and structures); mitigation (efforts to limit or mitigate government liability / financial responsibility for decommissioning wells/infrastructure); and approaches (in relation to decommissioning activities involving bankruptcy and / or orphaned infrastructure).</li><li>• Raw data is now available; however, analysis has not yet been completed. The IRF working group will continue to advance this work in stages with decommissioning and abandonment of wells being looked at first, then pipelines and then structures. Outcomes from this work will be shared with IRF Members.</li><li>• IRF Members also discussed a noted lack of maintenance by some Operators on redundant facilities, and the safety concerns this presents.</li></ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>SESSION 4 – OFFSHORE RENEWABLES</b>  The key points raised included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A survey of regulatory responsibilities for offshore renewables was conducted amongst IRF Members.</li><li>• The results of this survey were presented. It was agreed that a working group would be established to develop a proposal for expanding the IRF's remit to include the promotion of safety of offshore energy transition (e.g. carbon capture, utilization and storage, hydrogen), and renewable energy projects. A proposal is to be brought forward for consideration at the IRF Mid-Year Meeting in 2022.</li></ul>



<b>5</b>	<b><u>SESSION 5 – KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</u></b>  The following items were reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IRF Members were provided with the results of the 2020 data collected through the IRF performance measurement project within the pre-reading materials. The data included a comparison of the 2020 data to previous years since 2007 when the project first began. It was noted that we can see a downward trend in fatalities and injuries. It was also noted that there is a downward trend in occurrences but that when events occur they are more severe.</li><li>• There was discussion as to whether COVID-19 related data should be collected and tracked, however consensus view was that this is an anomalous global public health event driven by factors outside the control of the oil and gas sector, and data will not help with future prevention.</li><li>• The 2020 key performance indicators data is to be posted on the IRF website shortly.</li><li>• The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (Canada) agreed to assume leadership for this project (from ANP, Brazil) going forward.</li></ul>
<b>6</b>	<b><u>SESSION 6 – FUTURE MEETINGS</u></b>  IRF Members were advised of the following plans for meetings in 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IRF's next mid-year meeting is scheduled to coincide with OTC in Houston (Monday, May 2, 2022).</li><li>• NOPSEMA (Australia) is scheduled to hold next year's AGM in Perth on October 4, 7 and 8, along with a Safety Conference on October 5 and 6, 2022. Hotel and event management is secured, all plans are in place, and NOPSEMA is now waiting to see what will happen with COVID-19 and border restrictions.</li></ul>
<b>7</b>	<b><u>SESSION 7 –STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH INDUSTRY PRE-DISCUSSION</u></b>  The following items were reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The three Problem Statements developed by IRF to describe priority industry risk areas of concern have been finalized. They are in the process of being published on the IRF website in a new section titled "Risk Focus Areas". Each of the Problem Statements describe the 'Problem' along with the changes IRF would like to see.</li><li>• IOGP / IADC working groups have been established and are working on each of the three Problem Statements. IRF 'Problem Statement Oversight Groups' continue to engage with the IOGP / IADC working groups as they advance their efforts in addressing them. The three 'Oversight Groups' provided an update on the status of this ongoing engagement (see notes included in session #8 below).</li><li>• IRF Members agreed that, once the website is updated, IRF Members should communicate locally and globally about the Problem Statement Initiative and the work being done to best ensure its success.</li><li>• Participation in a joint IRF / IOGP / IADC panel session scheduled during the IADC AGM being held in November 2021 in Dallas was discussed. Participation in this panel is consistent with IRF objectives of broadly communicating its Problem Statement initiative, and in encouraging industry wide support in efforts being made to develop and implement solutions.</li></ul>



**8 SESSION 8 –STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS (IOGP AND IADC)**

IOGP and IADC representatives joined IRF Members to address:

- IOGP 2020 Safety Performance Data
- Progress on Problem Statements.
- COVID-19
- Committee Work

2020 Safety Performance Data

An overview of the IOGP Safety and Process Safety Performance Reports were provided and trends were discussed.

Problem Statements

Notes below combine status updates from IOGP / IADC, along with those provided by IRF 'Oversight Groups' in session #7

1. Problem Statement #1 – Prevention of Well Control Incidents:
  - An IOGP led task force was initiated last year to develop a recommended practice respecting pore pressure fracture gradient (PPFG).
  - It is targeted that the finalized version should be available earlier part of 2022.
2. Problem Statement #2 – Digitalization:
  - Identification of concrete deliverables to address risks is still in the development phase.
  - Topic has been narrowed down to reducing risk from automated systems by using a cross functional approach in systems engineering (human-centred technology development)
  - As digitalization develops and progresses, cybersecurity becomes more critical; therefore, it is necessary for industry to develop and improve cybersecurity guidelines.
  - IRF 'Problem Statement Oversight Group' representatives participating in IOGP Human Performance summits / workshops.
  - IRF representatives are also invited to attend an upcoming IADC Cybersecurity Committee meeting.
3. Problem Statement #3 – Investigation Quality / Sharing and Application of Learnings:
  - It was noted that there is already much guidance available on conducting investigations.
  - However, a primary gap is that a tool to include human factors in investigations is missing. Work being done by IOGP's Human Factors Working Group to be leveraged.
  - A survey is to be conducted through IADC membership to better understand how investigations are currently being conducted, and to identify impediments to the implementation of established guidance / application of learnings.
  - IRF 'Problem Statement Oversight Group' representatives participating in IOGP Human Performance summits / workshops.



	<p><b><u>COVID-19</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IOGP has publications related to the COVID-19 pandemic and business continuity available on their website.</li><li>• Discussion topics included:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Concerns around elevated mental health risks as a result of COVID, and that Operators should be on the look out for a potential increase in incidents as a result.</li><li>○ Concerns about long-term effects down the road related to training, competencies, etc.</li><li>○ IADC plans for a global medical committee to look at protocols so that they can offer global guidance for managing contagious diseases.</li><li>○ Vaccinations being the strongest barrier to preventing COVID-19 spread.</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b><u>Committee Work</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Status updates were provided on work being done by the IOGP Safety Committee, along with its various subcommittees, and on the Wells Expert Committee.</li></ul>
9	<p><b><u>SESSION 9 – FUTURE STRATEGIC PLANNING – DIRECTION AND GOALS</u></b></p> <p>The following items were reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IRF Members confirmed a continued focus on the three published Problem Statements.</li><li>• Cataloguing of risk gaps that could become topics for future Problem Statements was discussed; however, success on current initiatives needs to be achieved before embarking on new topics.</li><li>• IRF Members to promote the current Problem Statement initiatives within their own jurisdictions, along with implementation of outcomes once available.</li><li>• In addition to sustained engagement with industry associations on the Problem Statement initiatives, other areas for continued focus for the remainder 2021 and in 2022 include: the potential addition of renewables / energy transition to the IRF remit, decommissioning and abandonment, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Safety Conference to be held next year.</li></ul>
10	<p><b><u>SESSION 10 – MEETING FOLLOW-UP / ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS</u></b></p> <p>The following items were discussed:</p> <p><b><u>IRF Management Committee</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IRF Management Committee Chair: Canada relinquishing Chair in December, 2021. Stuart Smith (NOPSEMA, Australia) to assume the role as Chair of the IRF Management Committee.</li><li>• IRF Management Committee Member (Europe): Chris Flint (UK) to take on the role, replacing Anne Myhrvold (Norway).</li><li>• IRF Management Committee Member (Americas): Awaiting nomination.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Meeting Communiqué</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Communiqué is to be finalized and posted on the IRF website.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Administrative Matters</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of IRF Charter for potential updates</li><li>• IRF Website / Communications</li><li>• Internal file sharing protocol</li></ul>
	<p><b><u>CLOSING REMARKS:</u></b></p> <p>Scott Tessier (Chair) thanked all participants for a very productive meeting, for taking the time to provide pre-reading materials, and for participating and providing valuable contributions.</p>