



International Regulators' Forum Annual General Meeting
2, 5 & 6 October 2023

Meeting Format: In person (Perth) and virtual

Summary of discussions and action points

Country representatives:

Country	Agency	Representative
Australia	National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA)	Sue McCarrey (Chair) Derrick O'Keeffe Owen Wilson (Session 2)
Brazil	National Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels (ANP)	Daniel Maia Luiz Bispo Caroline Morais
Canada	Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (CNLOPB)	Jill Mackey Paul Alexander Dave Randell
	Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB)	Robert Normore Stuart Pinks
	Canada Energy Regulator (CER)	Keith Landra
Denmark	Danish Working Environment Authority (DWEA)	Bénédicte Crapez Jan Gabrielsen
Ireland	Commission for Regulation of Utilities Water and Energy (CRU)	Ben Browne
Mexico	National Agency for Safety, Energy and Environment (ASEA)	Blanca del Carmen Martínez Mendoza
Netherlands	State Supervision of Mines (SSM)	Britt van der Vleut Theodor Kockelkoren
New Zealand	WorkSafe New Zealand	Nick Dawtry Donna Wong
Norway	Petroleum Safety Authority (PSA)	Anne Myhrvold Finn Carlsen
United Kingdom	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (OPRED)	Guy Heaton
	Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	Matthew Blackburn
United States	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)	Stacey Noem Bryan Domangue



Industry representatives:

Agency	Representative
International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC)	Jim Rocco
International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP)	Steve Norton

Observers:

Country	Agency	Representative
Trinidad and Tobago	Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI)	Marc Rudder Lavaughn Jack-Ovid



MINUTES

1	<p><u>WELCOMING REMARKS</u></p> <p>Sue McCarrey opened the meeting and welcomed all IRF Members attending the AGM in Perth and online.</p> <p>The Safety Moment covered a US Airways A320 plane that landed on the Hudson River in 2009 and reflected on how effective safety training can be to all workers.</p> <p>The agenda for the 2023 AGM was agreed with no changes and the minutes from the May 2023 mid-year meeting were agreed with the actions updated accordingly.</p>
2	<p><u>SESSION 1: COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS</u></p> <p>Session was led by Matthew Blackburn (United Kingdom). IRF Members provided country updates as pre-reading, with principal groups of challenges identified across jurisdictions.</p> <p>Common themes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset integrity (linked to the pandemic creating a maintenance backlog, change of ownership, life extension of facility, and asset repurposing for CCS) • The challenge of energy transition (consideration of ageing assets for CCS, work required to transition to net zero by 2050), and • Decommissioning (operator's financial capacity, increased risk due to new operators) <p>Notable discussion items were ensuring offshore health and safety, cyber security, and the concern of physical asset security.</p> <p>Mr Daniel Maia left the meeting to join IOPER Group.</p>
3	<p><u>SESSION 2: PROGRESS WITH RENEWABLES SAFETY REMIT EXPANSION</u></p> <p>Owen Wilson (Australia) provided an update on the expansion of IRF into the safety of offshore renewables. The working group ceases and the establishment of the new sub-committee commences after this session. The position of Chair of the sub-committee was opened for volunteers with Australia acting as Chair of the IRF Offshore Renewable Energy Sub-Committee (IRFORES) for the next 12 months or until a volunteer for Chair is received.</p> <p>A change to Article V.1.(b) of the IRFORES Charter was tabled for a chairperson to be a senior representative or someone with the support of a senior representative of the regulator. Following the Mid-Year meeting Denmark, UK, Netherlands and Canada expressed interest to join the IRFORES. Norway and USA now confirm interest to join the IRFORES. WorkSafe NZ stated that NZ does not have regulations yet and is still in the infancy stage but is keen to join the IRFORES as an observer to learn from other countries on this matter.</p> <p>The IRFORES was formally established with full support from the IRF. Owen tabled a change to the IRFORES Charter for the criteria for membership to allow inclusion of observers for those countries that have not yet legislated or do not have a renewables agency. IRF accepted this proposed change, and a new article will be added into Chapter 2 of the IRFORES Charter.</p> <p>ACTION: A communique will be issued after the AGM which will list the inaugural members of the IRFORES with representation from UK, Canada, US, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Australia, and Ireland.</p> <p>Owen Wilson left the meeting.</p>



4	<p><u>SESSION 3: JOINT TRIPIRATE WITH IUF AND IOPER</u></p> <p>The session was led by the International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulators (IOPER) chair Cameron Grebe (Australia).</p> <p>Discussion topics for this session were Carbon Capture and Storage regulatory approaches, end of life decommissioning/reuse of equipment and financial assurance.</p>
5	<p><u>CONFERENCE PREPARATION (2 October 2023)</u></p> <p>The IRF Members discussed the upcoming conference on 3 and 4 October 2023.</p>
6	<p><u>SESSION 4: CONFERENCE OUTCOMES (5 October 2023)</u></p> <p>IRF Members reflected on the conference and agreed that it was a great success with interesting topics and capable presenters. The number of attendees (270 registered) was seen as favourable, along with diversity between regulators and industry representatives in attendance. The photos, presentations, and videos from the conference will be made available over the coming weeks.</p>
7	<p><u>SESSION 5: INTERNAL DISCUSSION – OPPORTUNITY STATEMENTS AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT</u></p> <p>Derrick O’Keeffe (Australia) and Stuart Pinks (Canada) led this session updating IRF on the progress of the opportunity statements, along with a proposed structure for the future. The session covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of good work of steering committee relating to opportunity and establishing a structured work plan. • Plan moving into phase six – monitor statements progress. Industry encouraged to develop solutions, clearly linking back to opportunity statements (commit to report back) • Term of Reference – agreed clear wording required to define group A from group B. • Current statements remain in group A (a discussion to be had in 2024 regarding Well Control being moved to group B) • Further topics could be considered in future (only after a statement is moved to group B) • New members required to join the steering committee as Derrick O’Keeffe and Stuart Pinks approach end of IRF involvement (prefer representation from three countries) • Ahead of Session 6 –Discussion held on the work the industry associations are doing in relation to the opportunity statements and engaging industry. Presentations from IADC and IOGP deemed insightful; however, regulator engagement by the industry associations with the working groups would be more beneficial (not just steering committee), allowing for more discussion and agreement prior to implementation of work. • It was suggested each working group provides IRF members with an overview of IOGP and IADC engagement prior to the mid-year meeting and AGM. <p>ACTION: Stuart Pinks to speak with Theodor Kockelkoren about updating the Terms of Reference to clarify how to transition of opportunity statements from group A to group B.</p>
8	<p><u>SESSION 6: DISCUSSION WITH INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS</u></p>



	<p>IADC's Jim Rocco, and IOGP's Steve Norton joined the meeting and provided IRF with a high-level overview of the IADC member survey results on accident/incident investigation procedures, followed by a verbal industry update.</p> <p>The IADC and IOGP then provided IRF with an update on the progress of the opportunity statements since the mid-year meeting and an outline of the action plan to 2025.</p> <p>Jim Rocco and Steve Norton left the meeting.</p>
9	<p><u>SESSION 7: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</u></p> <p>Dave Randell (Canada – CNLOPB) led the session with IRF Members being provided with the 2022 data, which showed a rise in reported injuries.</p> <p>It was noted that information presented was not completely accurate as some countries are not submitting complete data sets. As the information is shared on the IRF website, countries should submit completed forms, to ensure the data is more accurate.</p> <p>ACTION: Dave Randell to review the guidelines and data that is being reported.</p> <p>ACTION: Before the AGM 2024 a meeting should be organised for the results to be discussed to ensure all countries have provided the information.</p> <p>ACTION: Performance indicators to be uploaded on the IRF website.</p>
10	<p><u>SESSION 8: ENERGY SECURITY</u></p> <p>The pre-reading material provided by the Petroleum Safety Authority (PSA) for this session outlines the serious consequences to the energy supply in Europe due to the conflict in Ukraine. Knowledge and capacity built up by the companies in strengthening and maintaining barriers will contribute to overall energy security against deliberate attacks.</p>
11	<p><u>SESSION 9: CARBON CAPTURE & STORAGE</u></p> <p>Stacey Noem (US – BSEE) led this session on Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and updated IRF Members that the US recently passed an amendment to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to include authority for oversight in geological structures in sub-seabeds. It was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operators are delaying decommissioning of those platforms with potential use for CCS, even before regulations are in place and noted this as very concerning.• UK is considering the application of the offshore safety regime to CCS to establish if it is fit for purpose, and also noted the need for different requirements for safety case submissions to reflect the different hazards and risks associated these new technologies.• The Netherlands is looking to issue two new permits shortly for CCS, and working very closely with the operators to ensure infrastructure is deemed safe for use.• Norway have mapped the whole shelf as a guide for industry on storage and the approach they are taking as regulators is for the use of new wells only.• The safety surrounding CCS discussed, and the potential of a joint industry project (possibly an opportunity statement), and a platform for shared learning. <p>ACTION: The Netherlands and Norway to present to IRF around CCS and their learnings so far in this area.</p>
12	<p><u>SESSION 10: CASE STUDY 1 – HYDROGEN SAFETY</u></p>



	<p>Elin Witsø (Norway – PSA) joined the meeting to present on Hydrogen Safety covering the transformation of the industry into energy, and the new safety issues that will need to be addressed as more companies go into this space.</p> <p>ACTION: Check IRFORES covers hydrogen in their sub-committee</p> <p>ACTION: PSA to provide a referred hydrogen presentation from Equinor, to IRF Secretariat for distribution to IRF Members.</p>
13	<p><u>SESSION 11: MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE LATE LIFE ASSETS</u></p> <p>Session was led by Matthew Blackburn (UK HSE) and provided a presentation on the challenges currently facing UK around late life assets and discussion around the table indicated that most countries are facing the same challenges for both fixed and floating structures.</p> <p>The challenges faced are transfer of ownership on ageing assets, varying levels of maintenance of the asset, assets being used beyond their design life, and extreme environment loading on both fixed and floating assets. It was agreed by IRF that two working groups will be formed to address this issue, one for fixed structures and one for floating structures. UK has a program in place for assessing the impact of extreme loading on its fixed structures and will be happy to share this with a working group of interested parties. A similar group may form for floating assets (particularly FPSOs) at a later date. Canada, Norway, Brazil, and Australia have all agreed to be part of this working group.</p>
14	<p><u>SESSION 12: CASE STUDY 2 – SOCIAL LICENSE TO OPERATE</u></p> <p>The session was led by Theodor Kockelkoren (NL). who shared a case study on the Groningen gas field, which led to 200k+ houses being affected due to the rise of number and severity of earthquakes in the region, leading to houses having to be strengthened. Risk was only defined from a technical perspective, however serious health damage to 10,000 people was reported. This led to redefining safety, investing in competencies, and increased stakeholder engagement.</p>
15	<p><u>SESSION 13: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND ENERGY INDUSTRIES (MEEI)</u></p> <p>IRF invited Marc Rudder from Trinidad and Tobago who attended the IRF AGM as an observer to present an overview on MEEI. The presentation comprised the role of the MEEI and management of the industry, petroleum act and regulations, operators and offshore facilities, and the current challenges faced.</p>
16	<p><u>SESSION 14: 2024 AGM</u></p> <p>IRF AGM 2024 is scheduled for 30 October to 1 November. The host country, Ireland, have booked Dublin Castle (conference centre) and will provide a selection of preferred hotels. Further points discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently no membership applications have been submitted, and a discussion to be held at the 2024 mid-year meeting around reaching out to other countries to join IRF.• The IRF charter requires updating to include renewables remit, and the updated charter provided to members for review.• The Management Committee membership was discussed, and it was noted Samantha Peace has now assumed Chris Flint's role, and Canada will join the group in preparation for the IRF Conference 2025 (up to four members as per charter).



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formation of the IRFORES and the relevant process was discussed. Owen Wilson will be in contact regarding the membership for the sub-committee to ensure those countries that want to join are able to take part.• The OTC 2024 in Houston is being held from 6 to 9 May 2024, and IRF Members agreed to hold the mid-year meeting on Monday 6 May.• BSEE advised those members travelling to Houston will be able to attend the BSEE offices for the meeting.• The 2026 AGM is scheduled to be held in Brazil. <p>ACTION: IRF Charter to be updated to include the new renewables sub-committee</p> <p>ACTION: New Zealand would like to join the IRF Working Group on late life assets for floating structures.</p> <p>ACTION: IRF Management Committee meeting before the end of the year to discuss next years AGM. Ireland to attend the meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: IRF Conference Planning sub-committee to be established at the 2024 Mid-Year meeting.</p>
17	<p><u>SESSION 15: COMMUNICATIONS</u></p> <p>It was noted that the IRF website could be improved by allowing IRF to share more information internationally through this platform.</p> <p>The draft communique for the AGM was displayed, IRF Members discussed content and wording. The amended draft Communique will be emailed to members for input before being published on the IRF website.</p> <p>ACTION: Draft minutes and actions to be sent around to IRF Members for approval instead of at the mid-year meeting.</p>
18	<p><u>CLOSING REMARKS:</u></p> <p>Sue McCarrey (Chair) thanked all those who attended in-person and online for a very productive meeting with valuable conversations. Sue personally thanked Derrick O’Keeffe for his hard-work and dedication to IRF over the years. Sue extended her thanks to all of the input and assistance in making the IRF Conference a great success.</p>



ACTION ITEMS:

1. A communique will be issued after the AGM which will list the inaugural members of the IRFORES with representation from UK, Canada, US, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Australia, and Ireland.
2. Stuart Pinks to speak with Theodor Kockelkoren about updating the Terms of Reference to clarify how to transition of opportunity statements from group A to group B.
3. Dave Randell to review the guidelines and data that is being reported.
4. Before the AGM 2024 a meeting should be organised for the results to be discussed to ensure all countries have provided the information.
5. Performance indicators to be uploaded on the IRF website.
6. The Netherlands and Norway to host a CCS knowledge session at the IRF AGM 2024.
7. Check IRFORES covers hydrogen in their sub-committee.
8. PSA to provide a referred hydrogen presentation from Equinor, to IRF Secretariat for distribution to IRF Members.
9. IRF Charter to be updated to include the new renewables sub-committee.
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