

STORMWATER EXEMPTION

In June, the US Environmental Protection Agency released a final rule interpreting changes in the Clean Water Act (CWA) reflecting the interpretation advocated by IADC. Under the final rule, stormwater discharges require National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System coverage only if the discharges result in the release of a reportable quantity of oil or hazardous substances or contribute pollutants and to a violation of a water quality standard.

The publication of this rule capped the industry's long-running efforts to clarify the provisions passed in the 1987 CWA Amendments. However, it's likely that the rule will be challenged, and drilling contractors and producers are encouraged to remain involved in further developments.

US TRADE COMMITTEE

In April, Mr Petty was elected to a 4-year term as chairman of the US Industry Advisory Committee for Automotive Equipment and Capital Goods.

The committee advises the US government on trade policy, including bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. Other members of the committee include representatives of **Cooper Cameron**, **General Motors** and **Caterpillar**. ♠

IADC keeps watch over land operations, HSE performance

IT'S BEEN A busy year for onshore drilling contractors, as has IADC been in keeping on top of rules and regulations that impact land operations. **Joe Hurt**, IADC director—land operations, has provided leadership for this effort as well as staff support to the IADC Rig Moving Committee and Health, Safety and Environment Committee.

RIG MOVING COMMITTEE

IADC's Rig Moving Committee is continuing to develop guidelines for winch trucks and rigging equipment by sharing design information of rig-up trucks and the type of rigging, such as winches and gin-poles, rigging and block selection as well as equipment inspection, driver and swamper competencies.



Joe Hurt

Committee members are reviewing topics such as changes to the new rules on load securement, driver's qualifications and background checks. They're also continuing to further clarify the Hours-of-Service rule issued by the US Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Among other issues monitored are:

- Streamlining the process of approval for heavy-hauler permits in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation now offers an online option along with additional personnel to man telephones to improve the permit process.
- Clarifying the effect of a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) rule to reduce the required stopping distance for truck tractors. Brake manufacturers were invited to a meeting to educate IADC members on how this rule would work and how it might affect operations.
- The new American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard of Vehicle Safety that affected IADC member companies that own or lease vehicles for company use was tracked and reviewed.

HSE COMMITTEE

The IADC HSE Committee continues to monitor activities at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The committee has completed a review of and submitted comments on the OSHA Rig Inspection Sheet. The sheet contains citations referencing industry standards as well as OSHA regulations.

The committee has also actively participated in the EPA's new Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Regulations and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit regulations. The committees have tracked the road engine requirements for 2007 and the new low/ultra low sulfur diesel labeling rules for dispensing units.

IADC also continues to publish the widely used Safety Alerts. To date, nearly 300 alerts have been published to help members worldwide improve safety records.

SAFETY STATISTICS

Each year the HSE Committee produces the Annual Report of Occupational Incidents. The report analyzes incident data provided by participating drilling contractors to produce the most complete and accurate incident data report for the oil and gas well drilling industry.

This year, the HSE Committee produced the Annual Report of Occupational Incidents by analyzing incident data provided by 105 participating drilling contractors. That number represents approximately 78% of the worldwide oil and gas well drilling rig fleet.

The 2005 report showed that the industry reached a record-low Lost Time Incidence (LTI) rate despite a 10% increase in drilling manhours in the year. The LTI rate dropped from 0.63 in 2004 to 0.60 in 2005, a 5% reduction, even though total reported manhours increased from 336.12 million to 369.56 million. A total of 1,077 LTIs were reported.

The full report has been sent to all participants in the Accident Statistics Program (ASP), and nonparticipants can purchase it from the IADC publications department by calling +1 713 292 1945, ext 215. ♠