

15 July 2011

Media Release

Independent Review panel announced

A review of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority's performance is now underway with the appointment by Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism, Martin Ferguson, of the NOPSA 2011 Operational Review panel.

As a requirement of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGSA) the three-year review will include an independent assessment of NOPSA's operational effectiveness in its regulatory functions, which include inspection, enforcement and investigation activities concerning the health and safety of persons engaged in offshore petroleum operations.

The 2011 Operational Review will examine NOPSA's activities and legislated functions including engagement with stakeholders, particularly in relation to Safety Case development and the implementation and promotion of improved workplace safety practices and culture.

NOPSA CEO, Jane Cutler, said she welcomes the commencement of the 2011 Operational Review and will be keen to cooperate with the Review team and read the recommendations of the final report, scheduled to be handed to the Minister by Wednesday November 30.

The independent panel, with backgrounds drawn from across industry, government and corporate sectors, consists of three members selected for their expertise, experience and ability to provide informed, independent comment.

Chair of the 2011 Operational Review Team, Chris Raper is an experienced industrial relations practitioner with more than 30 years in workplace employment and safety in both the public and private sectors. Prior to his retirement as Deputy Director General at the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, Mr Raper was National President and NSW Branch Secretary of the Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union.

Fellow panel member, Robin Stewart-Crompton, is currently a senior occupational health and safety (OHS) and workplace relations consultant, and former CEO of the National Occupational, Health and Safety Commission. A 2011 Safe Work Australia Week Safety Ambassador, Mr Stewart-Crompton chaired the National Review of the Model OHS Laws and has advised a number of government bodies on OHS law and practice.

Well respected amongst his peers for his expertise and his contribution to the petroleum industry, Dr Agu Kantsler has over 30 years' experience in oil and gas, including substantial tenures with Woodside and Shell in senior positions including Executive Vice President Health, Safety and Security, and Executive Vice President Exploration and New Ventures. In 2005, Dr Kantsler was awarded the APPEA Reg Sprigg Medal for his outstanding service to the oil and gas industry. He is currently a non-executive Chairman of Miro Advisors.

For more information about the NOPSA Three-Year Operational Review and the Minister's Terms of Reference, visit nopsareview.gov.au or email enquiries@nopsareview.gov.au. Submissions can be sent to submissions@nopsareview.gov.au.
<ENDS>>

NOPSA Media contact: **Natasha Mutch** e: natasha.mutch@nopsa.gov.au m: 0407 076 041

#