

## OHS IMPROVEMENT NOTICE

To: Noble Contracting II GmbH

In conducting an OHS inspection in relation to the Noble Clyde Boudreaux facility, I, [REDACTED] a NOPSEMA inspector appointed under section 602 of the Act, am satisfied on reasonable grounds that the person named above as the responsible person is contravening, or has contravened and is likely to contravene again:

- (a) Clause 9 (2) of Schedule 3 to Act;

at the Noble Clyde Boudreaux facility.

The reasons for my opinion are:

Previous noise surveys of the facility identified, through calculations, a number of members of the workforce being exposed to a level of noise that exceeds the noise exposure standard of LAeq,8h, 85dB(A). These members of the workforce were categorised as Mechanic, Motorman, Shakerhand/Floorman, Electrician, Welder, Derrickman, Deck pusher, Electronic Technician, Roustabout, Dogman and Crane Operator.

The noise surveys identified the engine room, emergency generator room, mud pump room and starboard-aft area (where the air compressors, air dryers and BOP control unit rooms are located) as the areas which expose personnel to high noise levels. A recommendation was made to take immediate action in those areas to reduce the noise exposure of personnel. The noise surveys also indicate that a further noise control assessment is required to be conducted to assess the appropriate noise control options in the engine room, compressor room, mud pump room, cementing area, ventilation systems (deck fans) and the workshops. During the inspection no evidence was produced to demonstrate that action has been taken to limit the exposure time of personnel working in high noise areas, or that a noise control assessment has been conducted to determine if engineering controls to reduce or eliminate the noise are practicable.

Further, no evidence was produced to demonstrate that a health risk assessment for noise has been performed to identify, assess and control the risk associated with the use of portable equipment for surface preparation. Portable equipment includes deck scalers, buffers, grinders and needle guns. During the inspection, surface preparation activity using a deck scaler was observed where the sound pressure level was recorded at 120 dB(A) using a sound level meter.

After consideration of the attenuation provided by the hearing protectors being used, personnel are likely being exposed to a level of noise that exceeds the noise exposure standard of LAeq, 8h of 85dB(A).

As a result of this contravention I am satisfied that there is, or may be, the following risk to the health or safety of any person exposed to noise hazards at the facility:

Serious health effects that could lead to occupational noise-induced hearing loss to personnel undertaking work in, and in proximity to, the engine room, emergency generator room, mud pump room and starboard-aft area (where the air compressors, air dryers and BOP Control unit rooms are located) or where noise generating portable equipment is being used.

You are required to take action within **60 days** of the date of this notice to prevent or reduce the risk.

The following action must be taken by the responsible person within the period specified above:

1. Undertake a Noise Control Assessment on the Noble Clyde Boudreaux for the areas identified in the facility noise surveys and for the use of portable equipment including but not limited to deck scalers, buffers, grinders and needle guns. Consider different noise control options with predicted noise reduction benefits while including the impacts of practicability, safety and costs of implementation to reduce noise exposure to ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable); and
2. Develop a plan to implement appropriate noise control options; and
3. In the interim establish administrative controls to limit the time personnel are working in, and in the proximity of the areas identified in the surveys and similarly, to limit the time personnel operate noise generating portable equipment; or
4. Implement such other controls as required to reduce risk to a level that is as low as reasonably practicable.

**Signed:**   
**NOPSEMA Inspector**

**Dated:** 11 September 2015

NOTES: (Please see back of notice)

When the required improvement has been completed, return this part of the notice to the following person at the address below:

Name:   
Position: OHS Inspector  
Address: Send in electronic format via email to:  
[submissions@nopsema.gov.au](mailto:submissions@nopsema.gov.au)  
Telephone number: +61 8 6188 8700

Specify the action that has been taken to comply with this notice in the space below.

Improvement Notice No. 0605 has been complied with by:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES:**

1. Under clause 78 of Schedule 3 to the Act, a person who fails to ensure that this notice is complied with, to the extent that it relates to a matter over which the person has control, may be liable to a penalty of 300 penalty units or a civil penalty of 400 units.
2. This notice must be displayed in a prominent place at or near each workplace at which work affected by the notice is being performed and, must not be tampered with or removed before the notice has ceased to have effect.
3. If the notice is not issued by being given to the operator's representative at the facility, the responsible person (unless the responsible person is the titleholder) must cause a copy of the notice to be given to the operator's representative.
4. If the responsible person is the operator or an employer (other than the operator) of members of the workforce, the operator's representative at the facility must give a copy of the notice to each health and safety representative for a designated work group having group members performing work that is affected by the notice.
5. If the responsible person is the titleholder, as soon as practicable after issuing the notice, the NOPSEMA inspector will take reasonable steps to give a copy of the notice to the operator and, if the NOPSEMA inspector is at the facility when the notice issued, the operator's representative at the facility.
6. If the responsible person is the titleholder, but the inspector is not at the facility when the notice is issued, the operator must give a copy of the notice to the operator's representative at the facility.
7. As soon as practicable after issuing the notice, the NOPSEMA inspector will take reasonable steps to give a copy of the notice to, where applicable:
  - (a) the employer of an employee who is a member of the workforce if the notice is issued to the employee, and in connection with work performed by the employee, and
  - (b) the owner of any workplace plant, substance or thing that the notice relates to, unless the owner is the responsible person or an employer referred to in (a), and
  - (c) if the responsible person is the owner of any workplace, plant, substance or thing because of which the contravention has occurred, or is likely to occur: the operator of the facility, and if the employer of employees who work in that workplace or who use that plant, substance or thing is a person other than the operator—that employer; and
  - (d) the titleholder, if the responsible person is the operator, and the contravention relates, or is likely to relate to, the titleholders' well related obligations.
8. Under item 8 of subclause 80A(1) of Schedule 3 to the Act, any of the following persons may in writing request the reviewing authority to review the NOPSEMA inspector's decision:
  - the operator of the facility
  - the titleholder, if the notice is issued to a titleholder;
  - any other person to whom the notice has been issued;
  - an employer, if affected by the decision;
  - a relevant health and safety representative;
  - a relevant workforce representative, if requested by a member of the workforce affected by the decision;
  - a person who owns any workplace plant, substance or thing to which the NOPSEMA inspector's decision relates.
9. An improvement notice ceases to have effect when the responsible person takes the action specified in the notice.