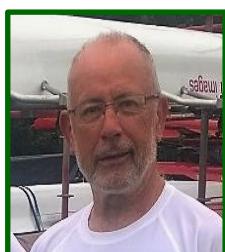


# OELG Newsletter

The newsletter for the National Operating Experience Learning Group

## What we do

The OELG is the main forum for Operating Experience Feedback practitioners from UK Nuclear facilities and operators. Through this forum, organisations are encouraged to share best practice for implementation of OEF systems, improvement ideas and good practices for use of experience and lessons learned, so that members continue to develop into true learning organisations. The forum promotes identification, discussion and analysis of national trends and strategic issues and enjoys open dialogue and engagement with Regulators, Contractors and relevant Stakeholders.



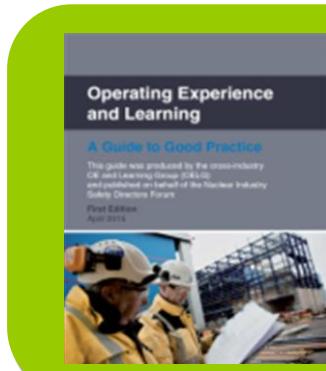
### Welcome from our new Chair Martin Claxton, Babcock Marine (Clyde)

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter and may I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Chair, a position I was humbled to assume, following as I do in the footsteps of Fred Brookes. Fred has led this group for over six years and I know that under his leadership and together with the support of the outgoing secretary Michelle Marr they have achieved many significant improvements in the world of operating experience, for which we are most grateful.

My background includes almost 35 years as an engineer within the Royal Navy Submarine Service. As a submariner you quickly come to recognise that the error of just one person could have catastrophic consequences for an entire crew and so the ability and capability to learn from the experiences of those who have gone before are vital factors which play a major part in ensuring submarine safety and operational availability. Getting it right by not repeating failures becomes very personal when you're living and working in the depths of the oceans!

I consider the Operating Experience Learning Group to be a unique forum in which the experience gained across the UK's civil and defence nuclear programmes can be acquired, understood and most importantly shared. The diversity of backgrounds and specialisations that its members bring is a vital asset and we will continue to look at ways in which we can better capture and utilise such experience for the benefit of all. Of equal importance is ensuring that the knowledge gain is not just limited to those within the group and we will also be establishing a more evidence based approach to determining the knowledge transfer that has occurred within organisations represented in the group.

The other sub-groups of the Safety Directors' Forum cover a wide range of fields and I believe there is scope for improving our "cross-pollination" and my aim is to achieve this through improving our direct lines of communication and visibility of activities. Added to this we will take the opportunity to identify and invite attendance from those outside our industries who can provide us with the benefit of their experience and provide the tangential view that can help ensure we do not become too inwardly focused. Our approach to experiential learning must remain on an open loop.



### A Guide to Good Practice

The Guide to Good Practice, which has been produced by members of the OELG, has now been published and can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.nuclearinst.com/OELG>

## Changing of the guard

Following more than six years in post, Fred Brookes and Michelle Marr are handing over the reins of the OELG. That is six years which equates to 24 separate meetings and just as many evening gatherings, all requiring meticulous details and planning.



Fred and Michelle took on the roles of Chairperson and Secretary in October 2009 from Vince Fisher and Andrew Tinsley of AWE and very quickly made their mark on the organisation of the calendar, the agenda and management of the meetings, ensuring that meetings ran smoothly and effectively.

During their time in the roles Fred and Michelle have overseen major changes to the group, ensuring it has remained both relevant and effective.

The meeting held in Manchester in January 2016 also marked the end of involvement of Jim Davis as Deputy Chair. Jim provided great experience and knowledge of the Nuclear Industry and in particular OE, regularly sharing informative event

presentations with the group and supporting numerous sub-committees.

Below is a list of some of the changes, improvements and achievements they have helped drive through:

- Improved understanding of the SDF and other sub-groups
- Introduction of the one day interim meeting at a central location
- Changed the Regulatory attendance and ensured the emphasis is more mutually beneficial
- Introduced the OELG Newsletter in May 2012 (first edition produced by EDF)
- Drove forward the OE Practitioner Competency Framework
- In conjunction with the sponsor ensured greater involvement and feedback from the SDF
- Introduction of the Investigation Peer Review and Hot Topics register as regular agenda items
- Completion and issuing of the Industry Guide for Good Practice to OEF

We wish Fred and Michelle all the best in their future roles.

## Royal Navy Event Reporting

During the HMNB Devonport site visit in October 2015, a presentation was given by the Royal Navy (RN) guiding the OELG through their reporting process. A hypothetical incident was depicted which allowed the group to judge the suitability, thoroughness and quality of the reporting process and assessment methods.

Third party assessors are often used in industry, such as OEF teams, that make data gathering more impartial and ensure sufficient information is gathered.

The RN routinely gathers reports from four separate stakeholders in order to form a well-rounded picture of the incident. Their assessment group sit periodically to assess reports and disseminate these across the fleet. Best practice LfE guides are produced; each duty holder is responsible to the Authorisee to ensure that learning from such events prevents recurrence.

The OELG praised the investigation and assessment methods used by the RN, recognising the difficulties of sending OEF teams around the world to deployed platforms.

### Outcome:

1. RN is considering the use of trending analysis tools shared by other members of the OELG.
2. OELG are now conducting a trial to trend OELG shared events against the RN 'Reason for Raising and Root Cause Codes'.

## Chernobyl - 30 Years on

The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant on 26 April 1986 had far reaching consequences that are still very much evident today.

Regarded as the world's worst nuclear accident, the regulatory impact has been profound, both at national and international levels. It led to the initiation of many international programmes, including the creation of the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO).

Chernobyl's accident was a turning point for the nuclear industry worldwide. It demonstrated clearly that nuclear power in some parts of the world was not safe enough. The accident gave rise to a fundamental worldwide change in approach to safety, including the introduction of the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) to assess the severity of nuclear accidents. Not only is the world now safer with the respect to nuclear power, but also with regards to other industrial areas. The pioneering role of regulation in the nuclear industry gave rise to similar initiatives in other industries.

The scale and severity of the Chernobyl accident, with its widespread radioactive contamination had not been foreseen and took most national authorities by surprise. The Soviet authorities did not initially raise an international alert and it was only after abnormal radiation levels were detected at Forsmark nuclear power plant in Sweden that the authorities acknowledged an incident had occurred. Following the Chernobyl accident, a number of measures were taken to strengthen international cooperation, including the introduction of the 'IAEA Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident'. The aim of which is to ensure relevant information about nuclear accidents is provided as early as necessary in order to minimise transboundary radiological consequences.

Despite 30 years having passed since the accident, many of the lessons from a regulatory perspective are just as relevant today, not least of which is the importance of learning from experience. This anniversary reminds us of the risk of complacency and of our individual and collective responsibility for nuclear safety.



## OELG Member Organisations

- AMEC Foster Wheeler
- AWE
- Babcock Marine Technology (Clyde & Devonport)
- Babcock Rosyth Royal Dockyard
- BAE Systems Submarines
- Cavendish Nuclear
- Direct Rail Services
- Doosan Babcock Ltd
- DSRL
- EDF Energy Nuclear Generation
- EDF Energy Nuclear New Build
- GE Healthcare
- HM Naval Base Clyde
- HM Naval Base Devonport
- Horizon
- LLWR
- Magnox Ltd
- MoD (NRPA)
- National Nuclear Laboratory
- NDA
- Radioactive Waste Management
- Rolls-Royce Nuclear Sector
- Rolls Royce MoD Vulcan
- Sellafield Ltd
- Springfields Fuels
- Urenco UK
- Urenco Chem Plants

## Next OELG Meeting

The next OELG Meeting will be held at Springfields on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016

## Future Meetings

July/August 2016 – Venue TBC  
October 2016 – LLWR (provisional)

## INES Workshop

The UK INES Workshop will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at ONR Redgrave Court, Bootle. For details and registrations please contact [ines.officer@onr.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ines.officer@onr.gsi.gov.uk)

## "It's Time for a Key Quote"

"Experience fails to teach where there is no desire to learn"

George Bernard Shaw

## OELG Contacts

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