



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alan Spackman, Vice President Offshore Technical and Regulatory Affairs

SUBJECT: Report on the 32nd meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter 1972 and 5th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter 1972

DATE: 18 February 2011

The 32nd meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter 1972 and 5th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter 1972 (LC 32 / LP 5) was held from 11 to 15 October 2011, under the Chairmanship of Ms. Chen Yue (China). The session was attended by delegations from 39 Contracting Parties to the London Convention, 24 Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, 6 non-Contracting States, 1 Associate Member of IMO, and 2 United Nations organizations, and 5 non-governmental organizations. The International Association of Drilling Contractors was not represented at this meeting.

Issues addressed during the session that may be of interest to offshore exploration and production industries included:

Revised Specific Guidelines for assessment of Bulky Items

The governing bodies, having noted that the Scientific Groups had approved the revised Specific Guidelines for Assessment of Bulky Items, adopted it, as amended. The Secretariat was instructed to circulate the revised text and also post it on the London Convention and Protocol website.

CO₂ sequestration

The Secretariat introduced a work plan for the LP Scientific Group to review the 2007 CO₂ Sequestration Guidelines, in light of the new amendments. The work plan included the consideration of:

- .1 the need to provide further specific guidance in cases of export of such streams to other countries for disposal and issues related to the management of transboundary movement of CO₂ after injection;
- .2 the transboundary CO₂ sequestration issues, identified in the past;
- .3 incorporation of, or references to, the CO₂ Sequestration Reporting Format adopted in 2008;
- .4 general references which may be helpful for the review; and
- .5 experiences of LP Contracting Parties with implementation of the 2007 CO₂ Sequestration Guidelines.

The Meeting adopted the work plan for the review of the 2007 CO₂ Sequestration Guidelines and instructed the LP Scientific Group to start with this review and present a progress report to the next Meeting.

Experiences with CO₂ sequestration technologies and their application

The delegation of Australia reported on two developments since the last session of the governing bodies:

- In January 2010 construction work had commenced on the "Gorgon" LNG plant, onshore in Western Australia. An integral part of the project would be the capture and storage of the reservoir CO₂ from the gas field. The plant would sequester between 2.7 and 3.5 million tonnes per year and some 130 million tonnes over the life of the proposal.

- In March 2010 an offshore seismic survey was undertaken in Australian waters in Bass Strait to investigate reservoir potential in furtherance of Australia's carbon capture and storage legislation.

The delegation of the United States informed the Meetings that, following the establishment of an interagency task force on CO₂ Sequestration issues, a review of options was completed and submitted to the President in August 2010. The delegation also provided an update of the "SCS Initiative" whereby, it is proposed, subject to final testing, CO₂ captured from an onshore power plant would be piped offshore for sequestration in a selected geological formation.

Riverine and sub-sea disposal of mine tailings and associated wastes

The Secretariat informed the Meeting that it had limited success in its efforts to obtain information from countries known to engage in mining activities regarding their disposal of mine tailings and associated wastes.

The Meeting endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific Groups that:

- .1 the collection of further information on the type and the extent of sub-sea and riverine mine tailings disposal operations should be continued, where possible, including:
 - from Norway on its reported discharge of mine tailings in fjords;
 - from Papua New Guinea on the implementation of recent environmental management guidelines, which had been facilitated by the Scottish Association for Marine Science; and
 - through the International Marine Minerals Society;
- .2 a further questionnaire should be developed focusing on best management practices or guidelines used by those countries that have an active mining industry, but do not employ sub-sea/riverine tailings disposal or that had discontinued such practices in recent years;
- .3 information should also be collected on the presence of storage facilities (such as lagoons and dams) of industrial wastes near the coasts (e.g., maximum distance of 100 km) where, in case of an emergency, the marine environment might be at risk; and
- .4 Contracting Parties should be invited to provide funds (\$10,000 - \$15,000) for hiring a consultant to assist with this issue, or authorize the Secretariat to use funding from the Barriers to Compliance Project instead.

Assessment of the Specific Guidelines for Assessment of Vessels (2000)

A number of delegations were concerned about the proposal to consider removing vessels from Annex 1 to the Protocol. While it was recognized that vessel disposal at sea has been or is being phased out under some regional conventions, there were some Parties that do not have recycling facilities and indeed they may be remote from such facilities. It might also be that, following assessment under Annex 2 to the London Protocol, sea disposal is found to be the most appropriate option, possibly the only safe option for disposal of vessels, provided all other LC/LP requirements were met.

The governing bodies agreed to invite the Scientific Groups to conduct a preliminary discussion at their next session on how to approach the review of the Assessment Guidelines, taking into account the Guidelines developed by the Marine Environment Protection Committee for the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships and information received from Member States, and to advise the governing bodies accordingly, at their next session in October 2011.

Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

The Meeting elected Ms Chen Yue (China) and Mr. Matthew Johnston (Australia) as Chairman Mr. Tara Ross-Watt (New Zealand) and Mr. Ali Akbar Marzban (Islamic Republic of Iran) as 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairman, for the intersessional period and for the 33rd Consultative Meeting. The Meeting also unanimously elected the same officers for the intersessional period and for the 5th Meeting of Contracting Parties.

Arrangements and dates for future meetings.

The 33rd Consultative Meeting and 6th Meeting of the Contracting Parties will be held 17 to 21 October 2011. It was agreed that the agenda for this meeting should include:

- CO₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations; and
- Coastal management and prevention of marine pollution.

The 34th session of the LC Scientific Group and 5th session of the LP Scientific Group will be held from 11 to 15 April 2011.

The complete report of the Meeting, including its annexes, is available on the IMO portion of the IADC Website at: <http://www.iadc.org/committees/offshore/IMO.html>.

Please feel free to contact me by phone (+1 / 713 292 1945) or e-mail (alan.spackman@iadc.org) with any questions you may have regarding this report.