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**PLANT GROUP REPORT FOR PRESENTATION AT THE QUARTERLY MEETING ON 20th July 2017**

**Date of Reported Meeting:** 1st June 2017

**Date of Next Meeting:** to be confirmed

**Terms of Reference for Plant Group**

Terms of Reference were circulated to the group and feedback was requested. It was strongly felt that the current attendance of the committee was far below what it should be and Members favoured making participation compulsory.

**Concrete Blowing Out Fatality**

Review of the FPS Concrete Pumping Guidance has taken place in the wake of fatality on a non-piling site. A recommended practice for blowing out is to be included in the document and requirement that hoses are not tested beyond their working pressure. The document is to be circulated for comment.

**Concrete Hoses**

A series of photos of damaged hoses that had been submitted by a Principle Contractor were discussed. It was determined that more definition is needed on the serviceability of hoses given that they can fail despite passing visual inspection. This is being followed up by Andrew Egglesdon.

**Rod and Tool Handling**

Keith Bolton proposed a position statement to the Group, it was agreed this should be hardened up into a requirement on Members to use automated approaches where ever practicable. It was also agreed the group should look to pool knowledge on auger catchers to find a better solution that removes the need for manual handling.

**CEN/TC 151 WG3 – Rig Safety Standard EN16228**

A lengthy debate was held on what the requirements are on manufacturers to provide information on the safe replacement and maintenance of components on rigs. It was agreed that Keith Bolton will extract key points of the EN16228 guidance so that manufacturers can respond to them and speak to their representatives on CEN/TC 151 WG3.

A report was given on the conflict between the rig standard and the work of ISO TC82, which is attempting to get around the guarding requirement by defining a “rock drilling machinery” category that does not require guards.

**Rig Bearing Pressure Spreadsheet**

It was reported the FPS Secretary is liaising with Derek Egan to find some dates for the next workshops between July and September 2017. An email invitation will be circulated to members in due course.

**British Fluid Power Association Update**

Andrew Egglesden reported he is in the final stages of drafting a document on the minimum requirements for fluid power systems and will be circulated to members in due course.

**Mutual Recognition of Rig Drivers’ Qualifications**

It was reported the EU funding route for the EFFC to address this issue has been closed and the EFFC are attempting a two-track approach via EU/FIEC and via the EFFC Members. It was also noted that the Belgium and the Netherlands have achieved mutual recognition of each other’s training.

**Environmental Issues / Trends**

Peter Halliwell reported BBGE are looking in to different solutions when washing Tremie pipes, Andrew Egglesden offered to share knowledge.

**Seat belts in piling rigs**

Discussion was held on the issue of main contractors requiring seat belts to be installed in piling rigs. It was stated that there is no legal requirement for these to be fitted and a position paper shall be produced to support Members wishing to resist this requirement.