

ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT

ALERT NUMBER: 03/2013

ISSUE DATE: 23 May 2013

INCIDENT / ALERT DETAILS:

In accordance with current reporting requirements:

- PON1s must be reported to DECC within 6 hours to notify required organisations of environmental incidents;
- Additional telephone notification is required to the Department for specific scenarios as detailed within PON1 reporting guidance.

Further to a review of PON1 reports submitted since 2011, DECC have established that approximately 1 in every 3 PON1s (Version 1s) submitted has been out with the required 6 hour timeframe. In addition, it has been noted that required telephone notifications are not always made to the Department.

INITIAL/ALERT FINDINGS:

Reasons which have been given by operators for late reporting include:

- Not all incident information has been available within 6 hours;
- IT issues;
- Concurrent safety incidents;
- Lost/forgotten passwords for UK Oil Portal;
- Uncertainty as to whether an incident is reportable;
- Uncertainty between operators as to who will submit PON1.

DECC are of the opinion that in most cases late reporting can be avoided by:

- Raising awareness of offshore staff regarding PON1 reporting guidance;
- Utilising onshore support to assist with reporting;
- Obtaining guidance from onshore support;
- Submitting fax PON1s during IT outages;
- Providing available information within 6 hours and updating the PON1 thereafter as information becomes available.

Operators are requested to disseminate the content of this alert so the PON1 reporting requirements are achieved.

Further Information

Any queries relating to this alert should be addressed to:

Offshore Environmental Inspectorate
Offshore Environment and Decommissioning
Atholl House
86-88 Guild Street
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Or: offshore.inspectorate@decc.gsi.gov.uk

