

Managing Major Accident Risks

Peter Wilkinson

Major accident risks are intrinsically more difficult to manage than 'occupational' safety risks. This can be attributed to the

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From 2001 – 2005, Peter was the principal "architect" for the development of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority. During this period, Peter was also an advisor to Neville Wran during his review of mine safety in New South Wales, and with Andrew Hopkins advised the West Australian Government in their review of mine safety regulation.

From 1991 – 2001 Peter worked in the North Sea for the UK's Health and Safety Executive, Offshore Safety Division regulating the offshore petroleum industry following the Piper Alpha disaster. This included work on developing the safety case regime. ■

- The behaviours necessary at a senior leadership level to ensure problems with critical risk controls are reported, and;
- The governance arrangements that can be put in place to manage the major accident risk controls. ■

Peter Wilkinson is Principal Consultant with Noetic Risk Solutions specialising in the oil

rated by McKinsey and Co as an example of excellence.

complexity of the "barriers" needed to prevent a major accident event (MAE) and their rarity. However, after every major incident the official inquiries inevitably identify failures in risk management, including issues which could and should have been identified prior to the incident. Is this hindsight bias or were some, or all of these failures identifiable prior to the incident?

This presentation will examine major accident prevention from the perspective of senior leaders. It will argue that it *is* possible to identify and manage major accident risks and that there are specific approaches, tools and behaviours which can be adopted to significantly improve their management. These include:

- Specific briefing (or training) for senior leaders in *how* typical offshore oil and gas MAEs have occurred, so that the typical (and often repeated) patterns of causation are apparent;

and gas and mining in last 18 months Peter has assignments for clients UK, Malaysia, Timor Les the US Gulf of Mexico a Australian Government oilfield blowout.

Peter has an unusual mix industry experience. From was the Group Manager Excellence and Risk in Ca a member of the Caltex. He oversaw the building safety culture and the in enterprise wide risk man

- The importance of clarity relevant to a facility are to the specific (and crit
- Active monitoring by li "health" of these contro what this looks like will