

Improving An Organisation's Safety Culture Readiness

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Safety Culture has been identified as an area for improvement in our industry within Lord Cullen, Baker and Oil Spill Commission Reports, along with Australian Ministerial reviews associated with Montara and Varanus Island major accident events. We have over 20 years of history lessons to draw upon from the energy industry (and other high-risk industries), along with numerous hints from Regulatory Authorities and external stakeholders, yet we have not fully embraced the challenge ahead of us.

There are several reasons for not taking on this challenge, all of which need to be addressed. These may include:

- level of understanding within an organisation;

- scepticism regarding whether it would work; long term management commitment; and
- ability to measure/monitor improvement results.

If industry members are to address this, then information and case studies of failure and success need to be shared to tackle inaccurate pre-existing perceptions.

Vermilion has had experience with Safety Culture since 2006. In 2010, Vermilion formally developed a Safety Culture Readiness Strategy adapting the lessons learnt from a previous improvement campaign. Although the journey has only just officially started, Vermilion is able to share the knowledge which it has gained on how to best address this challenge.

By providing an example of Vermilion's experience with Safety Culture Readiness Improvement, the proposed paper will provide:

- clarity on what safety culture is, the terms associated with this field and the research behind it;
- identification of the available options for the organisation;
- an overview on how a company would embark on an improvement program; and
- a review VOGA's work has done thus far, the results achieved, lessons learnt and measures of success. ■