

## Safety First

Since 2004 BWEA through the Health & Safety Steering Group, which has broad representation from across the membership, has been progressing initiatives to increase the overall standard of Health & Safety across the UK wind industry, both onshore and offshore. They are aimed at "raising the bar" as far as H&S is concerned and designed to ensure that as far as practical the UK wind industry remains self regulated rather than having regulation imposed upon it. They have the support of both the BWEA board and the Health & Safety Executive:

- **Revised BWEA H&S guidelines**

(re-issued April 2005), can be downloaded from the BWEA website

- **Wind Turbine Safety Rules (WTSR)**

common standards for managing operational safety in wind turbines. They give all involved in the servicing and maintenance of wind turbines a method of achieving a consistent way of working regardless of owner/operator. Implementation is well advanced at wind farms owned by E.ON, npower, ScottishPower & RES with Siemens, Vestas and B9 Energy aiming to have the majority of wind turbines in their portfolios conforming by the end of 2006 and plans for all their sites to conform by end Q1 2007. An awareness day aimed at other owners & operators in the industry is to be held on 13th December. Please visit [www.bwea.com/safety/safety\\_rules.html](http://www.bwea.com/safety/safety_rules.html) for more information.

- **Wind farm health & safety events database**

near hits and incidents database to feedback operational experience from all wind farm life phases - site design & development through to de-commissioning – first report issued August 2006.

- **Minimum Training Standards**

for personnel engaged in activities in the sector. Training modules in the areas of Marine Survival, Working

at Height and Safety Passport have been being rolled out with ongoing development of standards in Electrical Safety, Management of Projects and Crane Safety.

Additionally, there are a number of other activities in hand on specific topic areas e.g. search and rescue provisions on offshore wind farms, medical guidelines for companies employing workers, initial guidance for wave and tidal sector. The Steering Group also recognise the challenges faced by new companies looking to enter the industry and situations where workers mother tongue is not English. These initiatives will be reported on as and when the work on them is approaching completion and deliverables are available for members use.

The following industry representatives are well placed to provide more information on the initiatives outlined:

- H&S Guidelines – [helen@helacol.com](mailto:helen@helacol.com)
- WTSR – [tony.nott@eon-uk.com](mailto:tony.nott@eon-uk.com)
- H&S database – [rod.blunden@btinternet.com](mailto:rod.blunden@btinternet.com)
- Training Standards – [james.heenan@ps.ge.com](mailto:james.heenan@ps.ge.com)

As you can see the Association, through its members, has and continues to be, very active in Health & Safety, essential to ensure that we minimise injuries to all either engaged directly in the sector or who come into contact with our installations. For example, those of you who have had the experience of working with companies employing workers whose first language is not English will appreciate the potential challenges both in cultural attitudes to health & safety and in ensuring understanding of material implementing our UK regulations and standards.

You will also appreciate that the success of our efforts is largely dependent on BWEA member companies engaging on these issues, being part of the drive for safety and providing feedback on the tools that have been produced.

Please take the opportunity, if you have not already done so, to acquaint yourself with the initiatives developed by BWEA members for BWEA members. The industry needs your commitment to ensure that all in the sector put safety first.

These initiatives are also publicised on the BWEA web site at [www.bwea.com/safety](http://www.bwea.com/safety).

### Beaully-Denny public inquiry and substation refusal

The plan to upgrade the existing 132kV transmission line from Beaully (near Inverness) to Denny (near Stirling) to 400kV will be considered at a public inquiry next year following a decision by the Scottish Executive to refer the issue. The inquiry should start early in the new year, and its findings are due by the end of 2007. The upgrade proposal, from Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Ltd (SHETL, a subsidiary of Scottish and Southern Energy), has proved controversial, with over 17,000 representations received by the Executive during the consultation period earlier this year.

The project is facing a further challenge after a related planning application to expand the Balblair substation near Beaully was rejected by Highland Council. An additional 14 acres are required at the site to accommodate extra equipment for the power line upgrade. One reason for the rejection was a claim that the application was premature, since the line itself is due to be considered at inquiry. A further complication exists in the form of Lord Lovat, chief of the Clan Fraser, who owns a strip of land necessary for the expansion plan, and is threatening to sell the land in square-foot plots, forcing SHETL to bring compulsory purchase orders against potentially hundreds of owners.