

NATIONAL STEPS NETWORK LETTER

January, 2018

Rick L. Ingram, Chairperson, National STEPS Network



Friends,

I wanted to write a quick note to wish you and yours a great 2018 and to bring you up to date on the National STEPS Network.

First, thank you for your service. Without our team of volunteer leaders across the US Onshore E&P industry, we would not exist.

We are doing well as a network. Our 20 regional networks are beginning to grow again. Prices are making a nice comeback, and in turn, so is the industry. The future seems bright for the long term.

As always after a downturn, especially one as long as this one, there are inherent problems. We all have to make those difficult decisions, but from the employer's point of view, no one wanted to see the downturn and we all had to go into survival mode for a while. It was unavoidable. A result is that many of the experienced workers who were laid off have decided not to come back into the industry. Employers are faced with the challenge of ensuring new hires, or Short Service Employees have the training and education they need. They deserve a robust mentoring program. Many new companies are coming into the industry as happens during an up cycle. We need a team effort to move forward safely.

Another issue I am seeing during my auditing is companies purchasing services from consultants to help them pass standardized safety questionnaires without actually implementing the programs. Yes, they pass, but that practice is hurting our industry in many ways. The employer has a false sense of security, and in many cases is able to get contracts, but they don't go any farther. The SMS must be implemented. Employees are not protected by a piece of paper and a contract. If an incident occurs, OSHA will review implementation, holding employers to what the program says they are doing. This is not to mention plaintiff's attorneys. That short-term sense of security of getting a passing score on an SSQ is not a light at the end of the tunnel. It could very well end up being a train.

The industry has experienced heartbreaking incidents already this year. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families, friends, and co-workers.

As many incidents that we are aware of, many serious near misses go unreported. We must continue to move forward and work to learn and improve every day.

The importance of our National STEPS Network and other initiatives like it is being continually reinforced. We need your help to invite your peers from all levels of the industry to our meetings, to step up and lead, and to share presentations and learnings from near misses, best practices and serious incidents.

Highlights:

- SafeLandUSA reached the One Million student milestone since the first class in March of 2010 for Anadarko Petroleum.

- Our Alliance with OSHA and NIOSH is very robust, and [Alliance Hazard Alerts](#) are posted in English and Spanish on our website, along with [Respirable Silica and Tank Gauging videos](#). There is an [HSE toolbox](#) on the website in the resources section which is meant to help employers fill in gaps, but we could use some thoughts on improving and updating it.

- Completely new website is now live www.nationalstepsnetwork.com

What we are doing:

I am pleased to announce that the completely new www.nationalstepsnetwork.com is now live.

Our Alliance with OSHA and NIOSH is very robust, and Alliance Hazard alerts are posted in English and Spanish, along with Respirable Silica and Tank Gauging videos. Other alerts in progress or planned include [Ground Disturbance](#) and [Dropped Objects](#), with still others are being discussed. If you would like to participate, please let us know. You can [send an email](#) directly from the website. There is an HSE toolbox on the website in the resources section which is meant to help employers fill in gaps, but we could use some thoughts on improving and updating it.

A great milestone was reached on July 4, 2017. You may or may not be aware, but SafeLandUSA reached the One Million student milestone since the first class in March of 2010 for Anadarko Petroleum. This is another example of what we as industry leaders can accomplish when we set our minds to it, and work toward a goal simply because it is the right thing to do. Thanks to the volunteer SafeLandUSA Executive Committee and Advisory Group, our Accrediting organizations, ETC, IADC and PEC, operating companies who require SLUSA, contractors and service companies that participate, students who help us improve, excellent instructors, as well as many others who have made this possible.

Along with SLUSA, I urge you all to explore the OSHA 5810 and the Red Rocks Community College Field Leadership for Oil and Gas courses. All three are highlighted on our website. We also want to invite you to participate in the 6th Biennial 2018 OSHA Safety and Health Conference for E&P this December 4th and 5th in Houston. You can find a link on the National Steps Network, or go directly to www.oshasafetyconference.org. We need sponsors, attendees and speakers. Please consider submitting an abstract and tell other experts you might know. The planning team is working to make this one the best ever, designed by

and for the US Onshore E&P industry. We hope to see you there.

Please keep fighting the good fight. I have always said;
Teamwork Works – We are proving it every day.

I'll also quote one of the original Operations Managers on the STEPS team, Ted Reed, who said
“You can pretend to care, but you can't pretend to be there.”

I urge us all, myself included, to **“Be There”**, and make a difference in 2018 and beyond.

Thanks,
Rick L. Ingram, Chairperson
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The National STEPS Network thanks:

Allyson Faist and BHP Billiton, and the Texas Oil and Gas Association for grants that have allowed us to develop such a great site.

*We also want to thank **John Warner** for his dedicated service as our webmaster for the past many years, and to **Svetlana Genet**, our new web designer and webmaster for her amazing work, but we will let you be the judges.*

Please take time to explore and let us know what you think, and show it off during your regional meetings, and forward this message to your STEPS membership so everyone will have access to the excellent website and resources.
