

Topic Paper J (Attached) – Safety Topic Paper Discussion Questions

This paper describes potential amendments to the OPR to improve the CER’s oversight of Safety. Any suggestions for improvement regarding this topic are welcome, and in particular, the CER seeks your comments on proposed improvements related to:

- process safety management; and,
- safety plans for construction, operation and maintenance, and abandonment activities.

Background and links relevant to each subtopic are provided in the Topic Paper.

Subtopic 1: Process Safety Management

Objective for Improvement

The objective of new requirements will be to help ensure that companies identify process safety hazards, then evaluate and manage related risks to prevent incidents such as fires, explosions, and unintended loss of containment events.

Proposed Options

The CER is considering the following options to meet the objective outlined above:

- adding clarification to OPR section 47 requiring a company to have a Safety Management Program that anticipates, prevents, manages, and mitigates potentially dangerous conditions and exposure to those conditions during all activities relating to construction, operation, maintenance, abandonment, and emergency situations; new language would specify that this program must incorporate both operational safety and process safety management;
- adding requirements related to detection and warning systems for hazardous atmospheres;
- adding clarification to OPR section 36(b) to specify that corrective actions must be taken to address equipment and instrument testing results that fall outside of established acceptance criteria; and
- developing technical guidance to articulate CER expectations and industry best practices related to process safety management.

Question 1:	Answer:
What is your feedback on the proposed approach?	The consideration needs to be given to the complexity and risk factors for certain activity to ensure. As example certain O & M activities would not require the same level of Safety Management Program as a new pipeline construction.

Question 2:	Answer:
What guidance is needed to support the incorporation of process safety management within the Safety Management Program? Please be as detailed as possible in terms of the nature and content of required guidance (i.e., specific topics, processes, procedures, or other practical tools that might be useful).	Procedure would be helpful and it would require consultation with all parties having the interest in such activities. We would propose to have specific activities being separated based on the risks.

Subtopic 2: Safety Plans for Construction, Operations and Maintenance, and Abandonment Activities

Objectives for Improvement

The objectives of new requirements will be to help ensure that companies:

- align safety documentation with the management system and Safety Management Program;
- develop robust safety documentation relevant to specific activity types (i.e., construction, operations and maintenance, and abandonment); and
- make safety documentation easier to access, understand, and use.

Proposed Options

The CER is considering the following options to meet the objectives outlined above:

- providing a definition of “construction” in the Interpretation section of the OPR;
- replacing existing OPR requirements for construction and maintenance safety manuals with requirements for safety plans for construction, operations and maintenance, and abandonment activities (as part of the Safety Management Program); these plans would describe the procedures, practices, resources, sequence of key safety-related activities and monitoring measures necessary to manage related hazards and to ensure the safety of the work or activity to be undertaken; and
- developing technical guidance to further articulate CER expectations related to safety plan content across each activity type.

Question 3:	Answer:
What is your feedback on the proposed approach?	<p>The term "construction" generally refers to activities involving the building, assembling, or modifying of structures, facilities, or infrastructure. However, not all fieldwork falls under this definition. For instance, routine maintenance tasks like seal replacements, which are part of day-to-day operations, are typically not classified as construction.</p> <p>When it comes to ground disturbance, construction activities often involve significant impacts, such as excavation, trenching, or drilling, which can disturb the soil or underground infrastructure. However, minor ground disturbances, like shallow digging for agricultural purposes or low-risk maintenance, may not be considered construction, depending on the context and regulations.</p>

Question 4:	Answer:
What guidance is needed to support safety plan provisions in the OPR? Please be as detailed as possible in terms of the nature and content of required guidance (i.e., specific topics, processes, procedures, or other practical tools that might be useful).	Defining "construction" based on the level of risk and impact provides a more practical and nuanced framework. This approach helps distinguish between activities that carry significant safety, environmental, or

	<p>infrastructure risks and those that are routine or minor in nature.</p> <p>For example, activities involving heavy machinery, extensive ground disturbance, or potential environmental impacts might be classified as construction due to their higher risk levels. Meanwhile, simpler tasks—like routine maintenance or small repairs—would fall outside this definition because their impact and risks are minimal.</p> <p>This risk-based perspective could also be valuable for aligning with regulatory frameworks or operational guidelines, as it prioritizes safety and environmental considerations over a broad, one-size-fits-all definition.</p>
--	---

Question 5	Answer:
Do you have any other ideas or recommendations for the CER to consider related to this Topic Paper?	