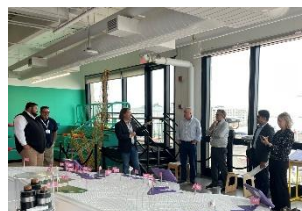




G+ Americas Stakeholder Day 2026 Event Report



The G+ Americas Stakeholder Day 2026 brought together representatives from the offshore wind industry to share safety insights, review industry performance and encourage collaboration on improving health and safety standards. The event, kindly hosted by Equinor at the [Windscape](#) facilities in Brooklyn, NY, opened with a site visit to the staging area for the [Empire Wind](#) project, followed by an introduction to the G+, its global activities and the role of shared industry data in identifying risks and driving safety improvements.

South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) – Port Upgrade Project 2024 - 2027

Benoit Pantin, Senior Project Manager – SBMT Port Upgrade, led us through a presentation on how the port upgrade is going. The SBMT Port Upgrade Project involved the extensive redevelopment and modernisation of the existing 73-acre waterfront facility in Brooklyn, NY. Works undertaken included site clearance and demolition, marine infrastructure improvements, piling and foundation works, construction of new wharves and bulkheads, dredging, installation of utilities, and extensive civil engineering and paving works. The project also included the construction of a new operations and maintenance facility and upgrades to electrical infrastructure. These works were to transform the site into a modern, high-capacity marine terminal capable of supporting offshore wind operations and wider port activities.



G+ Overview and Industry Collaboration

Robb Hall, G+ Americas Chair (Equinor), opened the event with an overview of G+ and its mission to create a safer and healthier global offshore wind industry. As an independent, not-for-profit organisation working in partnership with the Energy Institute, G+ brings together more than 35 members and associates to improve safety through collaboration, knowledge sharing and the development of industry guidance.



G+ Introductory Slide Pack

The presentation highlighted G+'s international reach, alongside its engagement with industry bodies, regulators and organisations such as the Global Wind Organisation (GWO). Recent updates to GWO training standards were discussed, demonstrating continued efforts to align safety training with evolving industry requirements.

Attendees were introduced to G+'s key work programmes, including Good Practice Guidelines, incident data analysis, learning from incidents and Lifesaving Rules. These programmes demonstrate how G+ translates shared industry experience into practical resources designed to reduce risks across offshore wind activities.

Ten Years of Global Offshore Wind Safety Data

Beate Hildenbrand, G+ Head of Americas, presented an analysis of ten years of global offshore wind safety data, highlighting industry trends, emerging risks and the importance of evidence-based safety improvements.

The presentation reviewed the latest figures from 2025, during which G+ members reported 69.2 million working hours, representing a 5% increase compared with 2024. The Total Recordable Injury Rate (TRIR) increased by 4% to 3.48, while the Lost Time Injury Frequency (LTIF) decreased by 8% to 1.34. Encouragingly, no fatalities were reported among G+ members during the year.

A key discussion point was the difference in safety performance between construction and operational offshore wind sites. Operational sites continued to experience higher overall injury rates, with a TRIR of 5.89 compared with 2.93 for construction sites. This highlighted the importance of considering the changing composition of the offshore wind industry when interpreting safety statistics, particularly as more projects transition into their operational phases.

The analysis also identified several areas requiring continued attention. Injuries occurring within turbine nacelles more than doubled in 2025, while lifting operations remained a significant source of high-potential incidents. Manual handling continued to account for a high volume of injuries, while activities involving electrical systems, working



at height and vessel transit demonstrated the importance of assessing potential incident severity alongside incident frequency.

The session emphasised that safety performance cannot be measured solely through the number of incidents reported. Understanding the potential consequences of incidents and near misses is equally important when identifying priorities for risk reduction.

Turning Data into Practical Safety Improvements

The presentation concluded by demonstrating how G+ uses incident data to shape its safety guidance, industry campaigns and Safe by Design initiatives.

Examples included guidance covering mechanical lifting operations, marine coordination, offshore personnel transfers, electrical hazards, working at height and emergency response. The Safe by Design programme was highlighted as an important means of addressing risks during the design and engineering stages, rather than relying exclusively on operational controls.

A recent initiative focusing on turbine nacelle hatches was also discussed, following an increase in hand and wrist injuries associated with their use. This provided a practical example of how emerging incident trends can inform targeted industry action.

Session 1: Putting Safety Management Systems into Practice

Facilitated by Robb Hall (Equinor) and Jay Sousa (Avangrid)

The session explored the development and implementation of Safety Management Systems (SMS) within the US offshore wind industry. Particular attention was given to regulatory oversight, contractor alignment and ensuring that safety requirements reach frontline workers.

Robb Hall explained how Equinor adapted its established oil and gas safety framework for offshore wind, mapping existing governance, technical requirements and procedures against the industry's specific needs. Jay Sousa described how Avangrid initially developed its SMS from scratch and subsequently refined it to meet regulatory expectations, successfully completing BSEE's functionality review.

Participants noted that BSEE is placing increasing emphasis on evidence that an SMS is actively implemented, rather than simply documented. Functionality reviews, inspections and requirements for SMS acceptance during construction and operations were discussed, alongside the potential need for further review following significant system changes. ISO certification and third-party verification were also identified as useful ways to test and strengthen systems before regulatory submission.

Contractor alignment emerged as a recurring challenge. Bridging documents can be used to compare operator and contractor requirements, identify gaps and establish which



procedures and controls apply. Although contractors may operate their own safety systems, the principal operator remains accountable for meeting the applicable requirements.

A strong message from the discussion was that comprehensive management systems do not always translate into clear instructions for technicians and subcontractors. Site-specific Health and Safety Plans should convert the overarching SMS into practical procedures and training, but inconsistencies between documents can create confusion. Short-notice mobilisation, differing competency requirements and communication gaps during vessel operations were highlighted as concerns.

Key Outcomes and Takeaways

- Demonstrate that SMS requirements are actively implemented and supported by evidence.
- Use regulatory feedback, third-party verification and industry experience to improve systems.
- Establish effective bridging arrangements between operators and contractors.
- Translate SMS requirements into accessible procedures and training for frontline workers.
- Continue sharing lessons through G+ to improve consistency across the industry.

The central takeaway was that developing an SMS is only the first step. Its effectiveness depends on consistent implementation, review and communication throughout the contracting chain, particularly among subcontractors and frontline personnel.

Emergency Response: Strengthening Preparedness Through Collaboration

Facilitated by Mark Marien (Ørsted) and Dustin Varnell (IMCA)

The Emergency Response session examined how realistic exercises can identify weaknesses in Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) and improve coordination between operators, contractors and emergency services. The discussion emphasised that even comprehensive plans rely on assumptions about equipment, communications, environmental conditions and external support.



Emergency Response Slide Deck

The exercise simulated an up-tower arc flash incident requiring the rescue of an injured technician from an offshore turbine. The original plan involved helicopter evacuation from the nacelle roof, but the helicopter was unavailable. An alternative route through the



rear hatch was then affected by problems with the rescue equipment, requiring the team to adapt and use the turbine elevator.

The exercise demonstrated the importance of maintaining several evacuation options and preparing teams to make informed decisions when primary arrangements fail. Participants stressed that identifying failures during exercises is a positive outcome because it allows weaknesses to be corrected before an actual emergency. Repeating exercises was also considered important, as similar scenarios may present different operational challenges.

Coordination with the US Coast Guard and other emergency services was another major theme. Participants noted uncertainty around the availability and scope of external rescue capabilities, particularly for evacuations directly from turbines. Regular joint exercises, clearer responsibilities and stronger working relationships were identified as priorities. Engagement with permanent civilian personnel was suggested to maintain continuity when Coast Guard personnel change.

The session also considered emergency leadership and the Incident Command System. Participants agreed that overall authority must be clearly established, while operational decisions should be delegated to personnel with the appropriate technical expertise.

A second exercise simulated a fire at an onshore substation with two personnel missing. It highlighted the challenges faced by local responders who may be unfamiliar with offshore wind infrastructure. First Responder Assistance Plans provided essential information on site access, hazards and safety precautions. The exercise also exposed outdated contact details and reliance on mobile and internet communications. Improvements included centrally maintaining contact information, establishing alternative communication methods and clarifying notification procedures.

Key Outcomes and Takeaways

- Test ERPs under realistic conditions where equipment, communications or external support may be unavailable.
- Strengthen relationships with the US Coast Guard and local emergency responders.
- Clearly define authority, responsibilities and technical decision-making.
- Maintain accurate contact information and alternative communication methods.
- Include contractors' knowledge in emergency planning and exercises.
- Repeat exercises to confirm that improvements are effective.

The session concluded that an effective ERP must be adaptable, regularly tested and understood by everyone involved. Strong relationships, reliable communications and the ability to respond when initial plans fail are central to effective emergency preparedness.



Electrical Safety: Managing Risk and Learning from Incidents

Facilitated by Tom Cassidy (Ocean Winds) and Aamir Shazad (OEG)

The final technical session examined electrical incident trends, case studies and the role of human performance in managing electrical risks. Although electrical incidents remain relatively infrequent within G+ data, their potential consequences mean they remain an important area of focus.



Electrical Safety Slide pack

Participants noted that incidents recorded during electrical work do not always involve the release of electrical energy. Some arise from other hazards within the working environment, demonstrating the need for risk assessments to consider the entire task rather than focusing only on electrical controls.

Two case studies explored how serious incidents can develop despite experienced personnel, detailed planning and established procedures. The first showed how technically competent workers can become closely focused on electrical hazards while overlooking other risks. The second, drawn from the oil and gas sector, reinforced the importance of stopping work and reassessing the task whenever conditions change. Participants noted that several smaller failures can combine to produce a serious event when changing circumstances are not recognised.

The case studies led to a wider discussion about stop-work authority. Workers must have both the authority and practical confidence to challenge unsafe conditions. Positive reinforcement was considered important, as workers may be reluctant to intervene if they have not seen stop-work decisions supported by supervisors and colleagues.

Participants also considered how organisations can balance individual accountability with an open reporting culture. Serious breaches of safety procedures must be addressed, but responses should not discourage workers from reporting errors and near misses. The discussion highlighted the need to distinguish between unacceptable behaviour and genuine opportunities for learning.

The influence of experienced workers was also discussed. Where established personnel routinely take shortcuts or disregard procedures, unsafe behaviour can become normalised and influence newer workers. Competence should therefore include decision-making, situational awareness and a willingness to challenge unsafe practices, rather than being measured only through qualifications or years of experience.



Key Outcomes and Takeaways

- Consider associated non-electrical hazards during electrical work.
- Apply lessons from offshore wind and other relevant industries.
- Reassess risks whenever conditions change or work is interrupted.
- Empower and support workers who exercise stop-work authority.
- Balance appropriate accountability with open incident reporting.
- Reinforce safe behaviour through training, supervision and leadership.

The session concluded that electrical safety depends on more than technical controls and specialist competence. Effective risk management must also account for human behaviour, changing conditions and organisational culture, supported by continuous learning and strong supervision.

Closing remarks

The 2026 G+ Americas Stakeholder event reinforced the value of collaboration, shared learning and data-driven decision-making in advancing health and safety across the offshore wind industry. Through discussions on safety management systems, emergency preparedness and electrical safety, participants identified practical opportunities to strengthen risk management and improve workforce protection. The event demonstrated the industry's continued commitment to learning from experience, sharing good practice and working together to build a safer and more resilient future for offshore wind.

The event was attended by representatives from the following organizations

American Clean Power
Avangrid
Dominion Energy
Equinor
IMCA
Maracoos
Ocean Tech Advisors
Ocean Winds
OEG Energy Group
Orsted
Siemens Energy
US Coastguard
US Wind Inc
Vestas