

Kate Harvey - Managing Director
G+ Global Offshore Wind
Health and Safety Organisation
C/o Energy Institute
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Reference:
HSE Letter 10.02.2025
Occupational health and hygiene concerns

ED Operations

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Head of Operations
Paul Bradley

10th February 2025

Dear Kate,

Please see the following message from HSE to industry. I would be grateful if you could discuss and share with members and more widely. I am also writing to SafetyOn and OEUK.

HSE is sharing initial information received from a wind farm operator regarding occupational health and hygiene concerns

This is something the whole industry needs to take immediate action on.

HSE has received advance information from a wind farm operator who advised that they have discovered deposits of dust found to contain substances hazardous to health, including metals and metal compounds, such as lead, within the generator room and nacelle/hub of two wind turbine generators.

Further air monitoring including personal exposure monitoring and laboratory analysis is planned to determine quantities and compositions of dusts found.

As a precaution, technicians on this wind farm are now using powered respirators and sealed unit vacuum cleaners to conduct a full clean prior to servicing. Information has been shared with the technicians as a priority and targeted health surveillance programmes have been initiated. Further measures to prevent exposure of employees to lead have been put in place.

HSE will be working with the relevant dutyholders and will ensure that further information is shared with industry as soon as it becomes available.

Meanwhile HSE is alerting wind farm operators to this concerning information.

Whilst it is not yet known what the extent of this problem is, or how widespread it is, dutyholders must take into account this initial information in complying with their duties to assess and manage risks to health.

This shall include alerting your maintenance teams to this issue; revisiting design risk assessments to identify potential sources of dusts within wind turbines; assessing risks to health from these dusts; and taking appropriate action to mitigate against risks, including putting in place adequate hygiene precautions and facilities, and providing information, instruction and training to your workforce.

We request that you keep HSE informed as to your findings and actions using the following email address: windandmarineenergy@hse.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Gordoys', is positioned above the printed name.

Jane Gordoys

Principal Inspector - Wind and Marine Energy Team