

2014 BSEE Domestic and International Standards Workshop
January 28-29, 2014
New Orleans, LA

The 2014 BSEE Domestic and International Standards Workshop focused on BSEE's role in national and international standards development. The Workshop brought together representatives from government, industry, international regulators, and standards development organizations for a two-day workshop in New Orleans. The Workshop provided participants the opportunity to discuss processes for standards development and implementation as well as gaps and challenges to developing and enforcing standards.



The overwhelming majority of the approximately 300 attendees represented standards development organizations (SDOs) and U.S. domestic oil and gas organizations. Thirty-six BSEE employees attended the Workshop. Additionally, there was a strong international turnout, including representatives from United Kingdom, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Canada and Brazil. Other U.S. government attendees from PHMSA, OSHA, and USCG also participated in the Workshop.

The Workshop followed a presentation and Q&A format with smaller, more dialogue-focused sectionals in the afternoon of Day 1. During the morning of Day 1, standards development organizations provided an overview and updates of standards development and BSEE provided an introduction on regulatory policies and needs. In the afternoon of Day 1, Workshop attendees had the option of attending sectionals on four different topics: High Pressure High Temperature, Pipelines and Production, Structures, and International Standards Discussion. In the morning of Day 2, each of the four breakout groups had one representative briefly report out on the previous day's discussion to the entire Workshop. Day 2 proceeded with panel discussions from industry experts on long-term plans for developing standards, safety and reliability issues, and human factors.

A number of follow-up items mentioned below demand BSEE attention.

- Additional opportunities for dialogue with BSEE requested by Workshop attendees: increase communications, continue international standards conferences, more multi-party and bilateral opportunities for discussion, SDO and BSEE meetings on a regular basis, staffing up BSEE to be more engaged in standards development, and additional information sharing with the International Regulators Forum (IRF)
- Streamlined process for BSEE to incorporate new and updated standards as well as a method to provide clear guidance for regulatory approval, improved consistency, and a reduction in complex regulatory requirements
- More regulatory participation in standards development meetings. BSEE stated that the agency is staffing up a Houston office for such a task.
- Additional research of standards gaps and communication on the issue
- Increased dialogue on safety management systems
- Enhanced near-miss reporting processes and input on how voluntary reporting by industry can be encouraged
- Continued BSEE support of joint industry research projects and consideration of results for incorporation into standards and regulations
- Improved data collection for determining root cause of incidents
- Improved long-term plans for standards development instead of reactive response to crises and incidents
- Request for clarification in regulations on definition of “should” and “must”
- Training and human factors
- Analysis of how to assess risk
- Gold plating issue—Is “good enough” okay for standards involving safety?

The Standards Workshop provided BSEE with an opportunity to communicate with and learn from our regulatory counterparts in other countries, national and international standard development organizations, and industry experts. Through the Workshop, BSEE was able to open a dialogue on what standards development organizations and industry can do for BSEE. Additionally, the Workshop provided an opportunity for BSEE to explore how we can learn from and assist our international regulatory counterparts. The Workshop benefited BSEE by providing input on where we can devote resources to best improve our rulemaking and policies, identified critical topics being addressed by SDOs, topics that need to be addressed by SDOs, and provided BSEE engineers an opportunity to learn from the industry experts. The next Workshop would be best organized by tackling the technology gaps and innovations identified by BSEE personnel and industry experts and safety critical elements.

Workshop survey evaluations from attendee’s were mostly positive. In general, there was overall praise of the general topics and discussions. Going forward, a specific technical focus, directed at creating a dialogue between industry, standards development organizations, and regulators will provide the most benefit to BSEE.