
From:
Sent: 09 September 2007 19:32
To:

Cc:

Subject: Sunday Telegraph

For those of you have may not seen the article, the summary below is rather misleading. I finally managed to track down a copy of the article. Shell gets a short mention (as described below) in the middle of a long feature on cyber activism.

----- Original Message -----

From:
To:

Sent: Sun Sep 09 10:35:05 2007
Subject: Re: Daily Telegraph - North Sea Safety

There is a piece in today's Sunday Telegraph about Donovan and safety. At this stage I just have a summary but I am trying to get an e version to mail around.

The Sunday Telegraph, 09/09/2007, P.5;
The writer reports on how the internet has launched the phenomenon of online activism. Shell discovered the power of online campaigners when it tried, and failed, to claim ownership of the domain name Royaldutchshell.com, a website belonging to Alfred Donovan and his son John. They owned a chain of petrol stations in London and Essex and created sales promotions for Shell, before falling out with the company and putting their grievances on the web. The site has become a home for activists and former employees and has been used to mobilise support for environmental campaigns by groups such as the WWF, against drilling in the Arctic and Russia, groups concerned over Shells social impact in Ireland and Nigeria, and by former Shell auditor , who has raised questions over employee safety./

Sent: Sat Sep 08 08:45:27 2007
Subject: Re: Daily Telegraph - North Sea Safety

Please see the story below. I feel it might be worth discussing with Group Media how well briefed London journalists are on these issues. I will talk to about this.

Pressure on Shell over safety of platforms
By Russell Hotten, Industry Editor
Last Updated: 3:05am BST 08/09/2007

Picture of offshore installation with caption:
Shell will be unhappy that its standards and procedures are being questioned

Royal Dutch Shell is facing a growing campaign about alleged poor safety on several North Sea oil platforms, with Britain's biggest trade union and a former executive of the company calling on MPs and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to investigate.

Unite, formed from the merger of the TGWU transport union and Amicus, accuses Shell of neglecting safety on platforms it has recently put up for sale and has warned that a deterioration in relations between the company and staff is putting workers at risk.

Meanwhile, Bill Campbell, former group auditor of Shell International who has highlighted safety at the company for years, has now written to every MP and member of the House of Lords claiming to have evidence that the company has ignored problems.

Unite said in a statement: "Many platform areas are now not fully covered by trained and competent people and certain HSE safety-critical roles are not fully supported. The gaps in these safety-critical positions could be so severe that, in the event of an emergency, staff may be unable to cope."

advertisementSeveral Shell platforms - Cormorant Alpha, Dunlin Alpha, Tern, Eider and North Cormorant - are being sold as the company scales back activities in the North Sea, where finding and extracting oil and gas is becoming increasingly more expensive.

Shell denies strongly that it has ever compromised on safety and says that managers on the platforms have not complained of a lack of staff in safety-critical functions. However, safety is an emotive issue and Shell will be unhappy that its standards and procedures are being questioned. Nor will the union's plan to intensify its campaign help the company find buyers for the platforms.

A spokesman for Shell said yesterday: "We are aware that this [sale of the platforms] is an unsettling time for staff. Safety is our first priority and foremost on the agenda at all the affected platforms. We have asked personnel to raise any concerns personally with senior management so that we can understand and fully address them."

In a separate campaign, Mr Campbell wrote to MPs at the end of July saying that Shell is putting "lives at stake." He claimed to have a "vast amount of evidence" that Shell has failed to tackle health and safety concerns, but did not spell out the details in the letter.

Mr Campbell, who has teamed up with a website that has been highly critical of Shell, appears to be of increasing concern to the company. A recent internal email admits that the website has thrown Shell "on the back foot". The company declined to discuss Mr Campbell but said that if anyone raised a safety issue "we take it seriously and look at it".