

Nuclear Safety Committee

an advisory body to the CEO of ARPANSA, established under the ARPANS Act 1998
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Summary of the meeting held on 6 December 2001

OPENING OF MEETING AND ATTENDANCE

The purpose of the meeting was for each Working Group (WG) to report on the following matters with regard to their work on the Application for a Licence to Construct a New Research Reactor:

- progress to date;
- changes to the draft reports since last meeting;
- work still outstanding; and
- proposed actions.

All Members, with the exception of Dr Rob Lee, attended.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 8-9 NOVEMBER 2001

The draft minutes were confirmed with some amendments.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Forum on Safety of Proposed Replacement Reactor: The Committee noted that a public forum on safety issues regarding the proposed replacement research reactor would be held on 14 and 17 December 2001 with submissions from the public and government agencies respectively.

REPORT FROM SEISMIC WORKING GROUP

The convenor of the Seismic WG advised that:

- the WG had just received a 107 page consolidated report on seismic issues and consequently, had not had a chance to review it;
- some WG Terms of Reference still required consideration before a final report could be prepared; and
- a final report would be prepared by late January following further teleconference meetings through December 2001 and January 2002.

Members of the WG commented that there were still several issues requiring resolution before a final report could be prepared, including any new issues that might arise from the recently received consolidated report.

The NSC acknowledged the progress of the WG to date.

REPORT FROM ACCIDENT ANALYSIS WORKING GROUP

The convenor of the Accident Analysis WG advised that:

- there was still some information needed in order to complete the report;
- the table of outstanding issues remained incomplete;
- the Recommendations and Conclusion sections of the report would be finalised in the next draft;
- any specific recommendation arising from the report would be highlighted; and
- given current progress, the report should be ready in the time required.

The individual Members of the WG added that:

- the WG had considered all Terms of Reference;
- the WG might need to identify issues that require investigation at later stages of the licensing process;
- a final report, including a table outlining the issues that the WG had dealt with, could be ready by late January 2002;
- there was some overlap between the work of the Seismic WG and the Accident Analysis WG.

The convenor advised the Committee that any outstanding concerns of the WG would be included in the report to the Chair.

REPORT FROM SPENT FUEL WORKING GROUP

The convenor of the Spent Fuel WG advised the Committee that:

- the WG was still waiting for some documentation to finalise the report although virtually all questions raised by the WG had been answered;
- the WG would be able to meet the late January deadline for completion of the report.

The WG added that spent fuel reprocessing and waste disposal was a difficult area as it was influenced by international treaties and government policy. Some of the issues still outstanding were:

- uncertainties relating to the reprocessing of U-Si spent fuel;
- conditioning of spent fuel in Australia and implications for ARPANSA licensing;
- that discharges to the sewer needed to be included.

NSC REPORT TO CEO

The Committee discussed the format of the final report. Each WG report would need to be similar in format in order to form a single combined report for NSC approval.

Each convenor would need to forward a letter to the Chair detailing any outstanding issues with their respective reports and the key issues for CEO consideration.

CLOSURE AND NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the full Committee was scheduled for Friday 8 February 2002. The purpose of this meeting would be for the Committee to approve the final report to be presented to the CEO for his consideration.