



**Summary of the meeting held on 22 June 2007**  
**ARPANSA – Miranda Campus**

**OPENING OF MEETING**

All Members attended with the exception of Professors Rob Melchers and Ian Polmear who had tendered their apologies.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 22 FEBRUARY 2007**

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed with minor amendments.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 22 FEBRUARY 2007**

The CEO advised the Committee that the Prime Minister had issued a Press Release on 28 April 2007 relating to the Government's strategy for an expanded nuclear industry following the UMPNER Report.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Committee noted the correspondence between ARPANSA and ANSTO in relation to the ANSTO application for a licence to possess or control HIFAR.

**BRIEFING ON THE OPAL REACTOR**

**Update report on commissioning of the OPAL Reactor**

The Committee was briefed about several points of note that had occurred during hot commissioning of the OPAL Reactor.

**CLOSURE AND DECOMMISSIONING OF HIFAR**

**Application for a licence to possess or control HIFAR – briefing and NSC discussion**

The CEO advised that the application received from ANSTO to "possess or control" HIFAR was valid in terms of the ARPANSA requirements. The ARPANSA Regulatory and Policy Branch was in the process of preparing questions for ANSTO response. These would be placed on the web site alongside the application when available.

Some initial matters raised by the Committee on the licence application included:

- A credible accident scenario still needed to be addressed;
- There was a need to demonstrate to the public that the reactor was going to be decommissioned and not used again;
- An organisational chart was needed to demonstrate how HIFAR fitted into the ANSTO safety system;
- There was no quantification of the amount of waste expected to be generated;
- There were many different parts and sections within the application, each of which was numbered separately. These should all be numbered continuously as one document to facilitate referencing or, at the very least, each section should be uniquely number.

## **RESEARCH REACTOR CONFERENCE – 5-9 NOVEMBER 2007, SYDNEY**

### **Outcome of the review meeting of the technical program committee (Vienna June 2007)**

The Committee was updated on progress with the proposed Research Reactor Conference. One-hundred and fifty delegates were expected to attend from around the world. Sixty-one oral presentations were scheduled for the five day conference including one session on regulatory issues. Waste management would not be the focus of the conference.

There was no registration cost and attendance was by Government nomination. NSC Members wishing to attend were requested to seek formal nomination.

## **DISPOSAL OF AUSTRALIAN LONG-LIVED INTERMEDIATE-LEVEL WASTE**

### **Report**

The Committee received a presentation on ‘Australia’s Radioactive Waste Not Suitable For Near Surface Disposal’ (RWMF) that covered issues such as:

- The current and developing international safety standards applying to disposal of radioactive waste
- The aims of disposal and the safety design principles that apply to any disposal facility
- The need for a safety case to be developed and assessed that would demonstrate that the aims of disposal were safely achieved
- The nature of Australia’s radioactive waste that is currently not regarded as suitable for near-surface disposal
- Developing options for disposal, including boreholes and intermediate-depth disposal
- The possible development of a generic safety case for the disposal the relevant Australian waste in the light of the various developing disposal options.

Members agreed that any application to site, construct and operate such a RWMF on the basis of an overall safety case would need to be more sophisticated and complex than was necessary for the near-surface repository.

## **INTEGRATED REGULATORY REVIEW SERVICE MISSION**

### **Report**

The IRRS mission was scheduled to commence on Monday 25 June 2007 and would continue until Friday 6 July 2007. The Regulatory and Policy Branch had completed a self-assessment based on IAEA Safety Guides and this would form the basis of the Mission team’s work in Australia.

The role of the mission was to identify good regulatory practices as well as those practices that required attention. The Mission team would concentrate on regulatory issues such as:

- Uniformity of radiation regulation, particularly in view of the Federal nature of government in Australia;
- Legal and governmental issues involving ARPANSA;
- How ARPANSA achieves regulatory outcomes;
- Human resources, training and development;
- Security of radioactive sources; and
- Transport of radioactive sources from a uniformity point of view.

A draft report on the mission findings would be made available to ARPANSA at the exit meeting on 6 July. Dr Loy hoped to have the final report available for NSC Members consideration at its next meeting.

## **REPORTS**

### **General Report from the CEO**

Dr Loy advised of several issues of interest to the Committee including:

- His attendance and presentation at a conference in Japan on nuclear regulatory decision making.
- His Attendance at the IAEA CSS meeting in early June that considered the structure of the Safety Standards.
- His attendance at an OECD NEA meeting on nuclear regulation.
- An application from ANSTO for a licence for the molybdenum production process to move from cold to hot commissioning.

### **Report on Council – Meeting of 27 April 2007**

Members noted the tabled [Web summary](#) from the previous Council meeting.

### **Report on RHC – Meeting of 14-15 March 2007**

Members noted the tabled [Web summary](#) from the previous RHC meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Committee was briefed on an international conference on the [Challenges faced by Technical and Scientific Support Organizations in Enhancing Nuclear Safety Supporting Organisations](#) held in France in April 2007. Two hundred delegates from sixty-five countries attended the conference and discussions included:

- comparisons between the USNRC and the Australian situation;
- the challenges faced by regulators such as new reactors versus existing reactors, human resources etc.;
- the gap between the ambitions and the technical support available for countries new to nuclear technology;
- the legal status of a technical support organisation;
- the transparency of the legal process;
- how to assess a reactor authorisation application; and
- the knowledge and experience needed by the Regulator.

Some conclusions reached as a result of the conference included:

- a better definition of “technical support organisation” was needed;
- legal status required definition; and
- that quality assurance accreditation was possibly needed.

## **CLOSURE AND NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for 26 October 2007 at Miranda, possibly preceded by a tour of ANSTO and the Bragg Institute.