



## **Summary of the meeting held on 5 November 2004**

### **ARPANSA – Miranda Campus**

#### **OPENING OF MEETING**

All Members attended with the exception of Dr Rob Lee, Emeritus Professor Ian Polmear and Dr Tamie Weaver who had tendered their apologies.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 18 JUNE 2004**

Members requested that the summary of the presentation made on intervention recommendations and iodine prophylaxis be amended. Subject to that change being made, the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### **HIFAR Decommissioning**

The Committee acknowledged that ARPANSA would require a detailed decommissioning plan at least twelve months before a licence could be issued to ANSTO to decommission HIFAR. Subject to minor amendments, the Committee agreed that the summary paper could be placed on the web site.

#### **REPLACEMENT RESEARCH REACTOR**

Dr Loy advised the Committee that he had received an application from ANSTO on 13 September 2004 for a licence to operate the RRR. ARPANSA was still waiting for a public release version of the licence application from ANSTO and once received, it would be placed on the web site and public submissions invited.

#### **ANSTO RRR Operating Licence Application – briefing**

The Committee was briefed by ANSTO staff on aspects relating to the application for a licence to operate the RRR. The application comprised 5 parts including:

- Part A: General Information
- Part B: Plans and Arrangements for Managing Safety
- Part C: Safety Analysis Report and Associated Documentation
- Part D: Operating Limits and Conditions
- Part E: Hot Commissioning

Information on the proposed organisational structure for ANSTO once the RRR is operational and the management options for radioactive waste was provided to the Committee. The Committee also received advice on the progress of the project when measured against approved expenditure.

Members queried the ANSTO staff on several aspects of the licence application including:

- The proposed waste management plan;
- The proposed change to U-Mo fuel by 2014;
- The training of ANSTO and ARPANSA staff in Argentina on the operation of the RRR; and
- The emergency response arrangements proposed for the RRR.

The Committee thanked the ANSTO staff for their presentations.

### **Discussion on the Approach to be Taken to Advising the CEO on Aspects of the Application for a Licence to Operate the Replacement Research Reactor**

Dr Loy tabled a draft letter requesting advice from the Committee relating to aspects of the licence application with particular reference to the adequacy of:

- The plan for maintaining effective control of the facility in Part B of the Application; and
- Conduct of operations in Chapter 13 of the Safety Analysis Report.

In order to provide the advice, Dr Loy asked the Committee to address:

- Organisational structure, safety management systems, lines of communication, delegations, accountabilities, and resource requirements;
- Roles, responsibilities and authorities, and associated competency requirements; and
- Qualifications, training and accreditation processes for personnel.

Committee input would be required by early May 2005 for consideration by the CEO in the licence decision process.

The Committee reviewed the recommendations contained in its Report to the CEO for the application for a licence to construct the RRR (<http://www.arpansa.gov.au/pubs/rrrp/nsc150302.pdf>) relating to seismicity issues, accident analysis and spent fuel and radioactive waste.

ANSTO had incorporated the recommendations and suggestions relating to seismicity including those dealing with sabotage and terrorism. Further, ANTSO had considered human factors issues and revised the preliminary safety analysis report to be forwarded to ARPANSA. Existing emergency arrangements were considered acceptable.

The spent fuel and radioactive waste issue was ongoing and would be considered during the application for a licence to operate the RRR.

Members discussed issues relating to the CEO request for advice in conjunction with its earlier Report to the CEO including:

- The management of low and intermediate level waste
- That the Committee would need to consider the waste management plan in its deliberations; and
- The emergency plan for off-site response arrangements.

The Committee agreed that there was insufficient material to make an assessment yet. The remaining application documents, which would be available on CD-Rom soon after the meeting, and the SAR would provide further information. ARPANSA could provide a reading list to the Committee, including relevant IAEA standards and reports on what is done in other countries that have similar reactors. The Committee would agree on the best method of providing advice to the CEO after all available documentation had been received.

## **REPORTS**

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

The CEO highlighted several issues in which ARPANSA had been involved since the last meeting including:

- The statement on 14 July 2004 by the Prime Minister abandoning the proposed National Radioactive Waste Repository to be sited at Site 40a in South Australia.
- An update on the proposed 2005 ICRP Recommendations;
- The ongoing IAEA issues relating to safety and security of radioactive sources;
- A conference in Sydney on 8-9 November 2004 covering nuclear security issues and Australia's views about safeguards and proliferation that would be attended by the Director General of the IAEA, Dr Mohamed El Baradei.

### **Report on Council – Meeting of 6 August 2004**

The Committee noted the summary of the August Council meeting with particular reference to:

- The tabling and acceptance of the NSC/RHC letter to the CEO relating to the Pre-Disposal Management of Spent Fuel; and
- The ongoing consideration of the naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) issue.

### **Report on RHC – Meeting of 21-22 July 2004**

Dr Shields advised the Committee that the public comment period on the recommendations for intervention in emergency situations involving radiation exposure had closed and comment received had been incorporated. It was expected that the document would be considered at the next RHC meeting.

### **National Directory for Radiation Protection**

The Committee was advised that the National Directory had been published and was also available for download from the ARPANSA website (<http://www.arpansa.gov.au/pubs/rps/rps6.pdf>). Work on edition 2 of the National Directory had commenced and was due to be discussed at the National Uniformity Implementation Panel (Radiation Control) meeting scheduled for 11 November 2004.

### **CLOSURE AND NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday 25 February 2005.