



**QUARTERLY REPORT  
OF THE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
OF ARPANSA**

**FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2002**





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## **FOREWORD**

The *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998* requires the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency to submit to the Minister, at the end of each quarter, a report on the operations during the quarter of the CEO, ARPANSA and the Council and Committees constituted under the Act.

The quarterly report should also include details of any direction given by the Minister to the CEO under Section 16 of the Act; any breach of licence conditions by a licensee, of which the CEO is aware; all reports received by the CEO from the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council and the Nuclear Safety Council on radiation protection, nuclear safety and the safety of controlled facilities and details of facilities licensed under Part 5 of the Act.

Further details about matters contained in this report are available through the ARPANSA Public Affairs Officer who can be contacted by telephone on 02 9545 8333, by facsimile on 02 9545 8314 or by e-mail to [arpansa@health.gov.au](mailto:arpansa@health.gov.au).

## **REPORT ON PERFORMANCE**

### **1. Uniformity of Radiation Protection Frameworks**

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

- 1.1 In January 2002, the draft National Directory for Radiation Protection was circulated to all the States and Territories as well as the Commonwealth and New Zealand Governments for consultation with other government agencies that have a regulatory or advisory role in radiation protection. The National Uniformity Advisory Panel (Radiation Control) will consider comments received from this consultation and a further draft of the Directory will be forwarded to the Radiation Health Committee (RHC) for a decision on whether to proceed to the public consultation phase, which will include a Regulatory Impact Statement. The RHC will then determine its position on the adoption of the Directory.

#### **National Competition Policy Review of Radiation Protection Legislation**

- 1.2 Formal responses were received from all jurisdictions on the nineteen recommendations contained in the final report of the NCP Review. Based on the responses, three recommendations were amended to clarify their intent. The amendments were accepted by all jurisdictions and a national position was reached. The National Uniformity Implementation Panel (Radiation Control) discussed a draft Implementation Plan. The revised list of recommendations and the Implementation Plan is to be tabled at the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council meeting on 30 May 2002 for approval, and for agreement to forward to the Australian Health Ministers' Conference for endorsement out-of-session.

## 2. Advice on Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety

### **National Competent Authority for Radiation Emergencies**

- 2.1 In its role as the National Competent Authority for Radiation Emergencies, ARPANSA received a number of warning messages from the Emergency Response Centre of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) dealing with lost radiation sources in Georgia and contaminated steel in Macedonia. The Health Physics Section has established a Radiation Emergency Coordination Centre at ARPANSA's Yallambie office and the Section maintains a 24-hour radiation emergency contact point for the agency.

### **Emergency Response**

- 2.2 Post 11 September 2001 there has been increased concern to review Australian plans for response to radiological emergencies. From 30 January to 1 February, Stephen Solomon participated in a three day meeting at the Australian Emergency Management Institute, Mount Macedon, to review the Australian Contingency Plan for Radioactive Space Re-entry Debris. He also represented ARPANSA at a meeting of the National Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) Working Group on 8 February at the Institute, where he provided advice on radiation emergency monitoring for CBR incidents involving the release of radioactivity. On 14 February, Stephen Solomon chaired a meeting of a working group tasked with revising recommendations on intervention in emergency situations involving the release of radioactivity.

### **Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty – air sampling monitoring systems**

- 2.3 As part of Australia's commitment to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, work continued on the construction and operation of radionuclide monitoring stations. The station in Townsville was certified by the Provisional Technical Secretariat in February, bringing to three the number of certified Australian stations. In this quarter a station in Darwin became operational and construction of a station to be located at Kavieng in Papua New Guinea continued.

### **Draft RF Standard**

- 2.4 Staff of the Electromagnetic Radiation and Optical Radiation Section within the Non-Ionizing Radiation Branch have almost finalised their input into the development of the Radiofrequency (RF) Standard, its Regulatory Impact Statement and the analysis of public submissions. "*An Explanatory Question and Answer Guide to the Standard*" has been drafted. The guide provides a clear interpretation of the technical subject area covered by the Standard. Briefing information and additional supporting material was also prepared for ARPANSA's web site.

### **Nuclear powered warships**

- 2.5 There were no meetings of the Visiting Ships Panel (Nuclear) in the quarter.

## **Conferences, meetings and technical advice**

### Non-Ionizing Radiation Branch

- 2.6 Wayne Cornelius as a member of HE 3-12 joint committee attended a meeting of Standards Australia/Standard New Zealand for the revision of AS/NZS 4173:1994 "*Lasers in Medical Procedures*" on 30 January.
- 2.7 As Chairman of SF-19 joint committee, Wayne Cornelius attended a meeting of Standards Australia//Standard New Zealand for the revision of AS/NZS 2211 part 1:1997 "*Personal Protection Against Laser Radiation*" on 5 February.
- 2.8 Wayne Cornelius as a member of CH 26-5 joint committee attended a meeting of Standards Australia for the revision of AS 32243 part 5:1993 "*Safety in Laboratories – Non-Ionizing Radiations*" on 19 February.
- 2.9 As a member of the CS 53 joint committee, Peter Gies attended a meeting of Standards Australia/Standard New Zealand to deal with comments on the final draft (DR 01349) of "*Sunglasses and Fashion Spectacles*" on 12 to 13 March prior to it becoming a joint Australian/New Zealand standard.
- 2.10 Peter Gies attended the conference UV Radiation and its Effects: an update (2002), in Christchurch on 26 to 28 March. He presented a paper co-written with Colin Roy and John Javorniczky titled "*UV exposure from sunlight compared with industrial sources: Implications for the development of Australia/New Zealand standards for UV Protection.*" The paper is to be published in the proceedings.
- 2.11 Colin Roy attended the WHO organised International Conference on Environmental Threats to the Health of Children: Hazards and Vulnerability, that occurred from 3 to 7 March in Bangkok. His presentation was titled "*Ultraviolet and other Radiations Affecting Children*" and has been placed on the WHO web site.

### Medical Radiation Branch

- 2.12 From 22 February to 12 March, David Webb attended the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific Committee (SSC-10) in support of the IAEA Secondary Standard Dosimetry Laboratory (SSDL) network. The Committee reviewed the program of the Dosimetry and Medical Radiation Dosimetry Section, assessed the outcome of the recommendations made by the previous committee (SSC-9) for the period 2002-2003, and made recommendations for the period 2004-2005.
- 2.13 From 6 March to 10 March, David Tingey and Patrick Leonard attended the 53<sup>rd</sup> annual National Conference of the Australian Institute of Radiography, primarily to promote the Medical Physics Section current survey on radiation doses from general radiography. Patrick Leonard presented a paper titled "*The Radiation Dose from General Radiography in Australia*".

### Environmental and Radiation Health Branch

- 2.14 Emergency preparedness meetings attended by Stephen Solomon of the Branch are

outlined at 2.2 above.

### Regulatory Branch

- 2.15 Two Regulatory Branch officers attended a two day course on SafetyMap auditor training developed by COMCARE.
- 2.16 Regulatory Branch staff were observers on the ANSTO Emergency Liaison Planning Group that finalised an information pamphlet to be made available to all Sutherland Shire residents.

### **Public communication activities**

- 2.17 Non-Ionizing Radiation Branch continued to provide solar UV data to the media and general public throughout the Summer months. At the end of the daylight saving period, data is no longer provided to media in the Southern States.
- 2.18 Graeme Elliott continued to respond to phone inquiries from the public. Most commonly, callers requested information about health issues concerning magnetic fields from such things as powerlines, transformers, substations, and meter boxes. Other topics of interest were the possible health effects of mobile phones and base stations, radiation leakage from microwave ovens, and the proposed replacement research reactor at Lucas Heights.
- 2.19 Visitors to the ARPANSA web site who download a single file are logged as a single hit. ARPANSA's site received a total of 111,422 successful 'hits' in the quarter. Average daily 'hits' over the period were: *January* - 1,243, *February* – 1,314 and *March* – 1,163. The three most popular page views were: *January* – Home (415), Resource Guide for UVR Protective Products: Product Type Index (219) and Resource Guide for UVR Protective Products: Tents, Umbrellas, Shadecloth and Shade Structures (127); *February* – Home (384), Resource Guide for UVR Protective Products: Product Type Index (144); Related Sites (114); *March* – Home (353), Resource Guide for UVR Protective Products: Product Type Index (161) and Resource Guide for UVR Protective Products: Tents, Umbrellas, Shadecloth and Shade Structures (107).

### 3. Research on Radiation Protection, Nuclear Safety and Medical Exposures to Radiation

#### **Non-ionizing radiation**

- 3.1 Ken Karipidis' ELF protocol paper "*Measurement of Residential Power Frequency Magnetic Fields*" was published as an ARPANSA Technical Report (TR 134) during March.
- 3.2 Ken Karipidis' ELF survey proposal paper "*National Survey of Residential Magnetic Field Exposure*" is currently in press in the Australasian Radiation Protection Society journal.
- 3.3 Peter Gies participated in the first stage of a study in conjunction with Queensland Health to measure UV radiation exposures of outdoor workers in the building industry. Queensland Health has now published the report, titled "*Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation in the Construction Industry: Audit Report, March 2002*". The report details the audit conducted between September and November 2001 by the Division of Workplace Health and Safety, Queensland. A scientific paper is being prepared.
- 3.4 Peter Gies took part in a study on the UV radiation protection provided by shade structures in collaboration with the Faculty of Architecture and Design, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand. UV radiation sensitive badges (polysulphone) were used to assess forty shade structures at primary schools around New Zealand.
- 3.5 A 2001 paper given by Colin Roy at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Cancers of the Skin in Zurich, Switzerland, titled "*Sun Protective Clothing: 5 Years Experience in Australia*" will be published in Recent Results in Cancer Research, Volume 160. Colin's co-authors were Peter Gies and Alan McLennan.

#### **Medical radiation**

- 3.6 In collaboration with sports medicine practitioners, the Medical Physics Section evaluated the risk from radiation to elite sportspersons who are subject to frequent examinations as a result of their sporting activities. A paper titled "*Exposure to Diagnostic Radiation in Sports Medicine: assessing and monitoring the risk*" was submitted to the Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine.
- 3.7 The Medical Physics Section provided detailed advice on the radiation doses and risks involved with two clinical trials relating to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of osteoporosis.

## 4. Services Provided in Radiation Protection, Nuclear Safety and Medical Exposures to Radiation

### **Calibration services**

- 4.1 There was continued strong demand for commercial service work, including the laboratory calibration of RF monitors and probes. A total of 88 jobs were received and completed, consisting of 66 monitors, 68 probes, and 22 badges/dosimeters. Work continues on a further submission of electromagnetic radiation/RF quality assurance documentation to the National Association of Testing Authorities.

### **Fabric testing and labelling**

- 4.2 The Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF) Quality management Committee has joined with the RF Quality Management Committee to create the NIR Quality Management Committee. The committee will meet every second month and a timetable has been established for the remainder of 2002. Drafting of documentation for accreditation of the UPF rating service continues.
- 4.3 Fabric UPF testing, licensing and labelling continued. 70 jobs were received that involved the testing of 216 fabric samples. In addition, 13 UPF trademark licences were completed and 291,000 UPF swing tags were issued. About 50 pairs of sunglasses were tested for their UV radiation protection.

### **QA program for radiopharmaceutical products**

- 4.4 The quality assurance program for radiopharmaceutical products used by hospital nuclear medicine departments found that two batches tested failed to comply with radiochemical purity specifications. ARPANSA brought this to the attention of the relevant manufacturer.

## 5. Council and Committee Operations

### **Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council**

- 5.1 The Council did not meet in the first quarter of 2002.

### **Radiation Health Committee**

- 5.2 The RHC met on 20 to 21 March at ARPANSA's Yallambie office. A summary of the meeting and its outcomes is at [http://www.health.gov.au/arpansa/rhc\\_mt.htm](http://www.health.gov.au/arpansa/rhc_mt.htm).

- 5.3 The “*Recommendations for limiting exposure to ionizing radiation (1995) and national standard for limiting occupational exposure to ionizing radiation*” was re-badged by RHC as Radiation Protection Series No.1 (RPS 1). ARPANSA jointly published the re-badged version with the National Health and Safety Commission in March. The National Health and Medical Research Council and National Occupational Health and Safety Commission formerly issued the publication as Radiation Health Series No.39 (RHS 39).

## **Nuclear Safety Committee**

- 5.4 The Nuclear Safety Committee (NSC) met on 8 February in Sydney. A summary of the meeting is at [http://www.health.gov.au/arpansa/nsc\\_mt.htm](http://www.health.gov.au/arpansa/nsc_mt.htm).
- 5.5 NSC working groups finalised their report to the CEO of ARPANSA on ANSTO’s application for a licence to construct a replacement research reactor at Lucas Heights. Three NSC working groups were established in July 2001 to report on:
- The adequacy of the seismic design basis for systems important to safety;
  - The adequacy of the accident analysis in the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR); and
  - The adequacy of the strategies for managing the spent fuel and other radioactive waste.

The full report of the NSC to the CEO of ARPANSA can be found at <http://www.arpansa.gov.au/pubs/rrrp/nsc150302.pdf>.

## **RF Exposure Standard Working Group**

- 5.6 The RHC was advised that following consultation with the public, the Commonwealth Office of Regulation Review had approved the final Regulatory Impact Statement. The changes to the draft Standard requested by the RHC had also been included. A draft plain language guide to be released with the Standard was also prepared. At its March meeting, the RHC advised the CEO of ARPANSA that the Standard was suitable for publication. The RHC also advised that the Standard should be forwarded to the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council for its advice to the CEO on the adoption of the Standard.

# **6. Regulation**

## **Standards**

- 6.1 The Intervention Working Group submitted the draft Intervention in Emergency Situations Involving Radiation Exposure Recommendations with the addition of a section on iodine prophylaxis for review by the Radiation Health Committee.

## **Licensing**

### Licence Applications

6.2 Two new applications for source licences and one new application for licensing of a prescribed radiation facility were received during the quarter.

### Application Assessment and Licence Issuance

- 6.3 Reviews of applications resulted in the following licensing decisions by the CEO:
- Issuing source licences to two divisions of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO);
  - Issuing an amended source licence to a division of the CSIRO, that also incorporated a new application for sources;
  - Issuing a source licence to the Department of Transport and Regional Services;
  - Issuing a licence to a division of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation to operate existing facilities, that constitute Waste Operations and Technology Development, classed as a nuclear installation. ARPANSA reclassified a portion of the subject application to be for possession or control of an existing nuclear installation, Little Forest Burial Ground, and this portion of the application is still under review. A condition of licence includes a requirement to bring the various safety cases and analyses into one coherent document, as well as undertake additional environmental monitoring;
  - Amending a previously issued facility licence to the Australian Customs Service for the siting of a prescribed radiation facility; and
  - The return to ARPANSA of two source licence applications, as one applicant was deemed not to require licensing under the ARPANSA Act, and the other was found to no longer require licensing by ARPANSA.

### Import Permits

6.4 The Regulatory Branch processed 85 Customs Prohibited Release permits for the importation of non-medical radioisotopes. The Radiopharmaceutical Section issued 86 Customs Prohibited Release permits for the importation of medical radioisotopes.

### Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) - Replacement Research Reactor

6.5 The Regulatory Branch review of ANSTO's application for a facility licence to construct its proposed replacement research reactor continued and was substantially complete at the end of March. Use was made of ARPANSA's "*Regulatory Assessment Principles for Controlled Facilities*" and "*Regulatory Assessment Criteria for the Design of New Controlled Facilities and Modifications to Existing Facilities*". The latest information on ANSTO's application is available at <http://www.arpansa.gov.au>.

### ANSTO Actinide Suite

- 6.6 The Safety Analysis Report requested by the CEO during the last quarter was received by ARPANSA on 21 December 2001. The report is currently being reviewed and a revised Regulatory Assessment Report should be finalised in May.

### ANSTO Materials Fabrication Bay

- 6.7 The applicant has requested that information requested for this facility be put on hold until the licensing of the Actinide Suite is completed, as the facilities will share the same quality system. The reviewing officer conducted a site visit to observe the state of the facility. The facility is maintained in a safe condition.

### CSIRO

- 6.8 Work relating to compliance with special licence conditions for most CSIRO source licences continued.

### Australian Customs Service

- 6.9 An application to prepare a site for, and construct, a container x-ray facility in Melbourne was received and reviewed. Licence documents were prepared for the CEO's approval. In addition, an application to construct a container x-ray facility in Sydney was received and reviewed. Licence documents authorising construction of this facility were prepared for the CEO's approval. The licence authorising preparation of a site in Sydney was amended to specify a new location.

### Parks Australia North

- 6.10 There were continuing discussions regarding the criteria for rehabilitation of abandoned uranium mine sites in the South Alligator River area of Kakadu National Park. The Office of the Supervising Scientist continued to provide liaison.

### Australian Defence Force and Department of Defence

- 6.11 The assessment of the five Prescribed Radiation Facility licence applications from Department of Defence continued during the period, with Defence supplying additional information to assist with the assessment.

### Australian National University

- 6.12 Review of source licence applications commenced.

## **Audit and Inspection**

### Maralinga Licence Conditions

- 6.13 The majority of conditions placed on the Maralinga Facility Licence have been satisfied, with the conclusion of the drilling for the ground water monitoring bores during the quarter. The Licence Holder has asked for an updated Facility Licence to

be issued to simplify the licence and to assist in discussions with the traditional land-owners.

### ANSTO Airborne Radioactive Discharges

- 6.14 The majority of airborne radioactive discharges ANSTO reported for the quarter were less than the relevant notification levels under the Licence authorisation issued in June 2001. The only exception was a one off release of tritium due to routine maintenance of an ion exchange column in the reporting period 5 March to 2 April 2002. The Director, Nuclear Technology, appropriately reported this release.

### ANSTO Liquid Radioactive Discharges

- 6.15 Liquid effluent discharge reports covering weekly pipeline sample analysis of radioactivity for the period 27 December 2001 to 26 February 2002 were received and reviewed by Regulatory Branch. All measurements were less than the relevant trade waste limits authorised by Sydney Water under the ANSTO Trade Waste Agreement.

### ANSTO Replacement Research Reactor Site Licence

- 6.16 The ninth and tenth quarterly reports by ANSTO on its compliance with the “*Replacement Research Reactor Facility Licence, Site Authorisation*” were received. In response to site licence condition 5.1, ANSTO outlined the state of the site preparations. Two Regulatory Branch officers inspected the site to confirm that the preparation activities complied with the site licence. Ground water monitoring results were supplied in response to condition 5.7(c), including the findings of an independent review and associated recommendations. In response to condition 5.6, information was provided on radiological characterisation of the site, including surface water radioactivity measurements and a soil survey. There is satisfactory compliance with these site licence conditions.
- 6.17 ANSTO provided a report in response to site licence condition 5.7(h) and the Minister for the Environment’s condition number 10, which require assessment of exposure pathways and radiation doses to people from current liquid effluent discharges and future events at the Cronulla Sewage Treatment Plant. The ANSTO report titled “*Assessment of the Radiological Health Risk associated with ANSTO Effluent Release: including the Reuse of Tertiary Treated Sewer Water and Sludge and the Impact of Effluent Entering Local Waterways with Sewer Surcharge*” is being reviewed by Regulatory Branch officers.

### Fuel Operations

- 6.18 The quarterly report on compliance with licence conditions was received. With respect to accreditation of Fuel Operations staff, one operator was accredited and an accreditation procedure has been developed for operators using the Building 41 High Activity Handling Cells (HAHC) which will be implemented in June.
- 6.19 A full replacement and modification of the Building 41 HAHC transfer trolley was

carried out as a Category III modification, and commissioning was successfully completed. A commissioning report was provided. An updated inventory of cobalt-60 sources stored in the Building 23 pond was provided. Personnel doses were reported to be within the regulatory limits. Work on the Safety Analysis Report for Building 23 ponds is expected to commence in the next quarter.

- 6.20 Ground water sampling from existing boreholes near the spent fuel storage facilities occurs six-monthly and the last samples (taken in 2001) showed low activity. Two additional boreholes have been provided adjacent to Buildings 23 and 41. These buildings house the spent fuel storage ponds.

### Radiopharmaceuticals

- 6.21 ANSTO Radiopharmaceuticals and Industrials (ARI) is licensed to operate four nuclear installations and one prescribed facility under two licences (F0044-5A and F0044-5B). Licence conditions require ARI to submit quarterly reports to the CEO of ARPANSA covering effective control, emergency control and an assessment of changes and modifications. A summary of the report received for the last quarter now follows:

- *Effective Control - Staff Training and Accreditation:* The National Medical Cyclotron, operating under licence number F0044-5B, has implemented a cyclotron operating training and accreditation course. Three operators have finished the training while three more are still undergoing the training program; Service Level Agreement: An amendment to the current service level agreement with Nuclear Technology Division and Radiopharmaceuticals Division to include the requirements of the National Medical Cyclotron has been completed.
- *Emergency Control –* The ARI Emergency Plan complies with the ANSTO Emergency Plan (DISPLAN) and SD 3.1. National Medical Cyclotron follows a separate Emergency Plan to that of ANSTO at Lucas Heights because of its different location. A work instruction for building wardens at the cyclotron has been implemented.
- *Assessment of Changes and Modifications –* The review of the Second Stage Submission for the upgrade of Building 54's ventilation system was completed. Based on the review, ARPANSA agreed to the submission subject to appropriate conditions and recommendations.

### Gamma Technology Research Irradiator

- 6.22 The Licence Holder has continued to address the requirements of all Standard and Special Licence Conditions. A regulatory inspection of the Facility is currently being planned for June 2002.

### Abnormal Occurrences at ANSTO's Nuclear Installations

- 6.23 The Regulatory Branch is notified of all abnormal occurrences at ANSTO's nuclear installations but only includes in this report those classified as Level 1 and above on the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) as all others are of no safety significance. There were no Abnormal Occurrences at the HIFAR Research Reactor

classified as INES Level 1 or above notified by ANSTO in this quarter.

- 6.24 Regulatory Branch staff investigated a misplaced Americium-241 source at ARI. ANSTO conducted its own investigation and provided a report on this but could not locate the source or the stainless steel probe that contains it. ANSTO has since taken various corrective measures to ensure other radioactive sources are not similarly misplaced. ARPANSA rates this incident as Level 1 on the INES.
- 6.25 An Abnormal Occurrence was recorded at Fuel Operations on 15 March when, during routine cropping in the Building 23 cropping and spent fuel storage pond, a spent fuel rod was inadvertently cut in the wrong location and caused contamination of the pond water. Recovery involved cropping the fuel assembly in the correct locations and sealing it in a port of the pond dividing-wall to prevent continuing contamination of the water. The clothing of an operator became lightly contaminated as a result. Pond water purification operating at the time gradually removed contamination from the water. The damaged fuel rod was subsequently placed in a sealed canister designed for the purpose and is being stored in the pond. Regulatory Branch found that the incorrect cropping of the spent fuel rod occurred during first use of the cropping equipment after it had undergone scheduled maintenance outside the pond. ARPANSA rates this incident as Level 1 on the INES.

## 7. International Liaison

- 7.1 As part of a Coordinated Research Program of the IAEA, the Health Physics Section took part in an intercomparison program for in vivo measurements. Over four weeks a series of measurements were made of radioactivity in the bone of an artificial knee.
- 7.2 Geoff Williams of the Environmental and Radiation Health Branch represented Australia at a meeting of the IAEA's Waste Safety Standards Committee from 25 to 28 March in Vienna. Ches Mason chaired the concurrent meeting of the Radiation Safety Standards Committee. The two Committees met jointly for much of the Agenda, a major discussion addressing the establishment of criteria for avoiding unnecessary regulation of international trade in commodities containing small quantities of radioactive substances.
- 7.3 The Director of the Environmental and Radiation Health Branch, Peter Burns, attended a forum in Sicily from 12 to 14 February titled *Radiological Protection of the Environment, The Path Forward to a new policy?* The forum was organised the Nuclear Energy Agency in collaboration with the International Commission on Radiological Protection. From 16 to 21 February, Peter Burns attended the 17<sup>th</sup> session of Working Group B of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in Vienna.
- 7.4 Peter Colgan from Regulatory Branch attended the 7<sup>th</sup> IAEA's Transport Safety Advisory Committee (TRANSSC) from 4 to 8 March in Vienna as Australia's representative. The TRANSSC endorsed for approval the 2003 version of the IAEA "*Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material*" (TS-R-1 (ST-1, as amended 2003)). These regulations form the basis of the Australian Code of Practice

for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials, widely used within the States, Territories and the Commonwealth by regulators.

In addition, TRANSSC approved the final draft of interpretation guidelines and advisory material for the transport regulations to assist both regulators and users. To bring the transport of radioactive material in line with the transport of other dangerous goods, TRANSSC also determined to revise TS-R-1 every two years, with a major revision to occur every ten years. It is expected that Australia will only issue an updated Code of Practice after each ten-yearly revision.

7.5 Allan Murray from Regulatory Branch attended the annual meetings of the Nuclear Energy Agency's Committee for Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH) and the Radioactive Waste Management Committee. Discussion included:

- The evolution of the system of radiation protection;
- Implications of effluent release options;
- The process of stakeholder involvement in radiological risk assessment and management; and
- The outcomes of the February 2002 CRPPH Forum on Radiological Protection of the Environment.

Ches Mason  
Acting CEO  
27 May 2002