



Summary of ANSTO-ARPANSA Liaison Forum (AALF) Meeting

27 February 2019, 10:00 am – 12.30 pm, ARPANSA Sydney Office

Participants:

ARPANSA	ANSTO
Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, CEO	Dr Adi Paterson, CEO
Mr Jim Scott, Chief Regulatory Officer	Mr Hefin Griffiths, Chief Nuclear Officer
Mr John Ward, Director, Safety Systems	Mr Mohammed Ali , A/g Regulatory Affairs Manager
Ms Julie Murray, A/g Director, Facility Safety	

This was the first meeting of the newly constituted liaison forum, which provides for a formal and regular dialogue at the executive level that complements but does not replace ad-hoc meetings, which will continue to be held as necessary.

The CEOs of ANSTO and ARPANSA reconfirmed the Terms of Reference, with a slight modification of the name to the ANSTO-ARPANSA Liaison Forum (AALF). It was agreed that the AALF summary notes would be uploaded to the ARPANSA and ANSTO websites.

Developments in radiation protection and nuclear safety

ANSTO stated its commitment to best international and domestic practice in approaches to nuclear and radiation safety, and would collaborate to achieve nationally uniform outcomes. ANSTO also informed of the recent certification of its WHS system under ISO 45001.

ARPANSA stated that it had commenced implementation of the recommendations arising from the recent IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission to Australia, and will integrate the outcomes into its systems and practices. ARPANSA is working together with state and territory regulators to action recommendations addressed to all jurisdictions. ARPANSA thanked ANSTO for hosting the Review Team while Team members were observing ARPANSA's inspection of certain facilities at ANSTO that operate under licences issued by ARPANSA.

ARPANSA informed of the upcoming 8th review meeting (in 2020) under the terms of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS), with the ARPANSA CEO elected as one of two Vice-Presidents, and one ARPANSA staff member elected as Country Group Rapporteur. ARPANSA will commence drafting the CNS Implementation Report in the near future and will work with ANSTO in preparing the report.

Regulatory expectations

In light of safety events that have occurred in the recent past, ARPANSA requested ANSTO's continued commitment to address safety issues including safety culture. ARPANSA acknowledged that ANSTO is taking steps in the right direction. ANSTO is implementing strategies and processes for a holistic approach to radiation protection and nuclear safety. ANSTO requested further clarification from ARPANSA in relation to expectations and requirements on licence applications and submissions. The parties will continue the dialogue on these matters. ANSTO recently provided a list of upcoming submissions to ARPANSA. This will be reviewed by ARPANSA and clarifications from ANSTO will be requested if required.

ANSTO Governance update

ANSTO is reviewing its internal practices in several areas taking into consideration international and domestic best practice when improving certain areas, such as revising the operations of its Safety Assurance Committee (SAC), and the Quality Management System. ANSTO has also implemented initiatives for ANSTO Executives to visit work areas more frequently to interact with staff in regards to raising safety awareness and supporting safety culture. ANSTO will undertake further work to improve safety of its processes, and improve the quality of its licence applications and requests for approval. ANSTO is making progress in relation to the ANSTO Health independent review by adopting the recommendations and by developing new strategies for radiation protection and nuclear safety.

ANSTO-wide radioactive waste management strategy

ARPANSA encouraged ANSTO to review its radioactive waste management and decommissioning strategies, particularly if the establishment of the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility should be further delayed.

ANSTO is considering effective strategies for management of its radioactive waste to ensure the most optimal solutions are designed and implemented. ANSTO is collaborating with domestic and international expertise in reviewing feasibility of waste management options and disposal pathways for disused sources, including investigating existing and new technologies in this area. ANSTO indicated that it would provide an update on this topic at the next AALF meeting.

The commencement of construction work for the SyMo Facility was noted.

Site and/or process licence

Both ARPANSA and ANSTO agreed that it could be beneficial to investigate the potential for site-wide licensing arrangements at Lucas Heights. ARPANSA will investigate the possibility for a new process for site licences or process licences under the ARPANS Act and Regulations. It is proposed to hold further meetings between ARPANSA and ANSTO on this issue, using identified existing or pending licences as test cases.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at ANSTO Lucas Heights at a date to be determined