|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Meeting title** | ANSTO-ARPANSA Liaison Forum (AALF) Meeting |
| **Date** | 16th August 2019 | **Time** | 10.00am | **Venue** | ANSTO Building 1 Boardroom |
| **Chair** | Adi Paterson | **Minutes**  | Vanessa Sharp |
|  | **ANSTO** |
| **Attendees** | Adi Paterson | Chief Executive Officer |
|  | Hefin Griffiths | Head of Nuclear Services & Chief Nuclear Officer |
|  | Daniel Pond | Acting Regulatory Affairs Manager |
|  | Vanessa Sharp | Regulatory Affairs Manager |
|  | **ARPANSA** |
|  | Carl-Magnus Larsson | Chief Executive Officer |
|  | Jim Scott | Chief Regulatory Officer |
|  | Robert Godfrey | Director, Facility Safety  |
| **Apologies** | N/A | N/A |
| **By Invitation** **(presenters & delegated substitutes)**  | Rachel Ahyong | Safety and Reliability Assurance Manager- ANSTO |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **MEETING MINUTES** |
| **Agenda Item** | **Minute** |
| Safety Focus | The CEO of ANSTO welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Emergency procedures were reviewed and communicated to all attendees. ANSTO stated its commitment to optimisation and a holistic approach to safety.  |
| 1.1 Future Priorities | ARPANSA and ANSTO discussed emerging industry developments including the 5G network and the current enquiry into Nuclear Power. ANSTO and ARPANSA will provide submissions to the enquiry upon request. |
| 1.2 International developments in radiation protection and nuclear safety | ARPANSA informed ANSTO of the upcoming hosting of the 5th Symposium of the International Commission on Radiological Protection and encouraged attendance. ARPANSA and ANSTO will be attending the General Conference at the IAEA this year. ANSTO and ARPANSA discussed the future direction of the IAEA following the recent sad passing of DG Amano.ANSTO and ARPANSA commended the interest of international organisations in Australia’s Nuclear community. |
| 1.3 ARPANSA Internal Safety Culture Assessment | ARPANSA discussed the results of the recent third party Internal Safety Culture Assessment of the ARPANSA Regulatory Services Branch and the associated Action Plan and implementation timeline. ANSTO acknowledged the value of the survey. |
| 2.1 Future priorities for governance of radiation protection and nuclear safety | ANSTO stated its commitment to continually improving methods of protecting staff from high activity point sources. ANSTO have initiated a series of internal Nuclear/Radiological Safety Status reviews for each controlled facility and those holding licenced sources. The reviews will support good practice in the organisation and encourage transparency and commonality in site practices and methodologies. |
| 2.2 Resourcing and accountability | Resourcing and accountability requirements were discussed and understood by ANSTO and ARPANSA. |
| 2.3 Safety and reliability Assurance Process | ANSTO presented the proposed streamlined Safety Assurance process that embeds ownership of safety risks in the operational areas and requires collaboration with safety subject matter experts. The process is a transition from an approval model to an assurance model with the outcome to provide greater visibility of risk and clearer and separate treatment of consequences independent of likelihood. ARPANSA indicated that they look forward to reviewing the formal submission.  |
| 2.4 ANM Operations (including status update on ANM incident and safety culture survey) | ANSTO discussed its current mechanisms and modalities for internal surveys conducted by in-house registered professionals. The discussions included the scientific underpinnings and ANSTOs collaborative partnership with the University of Wollongong, in the case of some staff surveys and validation of survey instruments. The data is considered, credible and valuable to ANSTO. ARPANSA would like to collaborate with ANSTO and an objective third party to administer a survey of the ANSTO Health, ANM and related facilities that aims to independently evaluate Safety Culture. ANSTO agreed on the approach. ANSTO agreed to appoint an independent the service provider to administer the questionnaire to provide objective basis for the survey.ANSTO and ARPANSA aim to have a mutual agreement on the criteria and benchmarks. Discussions around anonymity, and boundaries to eliminate incorrect interpretations of the survey that could be to the detriment of its credibility, were held.ANSTO discussed the recent safety event at ANM, the current safety culture and actions being taken. In light of the recent safety events, ARPANSA have implemented modified licence conditions for the ANM facility.ANSTO informed ARPANSA of the current external review of ANSTO finances and governance undertaken by David Tune and its progress.  |
| 3.1 NRWMF Update | ANSTO is continuing to consider effective strategies for the management of its radioactive waste with third parties. Discussions centred on ongoing decisions in relation to independence, ownership and overall responsibility. Community engagement activities are continuing. |
| 3.2 ANSTO site licence discussion | ANSTO and ARPANSA agreed it is beneficial to work towards a single integrated source licencing framework (and other areas such as security, safety and transport arrangements). Commitment by both parties will provide opportunities for learning and harmonisation, and a common baseline. Discussions around geographical considerations and documented practices including finalising nomenclature, for example, reference to an ‘Organisation Licence’ rather than a ‘Site Licence’ and licencing constraints in consideration of multiple processes in a single facility. |
| 4.1 Inspection approaches and lessons learned | A number of inspections at ANSTO have been undertaken by ARPANSA with a common theme arising of the importance of sharing lessons learnt across ANSTO. The licensing discussion at 3.1 is relevant to this discussion. |
| 4.2 Regulatory expectations | Regulatory expectations were understood by ANSTO and ARPANSA. |
| 4.3 Update on implementation of actions following ANSTO Health Independent Review | ANSTO and ARPANSA agree various meetings have been held outside of these meetings to discuss the process of the ANSTO Health Independent Review action plan. The plan is nearing finalisation and will be submitted to ARPANSA for approval in August. Work on completing the actions has already commenced with progress being monitored by a separate review group in ANSTO. |
| 5.1 ANSTO Governance Update5.1.1 ANSTO Branding5.1.2 Improvements at ANSTO Camperdown | ANSTO have taken an emerging approach to transition their new branding toolkit. ARPANSA will be updated when the transition has been completed. It was agreed that ARPANSA changes to licence names (with the old brand) can therefore be completed on a gradual basis. ANSTO Camperdown now holds a licence with the TGA and can now commence clinical trials. ANSTO Camperdown has a sound, integrated management process that is consistent with ANSTO Lucas Heights. |
| 5.2 Major Projects Update5.2.1 Nandin Blue | ANSTO discussed the current project with the NSW government (Nandin Blue) to attract Nuclear Medicine companies to Australia. There has been considerable interest and investment in the project in consideration of ANSTO’s Nuclear Medicine capabilities. |
| 5.3 Upcoming licence applications and amendment requests update | ANSTO discussed the recent approval and operation of the B20b extension and the current hold on the ELWIS transfer tank project between Building 54 and ANM. The SUF verification project is continuing. A Cold Chemistry review discussion has been initiated by the ANSTO CEO with the TGA seeking assistance in reducing exposure to staff at ANSTO to point sources. |
| 6. General Business | ANSTO and ARPANSA agree to continue the meetings in the spirit of engagement and continuing positive interactions and open communication. |