



## Summary of ANSTO-ARPANSA Liaison Forum (AALF) Meeting

21 April 2021, 10:00 am – 12.00 pm, ARPANSA Wattle Meeting Room, Miranda

### Participants:

<b>ARPANSA:</b>	<b>ANSTO:</b>
Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, CEO	Mr Shaun Jenkinson, CEO
Mr Jim Scott, Chief Regulatory Officer	Ms Pamela Naidoo-Ameglio, Group Executive Nuclear Precinct
Mr Robert Godfrey, Director, Facility Safety	Mr Hefin Griffiths, Chief Nuclear Officer
Mr Vaz Mottl, Senior Regulatory Officer (video)	Ms Vanessa Sharp, Regulatory Affairs Manager
	Mr Mohammed Ali, Acting Regulatory Affairs Manager
<b>ANSTO staff by teleconnection:</b>	
Mr John Edge, Chief Operating Officer	Mr David Vittorio, OPAL Reactor Manager
Mr Steven McIntosh, Senior Manager- Government and International Affairs	Ms Paula Berghofer, General Manager Waste Management Services

### ARPANSA overview

The ARPANSA CEO advised that he has sought advice from the ARPANSA Nuclear Safety Committee on the OPAL riser defects.

He also confirmed that the ARPANS Regulations have recently been updated in March 2021. As a result, licence application fees for complex facilities such as the SyMo operating licence would be determined by actual costs expended. It is expected that a reasonably accurate estimate would be available soon after the application is received.

### ANSTO overview

The ANSTO CEO referred to development of a strategy document by the ANSTO Board & Executive, to be rolled out through the organisation to ensure alignment of all activities with the vision and strategic imperatives. The objective was to achieve improved integration across the organisation, and a single vision of how the strategy was implemented. He advised that a new safety group has been created, including Systems Safety & Reliability and the Chief Nuclear Officer (CNO), which will be headed by an executive role reporting to the CEO.

### OPAL reactor issues

In regard to the OPAL riser issue, ANSTO advised they were progressing three fully resourced work-streams, including rectification and long-term replacement. An investigation report and submission were expected in September 2021, and a full structural assessment report by the end of the year. ARPANSA requested the project plan for the proposed works.

The ARPANSA CEO advised that resolution of the issue was expected within a reasonable timeframe, and that ARPANSA expects that ANSTO would undertake an extended outage within a timeframe to be agreed between ARPANSA and ANSTO in order to perform a detailed in-service inspection of the OPAL reactor internals. ARPANSA indicated that the spate of recent issues appeared to be an indication of accelerated ageing which should be considered to be within the scope of the upcoming Periodic Safety and Security Review of OPAL due at the end of the current calendar year.

ANSTO expressed its recognition of the cumulative issues that have arisen in recent times and the impact this had on regulatory confidence. It considered that some of these were design issues rather than ageing issues, but that there were also a number of ageing issues to be addressed. ARPANSA indicated that ANSTO needs to resolve some of the current issues, and other possible life-limiting factors in order to prevent failure of any significant systems which could have a major impact on public confidence.

The ARPANSA CEO said that formalisation of arrangements for reporting on the OPAL riser remediation and replacement projects would be determined by a proposed new licence condition. It is expected the licence condition would provide timelines for reporting and require internal inspections of the riser each time the core is unloaded. ARPANSA also proposed issuing a time-limited licence for OPAL, with revalidation of the licence for the next 10 years. ARPANSA advised that a draft of the amended licence would be provided shortly.

Regarding the discovery of the recent First Reactor Protection System design issue, ANSTO advised that a submission package was being prepared to modify the design, and would soon be submitted for approval. ANSTO also further informed that a remaining design issue would need to be addressed separately by modification of the instrumentation design. The submission for this modification could take up to 6 months to prepare and implement.

## Waste Management

ANSTO advised that they had been informed that the return of waste from HIFAR reprocessed fuel from Sellafield might occur in 2022. Pre-attribution was anticipated to take place in 2021.

Regarding waste storage capacity, ANSTO advised that Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) from ANM would reach the storage capacity of the plant around 2026, and that expansion of the retrievable aluminium waste bin (ARB) capacity was planned to be located adjacent to B93. In regard to regular meetings to discuss waste strategy, ARPANSA indicated that it would schedule a meeting for the end of May or the start of June.

In regard to the management licence (formerly known as the 'site licence'), ARPANSA advised that a draft licence was in preparation and would be provided for ANSTO consideration shortly.

## Next meeting

The next AALF meeting will be held at ANSTO at a date to be determined.