



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

3 November 2022, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, ARPANSA Sydney Office

### Participants:

ARPANSA	ANSTO
Dr Gillian Hirth, CEO	Mr Shaun Jenkinson, CEO
Mr Jim Scott, Chief Regulatory Officer	Mr John Edge, Chief Operating Officer (virtual)
Mr Vaz Mottl, Director, Facility Safety	Mr Jakob Vujcic, General Manager, Regulatory & Governance
	Mr Con Lyras, Chief Engineer
	Ms Pamela Naidoo-Ameglio, Group Executive Nuclear Precinct
	Mr Ian Martin, General Manager, Health Products
	Mr David Vittorio, OPAL Reactor Manager (virtual)

### Strategic Overview from ARPANSA

ARPANSA's biggest challenge presently is workforce capacity and future capability with many activities foreseen over the next 3 years. Like all the nuclear agencies (in Australia) ARPANSA has and will continue to be impacted by the developments of the AUKUS initiative. ARPANSA will work with its regulatory partners nationally and internationally to address some of these issues. ARPANSA recently met with the UK Office of Nuclear Regulation and has had preliminary discussions on how they can collaborate on staff training and development in the future; further discussions will be undertaken during 2023.

### Strategic Overview from ANSTO

ANSTO reiterated their strategic objectives noting that they are guided by the Act to deliver on Australia's priorities for the benefit of people, industry and the environment.

### ANSTO Nuclear Medicine Licence Condition 8

ANSTO advised that the licence condition requirements have been met and that there are no outstanding issues. ANSTO submitted a request for the removal of this condition in the quarterly report ending 30 June 2022. The implementation actions arising from the updated risk assessment have now been completed.

ARPANSA noted that there are two issues that need to be addressed:

1. Timely formal acceptance of the risks by respective ANSTO managers and executives according to the ANSTO Safety and Reliability Assurance (SRA) process. ARPANSA will follow up these matters at the operational level.
2. ANSTO's updated risk assessment meets the licence condition requirement for inclusion of Human and Organisational Factors (HOF). Since HOF has been recently embedded in the ARPANS Regulations, ARPANSA would like to share specific findings and observations arising from the regulatory review with ANSTO. ARPANSA will organise a special meeting on the topic in the near future.

## Lu-177 Update

ANSTO has undertaken considerable work with regard to protection, optimisation and mitigation of risks associated with its intended production increase.

A meeting between ARPANSA and ANSTO officers is planned to work through the outstanding risk related issues and discuss the draft response to the regulatory review questions.

## ANSTO Waste Management Strategy

This Strategy is a living document which will be reviewed and updated periodically. ANSTO is currently considering feedback from ARPANSA and will seek further comments. It was agreed at the meeting that special periodic ANSTO-ARPANSA meetings will be useful to further develop the document including guidance and expectations necessary for the waste management strategy.

Consideration needs to be given as to how to ensure Australian Radioactive Waste Agency is regularly informed of ANSTO's progress and recommendations.

## SyMo-ANM conduit update

Solutions to water leaking into the conduit are being identified and assessed. The final option is yet to be selected.

It was noted that the facility safety case will need to be updated to reflect the final solution. In addition, a flask transfer option is to be included.

## HIFAR and Camperdown decommissioning

ANSTO intends to submit an application for HIFAR decommissioning by the end of November 2022, followed by the Camperdown facility application in May 2023<sup>1</sup>. ARPANSA and ANSTO will meet on 22 November to discuss the best way forward for these submissions<sup>2</sup>.

ANSTO may decide to submit the Camperdown application before the HIFAR application.

## Waste management OLC Breaches

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<sup>1</sup> Note: HIFAR application was not submitted in the timeframe, ANSTO subsequently decided to change the chronological order of these two applications.

<sup>2</sup> Note: The meeting was held on the date.

The meeting discussed the recent ANSTO breaches of the ARPANS Regulations associated with Operating Limits and Conditions (OLC). It was agreed that the OLCs of some ANSTO facilities could be revised to prevent similar breaches in future.

## **Other business**

### ***OPAL Riser Update:***

ANSTO is preparing a submission to ARPANSA to modify the OPAL riser design criteria based on structural analysis, fracture mechanics analysis and mock-up test results. The submission is intended to be completed in December 2022<sup>3</sup>.

Final preparations have been made to implement manual Primary Cooling System (PCS) Flap Valve (FV) closure prior to PCS pump start. Long term solutions to mitigate the pressure pulses in the PCS circuit have been developed and are currently being tested.

ARPANSA will be seeking robust testing and qualification of the design changes and appropriate safety case adaptation. ANSTO will keep ARPANSA informed on the matter.

### ***OPAL Shutdown 2024:***

The main purpose for the shutdown is to replace some components of the cold neutron source. It is planned to be completed by end of July 2024. All hardware has been procured, and staff training will commence in December 2022 and will continue throughout 2023.

ARPANSA should receive ANSTO's submission in March 2023.

## **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at ANSTO Lucas Heights in May 2023, with a suggested preliminary date of 4 May 2023.

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<sup>3</sup> Note: The submission was completed in December 2022.