



Nuclear Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date:	6 March 2020
Time:	10:00 to 16:00
Location:	Level 3, 38-40 Urunga Parade, Miranda
Chair:	Dr Tamie Weaver
Members:	Ms Fay Bellis, Mr Tony Irwin, Ms Kerrie-Ann Christian, Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, Dr John Loy, Mr Stuart Parr, Mr Don Macnab, Dr Peta Miller, Mr Peter Wilkinson
Apologies:	Mr Ian Drinnan, Dr Joanna Wriedt
Secretariat:	Mr Chris Nickel, Mr John Ward
Invitees:	Ms Francesca Wigney, Mr Vaz Mottl, Mr Robert Godfrey (ARPANSA); Ms Vanessa Sharp and Mr Hefin Griffiths (ANSTO – item 4.1 only)
Observers:	None

1. Introduction

Item 1.1 Attendance and Apologies

There were two apologies for this meeting, Dr Joanna Wriedt and Mr Ian Drinnan. All other members were present.

Item 1.2 Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interests

No new conflicts were declared, previously declared potential conflicts of interest are maintained by the Secretariat.

The Committee noted the previously declared potential conflict of interest by Dr Miller due to her role as part of the Independent Review Team, which had assessed aspects of occupational safety at the nuclear medicine production facilities at Lucas Heights. The Committee determined that Dr Miller should take part in the discussion.

Item 1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Draft minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to members following the meeting. Member comments were addressed and the minutes have been agreed and published online.

Item 1.4 Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates were reviewed and confirmed:

- 26 June 2020
- 30 October 2020
- 5 March 2021

Item 1.5 Safety/Security Moment

A Committee member presented a safety moment related to nuclear power plant accidents internationally, which have occurred in the past, in particular in relation to how human factors had contributed to these accidents.

2. Business Arising

Item 2.1 Outstanding Actions

The Committee noted that all outstanding actions were completed.

3. Correspondence

Item 3.1 Incoming Correspondence

None

Item 3.2 Outgoing Correspondence

None

4. Main Items for Discussion

Item 4.1 ANSTO Safety Culture Perception Survey

The Committee was provided with an overview of results from a recent safety culture perception survey conducted by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), by two representatives from ANSTO. The committee was told by ANSTO that the results of the survey showed a positive overall perception with no systemic issues. The ANSTO analysis, identified some 'hot spots' and 'bright spots' which may be the focus of further investigation or actions.

The Committee noted the positive nature of the initiative that had been taken after ARPANSA had raised the issue with ANSTO. A number of potential improvements that can be made were discussed. The NSC commented on the importance of looking at the full distribution of responses, overall and variation in workgroups, as averages can obscure important information that is useful in driving cultural improvements. The need to understand staff 'outliers' and what implications their behaviour and attitudes may have for safety, was emphasised.

Item 4.2 Safety Analysis Guidance

The Committee noted that ARPANSA is working to create guidance that helps users to implement a graded approach to the preparation of Safety Analysis Reports, which are required as part of facility licence applications. The guide will be provided to members out of session for comment.

5. Update on Major Controlled Facilities and Inspections

Item 5.1 OPAL

The Committee was provided with an overview of the ANSTO Open Pool Australian Lightwater (OPAL) reactor regulatory performance, including two recent events which highlighted the importance of quality assurance of as-built components.

Item 5.2 ANSTO Health Products Independent Review

The committee was provided with a brief overview of the progress of the ANSTO action plan, which seeks to address the recommendations of the Independent Review Team mentioned under item 1.2 in these minutes. The plan had been accepted by ARPANSA, and a condition requiring six-monthly updates on the progress of the plan was placed on the licence. The committee noted that ARPANSA is continuing to monitor the implementation of the action plan and completion of the actions.

Item 5.3 The Molybdenum-99 Production Facility

The Committee was provided with an overview of regulatory performance of the ANSTO Nuclear Medicine Facility, or ANM)) since the last NSC meeting. This included following up on a series of augmented inspections and the review of information submitted to ARPANSA regarding training, operational experience, and initiatives put in place since the event. ARPANSA had received a submission from ANSTO requesting removal of the licence condition that limited production to a level that could satisfy the domestic demand only. ARPANSA's review of the submission was at a stage where a decision was imminent.

Item 5.4 Other Facilities

The Committee was provided with an overview of other relevant regulatory activities. This included inspections, applications and evaluation of compliance, of regulated facilities.

Item 5.5 ANSTO Safety Assurance Process Update

The Committee was provided with a regulatory assessment report on recent updates to safety assurance processes at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO). The change was approved as a [change with significant implications for safety](#), under section 63 of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulations 2018 (the Regulations). The Committee noted the importance of monitoring the implementation of the safety assurance processes and highlighted the importance of effective oversight in ensuring that processes involving significant inherent hazard were appropriately reviewed. The Committee provided comments on the report as part of the discussions, but broadly agreed with ARPANSA's view that the revised safety assurance process is a significant improvement that establishes clear accountabilities for safety at the appropriate level in the organisation.

6. Reports

Item 6.1 ARPANSA Significant Activities

The CEO provided an update on significant ARPANSA activities. This included business continuity and travel restrictions as part of the response to the COVID-19 outbreak; and ARPANSA submissions to Commonwealth inquiries. The NSC was also briefed on the New Policy Proposal under which ARPANSA will receive about \$7m for upgrading infrastructure and [carrying](#) out assessments and communication activities regarding health implications of mobile telecommunication technologies.

Item 6.2 Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council

The next Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council meeting is due to be held during March, and upcoming topics include the ANSTO safety events, the Ranger Mine restoration project, and ultra-violet (UV) solar radiation risks. The minutes of the meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#) once published. *Note: The meeting has been postponed until further notice as a consequence of the COVID-19 outbreak.*

Item 6.3 Radiation Health Committee

The Radiation Health Committee met over the previous two days, and the minutes of the meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#) once published.

Item 6.4 Member Representing the Interest of the General Public Update

No submissions to the member representing the interest of the general public had been received (the member was unable to attend the meeting but had been in communication with the Secretariat).

Other Business

Item 6.5 Proposed National Waste Management Facility Update

The Committee was provided with a brief overview of recent activities associated with the proposed national waste management facility, including the selection of the Napandee site in Kimba as the preferred site.

7. Information on Nuclear Safety Matters and Regulatory Activities

Item 7.1 Travel Reports

The Committee noted the item.

Item 7.2 Public Consultations and Publications

The Committee noted the item.

8. Closure and Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 16:00, the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 26 June 2020. *Note: This meeting may utilise an internet-based meeting platform, to be confirmed.*