



## Nuclear Safety Committee

### Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	5 March 2021
<b>Time:</b>	10:00 to 14:10
<b>Location:</b>	Microsoft Teams, hosted by ARPANSA
<b>Chair:</b>	Dr Tamie Weaver
<b>Members:</b>	Ms Fay Bellis, Ms Jasmin Diab, Mr Ian Drinnan, Mr Tony Irwin, Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, Mr Cameron MacPhail, Mr Stuart Parr, Dr Peta Miller, Mr Peter Wilkinson, Dr Joanna Wriedt
<b>Apologies:</b>	Dr John Loy
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Mr Chris Nickel, Mr John Ward
<b>Invitees:</b>	Mr James Scott, Mr Robert Godfrey, Mr Vaz Mottl, Mr Andrew Wulf (ARPANSA)
<b>Observers:</b>	None

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#### 1. Introduction

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Due to travel uncertainties and restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held using video conferencing methods and was shortened compared to the normal full-day meeting.

##### Item 1.1 Attendance and Apologies

There was one apology, Dr John Loy, who could not attend this meeting.

##### Item 1.2 Welcome to new members

The Committee welcomed two new members:

- Mr Cameron MacPhail, engineer with experience of process engineering and safety assurance within the defence, pharmaceutical, nuclear power and water treatment industry.
- Ms Jasmin Diab, nuclear engineer with experience from the Australian Defence Force; and President of the Australian Chapter of Women in Nuclear (WiN).

On the preceding day (4 March), a visit to ANSTO had been organised for new members accompanied by ARPANSA staff, including visits to the OPAL reactor, the nuclear medicine production facilities and the mock-up installation for development of technology for immobilisation of liquid intermediate level waste (to be implemented in the planned SyMo Facility).

### **Item 1.3 Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interests**

The Committee discussed potential conflicts of interest that could arise and highlighted existing declared interests. No potential conflicts of interest with topics on the agenda were noted. Declared potential conflicts of interest are maintained by the Secretariat.

### **Item 1.4 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 1.5 Meeting Dates**

The following meeting dates were reviewed and confirmed:

- Friday, 11 June 2021
- Friday, 12 November 2021
- 18/25 March 2022 pending confirmation of availability

### **Item 1.6 Safety/Security Moment**

A safety/security moment was presented on supply chain considerations, with examples in food delivery.

## **2. Business Arising**

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### **Item 2.1 Outstanding Actions**

The Committee noted that all outstanding actions were completed.

### **Item 2.2 Correspondence**

None

## **3. Main Items for Discussion**

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### **Item 3.1 Waste guide refresh**

ARPANSA is undertaking a review of regulatory guidance for licence holders on waste facilities. The Committee discussed the guidance and provided comments, including:

- The Committee noted the parallels between ‘undue risk’ and the ‘reasonably practicable’ requirements under work health and safety legislation, as well as tolerability requirements used in some countries.
- Providing examples, such as of how specific risks have been managed previously, can be useful in providing explanatory depth and may help to ensure effective dialogue with prospective licence applicants.
- The scope should be clearly defined in terms of specific objectives, such as to protect people and the environment.

- A broad range of factors may be taken into account when considering the applicant's 'capacity to comply'. This can include the non-safety compliance, the observed risk culture of the applicant, as well as traditional human, technical and financial capacities.
- Clear common language should be used where possible to ensure that a wide range of staff (e.g. the applicant's boards, managers, and operational staff) understand the intent and standards applied.

**Action: Committee members agreed to provide any further comments in writing to the secretariat by 20 March 2021.**

#### **4. Update on major Controlled Facilities and Inspections**

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##### **Item 4.1 Open-Pool Australian Light-water (OPAL) Reactor**

ANSTO informed ARPANSA on 11 November 2020 that structural defects had been observed in the OPAL Riser (riser defect) during a planned inspection of the OPAL reactor pool. The inspection took place during a planned shutdown of the reactor. The OPAL Riser, also known as the 'Upper Chimney', forms part of the reactor primary cooling system (PCS) and performs various safety functions during normal operation and accident conditions. As a result of the riser defect, the OPAL reactor did not return to operation when originally planned. ANSTO assessed the situation, conducted further inspections, and prepared a submission to ARPANSA providing justification to return to operation.

ARPANSA received the submission on 27 November 2020. After reviewing the submission, ARPANSA concluded that ANSTO had provided satisfactory evidence regarding the safety of continued operation of the reactor, subject to further assessment and monitoring. The OPAL reactor then returned to power on 30 November 2020. On 7 December 2020, ARPANSA and ANSTO representatives met to discuss the safety management of the riser defect, including regular surveillance, mitigating measures and rectification options for the future. On 24 December 2020, ANSTO provided ARPANSA with their 'mitigation and rectification plan' which includes timelines to rectify the riser defect. ARPANSA will consider this plan whilst continuing to conduct site visits, inspections and meet with ANSTO to review their progress against the plan.

The Committee was provided with a status overview on this matter. A member of the Committee had previously provided input on this out of session. The CEO will request formal advice from the Committee on this matter, in separate correspondence.

##### **Item 4.2 ANSTO Health Products**

The Committee was provided with an overview of the regulatory activities at ANSTO Health Products, including a summary of the recent augmented inspection. This inspection focused on a reported incident on 23 December 2020 resulting in radiation exposure to the hands of two staff members, which were below the statutory limit but higher than normal operations. Once the ARPANSA inspection is finalised a report will be published on the ARPANSA website.

### **Item 4.3 Update on other facilities**

The Committee was provided with a summary report of other relevant regulatory activities. No issues were raised by NSC members.

## **5. Reports**

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### **Item 5.1 ARPANSA significant Activities**

The CEO provided an update on significant ARPANSA activities, including updates on the coronavirus protection measures put in place.

### **Item 5.2 Radiation Health Committee**

The Committee noted that a summary of the Radiation Health Committee's meeting on 18-19 November 2020 can be downloaded from the RHC section of the ARPANSA [website](#) once approved.

### **Item 5.3 Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council**

The Committee noted that a summary of the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council's meeting held 13-14 November 2020 can be downloaded from Council section of the ARPANSA [website](#) once approved.

### **Item 5.4 Member of Public Update**

No issues or comments from the public have been received.

## **6. Other Business**

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### **Item 6.1 New Teams**

The Committee was provided information on the transition to using the ARPANSA's Teams environment for agendas and correspondence.

## **7. Information on Nuclear Safety Matters and Regulatory Activities**

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### **Item 7.1 Travel Reports**

The Committee noted the item.

## **8. Closure and Next Meeting**

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The meeting closed at 14:10, the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 11 June 2021.