



Nuclear Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date:	21 June 2019
Time:	10:00 to 16:00
Location:	Level 3, 38-40 Urunga Parade, Miranda
Chair:	Dr Tamie Weaver
Members:	Ms Fay Bellis, Mr Ian Drinnan, Mr Tony Irwin, , Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, Dr John Loy, Mr Stuart Parr, Dr Peta Miller, Mr Peter Wilkinson Dr Joanna Wriedt
Apologies:	Ms Kerrie-Ann Christian, Mr Don Macnab
Secretariat:	Mr John Ward, Mr Chris Nickel
Invitees:	Mr Jim Scott (ARPANSA), Ms Francesca Wigney (ARPANSA), Mr Vaz Mottl (ARPANSA), the Hon Dr Annabelle Bennett AO SC (ANSTO Board – item 7.1)
Observers:	None

1. Introduction

Item 1.1 Attendance and Apologies

Ms Kerrie-Ann Christian, Mr Don Macnab were apologies for this meeting. All other members were present.

Item 1.2 Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interests

The Committee noted Dr Miller’s involvement in the preparation of the independent report on safety practices at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO). ANSTO’s response to the report, the *Action Plan*, was discussed under item 4.1. The committee considered that Dr Miller did not have any material conflicts and should be involved in discussions in this item.

Previously declared potential conflicts of interest are maintained by the Secretariat.

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:

- 1 November 2019
- 6 March 2020
- 26 June 2020

Item 1.5 Safety/Security Moment

Two safety moments were presented by separate committee members, one on changes as a consequence of the Fukushima accident, and one on a contamination incident at an overseas agency that highlighted the cumulative consequence of many small changes and approvals.

2. Business Arising

Item 2.1 Outstanding Actions

The Committee noted that that outstanding actions were completed.

3. Correspondence

Item 3.1 Incoming Correspondence

Nil

Item 3.2 Outgoing Correspondence

Nil

4. Main Items for Discussion

Item 4.1 ANSTO Health Independent Review Action Plan

The Committee noted Dr Miller's role as co-author of the Independent Review Team, and agreed Dr Miller could contribute to the discussion of this item.

[**Note:** The minutes record the deliberations of the Committee at its meeting on 21 June 2019, at which time only a draft action plan was available. ARPANSA anticipates that outstanding issues will be resolved following discussion with ANSTO.]

On 29 June 2018, the CEO of ARPANSA issued a direction to ANSTO to initiate an independent review of safety practices at ANSTO, particularly in relation to ANSTO Health's activities in Building 23 of the Lucas Heights Science and Technology Centre. The direction requested ANSTO to initiate an independent review and to subsequently submit an action plan for ARPANSA's approval. On 5 October 2018, ANSTO provided ARPANSA with [the report](#) by the Independent Review Team, outlining 85 recommendations to improve

ANSTO's occupational radiation safety practices, and operational processes and procedures. This report was previously provided to the Committee. The Committee was also previously provided with earlier versions of ANSTO's action plan and with the most recent draft version of the action plan ahead of this meeting. The Committee was informed that ARPANSA has been working with ANSTO to clarify the expectations set out in ARPANSA's response, including two recent meetings.

The Committee noted that changes have been made which improve the clarity of the action plan and desired outcomes. However, there were also areas which the NSC considered would benefit from additional attention to ensure that the underlying reasons for the recommendations are addressed. The committee was advised that the Action Plan remained under review by ARPANSA and that discussions continued on resolving remaining issues. However, ARPANSA was now considering further actions to overcome any remaining matters.

The Committee supported the approach that ARPANSA has taken with a focus on the outcomes of the actions and how this outcome can be demonstrated and sustained (Critical Success Factors). The Committee considered that where the outcomes remained unclear or not in line with best practice, the imposition of licence conditions may be beneficial to set clear expectations. This approach would supplement the approved action plan to assist in the monitoring of implementation actions and verification of outcomes, while maintaining clear independence between the operator and regulator.

The Committee noted that ARPANSA had engaged with ANSTO for a period of six months without reaching a point where the Action Plan could be formally approved. This contrasts to ANSTO's original desire to have the plan approved in December 2018 and ARPANSA's expectation that the plan could be in a state that justified approval by the end of March 2019. The Committee considered ARPANSA should, following a planned meeting between ARPANSA and ANSTO in July 2019 and against the backdrop of a long period of iterations, step back from providing further guidance, recognising that the prime responsibility for safety rests with the operator. ARPANSA should indicate its priorities for its oversight of the implementation of the action plan and should focus its attention on monitoring the effectiveness of actions implemented by ANSTO to keep its workers safe, and take regulatory action as necessary and appropriate.

5. Update on major Controlled Facilities and Inspections

Item 5.1 OPAL

The Committee was provided with an overview of the ANSTO OPAL reactor regulatory performance. This included recent inspections and the Periodic Safety and Security Review Plan 2021.

Item 5.2 ANSTO Nuclear Medicine Facility (ANM)

The Committee was provided with an overview of the ANM since the last Committee meeting in March 2019, including the issuing of an operating licence for ANM on 27 May 2019, following hot-commissioning.

Item 5.3 Other Facilities

The Committee was provided with an overview of other relevant regulatory activities.

6. Reports

Item 6.1 ARPANSA significant Activities

The CEO provided an update on significant ARPANSA activities. This included an update on social media and public issues such as 5G.

Item 6.2 Member of Public update

No submissions to the member of public were received.

Item 6.3 Radiation Health Committee

No meetings of the Radiation Health Committee took place since the last meeting. Minutes of the previous meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#).

Item 6.4 Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council

No meetings of the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council took place since the last meeting. Minutes of the previous meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#).

Item 6.5 Convention on Nuclear Safety

The Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) aims to commit participating States operating land-based civil nuclear power plants to maintain a high level of safety. It obliges Parties to submit reports on the implementation of their obligations for peer review at meetings.

The Committee was provided with the draft report which ARPANSA prepared, with input from ANSTO, for the eighth CNS review meeting in 2020.

Action: Committee members are to provide any comments on the CNS report to the secretariat within two weeks of the meeting.

Other Business

Item 6.6 Visit by the Chair of the ANSTO Board of Directors

The newly appointed Chair of the ANSTO board of Directors, the Hon Dr Annabelle Bennett AO SC, provided an overview of the governance structure of ANSTO and her expectations for sound governance and oversight into the future. The ongoing relationship between ARPANSA and ANSTO was also discussed, including the respective and independent roles each entity plays in engaging with Government.

Item 6.7 Safety Culture Assessment

The Committee was provided with a brief overview of the safety culture self-assessment recently undertaken by the Regulatory Services Branch of ARPANSA. The committee reviewed the plan and endorsed the approach taken.

Item 6.8 Regulatory Performance Framework Assessment Update

The Committee was provided with an overview of the upcoming Regulatory Performance Framework Assessment, which is expected to be provided to the NSC for validation at the next meeting.

Item 6.9 Regulatory Enforcement Policy Review/Update

The NSC was provided with a brief overview of the Regulatory Services Branch review of regulatory enforcement policy, and provided comments on the scope of the review.

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, 1 November 2019.