



Nuclear Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** 2 November 2018
- Location:** Level 3, 38-40 Urunga Parade, Miranda
- Chair:** Dr Tamie Weaver
- Members:** Ms Fay Bellis, Mr Tony Irwin, Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, Dr John Loy, Mr Stuart Parr, Mr Don Macnab, Mr Peter Wilkinson, Dr Joanna Wriedt, Mr Ian Drinnan, Ms Kerrie-Ann Christian
- Apologies:** Mr Ian Drinnan, Ms Kerrie-Anne Christian
- Secretariat:** Mr John Ward, Mr Chris Nickel
- Invitees:** Mr Jim Scott (ARPANSA), Mr Andrew McCormick (ARPANSA), ANSTO Independent Review Team Members (Dr Peta Miller, Prof Andrew Hopkins) for item 4.1 only, Mr Juan-Carlos Lentijo (IAEA) for item 7.3 only
- Observers:** Dr Gillian Hirth (ARPANSA), Ms Tone Doyle (ARPANSA)

1. Introduction

Item 1.1 Attendance and Apologies Chair

There were two apologies for this meeting, Mr Ian Drinnan, Ms Kerrie-Anne Christian. All other members were present.

Item 1.2 Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interests Chair

The CEO ARPANSA declared a potential conflict of interest with Item 4.2, as accountable authority for the Regulatory Performance Framework report.

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

Item 1.3 Minutes of the previous meeting Chair

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

Item 1.4 Meeting dates **Chair**

The following meeting dates were confirmed and reviewed at the meeting:

- 15 March 2019
- 21 June 2019
- 1 November 2019

Item 1.5 Safety/Security Moment **Mr Scott**

The NSC were presented a safety moment on learning from experience

2. Business Arising

Item 2.1 Outstanding Actions **Chair**

The Committee noted that all outstanding actions were completed.

3. Correspondence

Item 3.1 Incoming Correspondence **Chair**

None

Item 3.2 Outgoing Correspondence **Chair**

None

4. Main Items for Discussion

Item 4.1 ANSTO Independence Review of ANSTO Health **Dr Miller, Prof Hopkins**

The CEO of ARPANSA had previously issued the direction to initiate an independent review of safety practices at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), in particular in relation to ANSTO Health's activities in Building 23, on 29 June 2018. The direction was issued under section 41(1A) of the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998* (the Act) following four separate events with safety implications, including a serious overexposure of the skin of a quality analyst, at ANSTO Health in less than 10 months. On 5 October 2018, ANSTO provided ARPANSA with [a report](#) by the independent expert review team outlining 85 recommendations to improve ANSTO's occupational radiation safety practices, and operational processes and procedures. The report was provided to the NSC ahead of the meeting.

Two members of the ANSTO Independent review team, Prof Andrew Hopkins and Dr Peta Miller, provided an overview of the report, their findings and their proposed priorities amongst the recommendations. These included the importance of organisational changes relating to executive accountabilities for safety,

improvements in management of human resources, the establishment of an effective no-blame culture, and more frequent and meaningful presence of management in the frontline workplace.

The NSC discussed and provided comments on the report and on how ARPANSA may work to promote safety improvements at ANSTO Health and ANSTO more generally. The NSC noted that while an initial response by ANSTO was received, a detailed response which includes an action plan has not yet been provided submitted for ARPANSA's approval. ARPANSA has granted ANSTO with a 60 day extension to provide this full and complete response. The NSC expected that ARPANSA will ensure that the response is sufficient to elicit confidence that actions proposed by ANSTO are appropriate in addressing the contributing factors to the events with safety implications and the report recommendations, and drive change at ANSTO.

Item 4.2 Annual Report under the terms of the Regulator Performance Framework Mr McCormick

Under the Australian Government's Regulator Performance Framework (RPF) all Commonwealth Regulators, including ARPANSA, are required to undertake an annual self-assessment of its regulatory performance. The NSC has been appointed as the independent validator of the self-assessment report. The CEO of ARPANSA gave an overview of the Regulator Performance Framework and declared a potential conflict of interest due to his role as accountable authority for the report. On this basis he recused himself and left the room for the remainder of the discussion and final assessment of the draft report.

The Committee discussed the draft report, prepared by the assessment team under the leadership of Mr McCormick. The Committee noted that previous NSC comments had been addressed, and considered the performance ratings and level of evidence provided. The NSC endorsed and validated the report noting:

- To the best of the NSC's knowledge, the information provided by the contributors of the report was accurate.
- The report objectively assesses ARPANSA's performance against the Key Performance Indicators over the assessment period.
- The self-assessment meet the scope of reporting objectively on efforts and progress against administering regulation fairly, effectively and efficiently.
- ARPANSA has, to the extent that is reasonably practical, adopted and is currently working to the Government's Regulator Performance Framework.
- The report identifies a number of improvement actions to strengthen ARPANSA's regulatory performance.
- The inclusion of a major stakeholder and a person external to ARPANSA in the self-assessment review team is considered a good practice and promotes transparency of the process.

5. Update on major Controlled Facilities and Inspections

Item 5.1 ANSTO Health Mr Scott

The Committee was provided an update of safety and regulatory performance at ANSTO Health, including information on a recent minor safety incident during which workers were exposed to very low levels of I-131 which had been reported in the media.

This performance was also discussed as part of item 4.1.

Item 5.2 The OPAL reactor **Mr Scott**

The Committee was provided with an update on the regulatory performance since the last NSC. No significant regulatory issues or concerns were raised among Committee members.

Item 5.3 Other **Mr Scott, Dr Larsson**

The Committee was provided with updates on the ANSTO Nuclear Medicine Facility (ANM), which is currently being 'hot commissioned' and subject to a number of licence conditions, which need to be satisfied ahead of moving to production for the market; and on status of the proposed national radioactive waste management facility. No significant regulatory issues were raised among Committee members.

6. Reports

Item 6.1 ARPANSA significant Activities **Dr Larsson**

The CEO provided an update on significant ARPANSA activities.

Item 6.2 Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) **Dr Larsson**

The Committee was provided a summary of the preparation for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) IRRS Mission, which will take place from 4 to 16 November 2018. The IRRS conducts peer review missions for the purpose of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of regulatory infrastructure for nuclear, radiation, radioactive waste and transport safety, and emergency preparedness and response. This mission will review ARPANSA and includes participation from all Australian jurisdictions, making it the largest multi-jurisdictional mission undertaken .

Item 6.3 Radiation Health Committee **Ms Bellis**

The Committee was provided a summary of the recent activities of the Radiation Health Committee, including the last two meetings. A number of codes and guides are in preparation and will be undergoing consultation. Two recent codes have been published including the [Code for Disposal Facilities for Solid Radioactive Waste \(2018\)](#) and the [Code of Radiation Protection Requirements for Industrial Radiography \(2018\)](#).

Minutes of the Radiation Health Committee meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#).

Item 6.4 Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council **Dr Larsson**

The CEO of ARPANSA presented a summary of the recent activities of the Council, which met on 11 October 2018. The meeting included a first report of the NORM working group and a presentation from the Department of Environment and Energy on the process for review and assessment of licence applications under the *Environment Conservation and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, with particular reference to the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility. .

Minutes of the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#).

7. Other Business

Item 7.1 Nominations for membership to NSC Secretariat

NSC were provided with an overview of the process underway to fill the position that was left vacant with the passing of Dr Rob Lee. A call for nominations has been placed on the website arpansa.gov.au/nsc as well being promoted on Facebook, twitter and with key professional bodies.

Members were invited to nominate or pass on the information to suitable individuals who may be interested.

Item 7.2 Replacement of GovDEX Secretariat

Members were informed that the existing GovDEX service is expected to be discontinued, and potential replacements include GovTEAMS.

Item 7.3 IAEA Nuclear Safety and Security Deputy Director General Mr Lentijo

Mr Juan-Carlos Lentijo, Deputy Director General and head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), attended the end of the Committee meeting to give a summary of recent activities and upcoming priorities in the nuclear safety and security department, followed by a more general interaction with ARPANSA staff of the Sydney Office.

8. Information on Nuclear Safety Matters and Regulatory Activities

Item 8.1 Travel Reports Secretariat

NSC noted the item.

Item 8.2 International and National drafts for Comment Secretariat

NSC noted the item.

9. Closure and Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 15:30

The next meeting will take place on 15 March 2019, at ARPANSA's Sydney Office.