



Nuclear Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** 20 October 2017
- Location:** Level 3, 38-40 Urunga Parade, Miranda
- Chair:** Dr Tamie Weaver (unable to attend)
- Members:** Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson (acting Chair in the absence of Dr Weaver), Mr Christopher Tola; Mr Ian Drinnan; Mr Tony Irwin; Dr Peter Karamoskos; Dr Rob Lee; Mr Robert Lyon; Mr Don Macnab; Ms Kerrie-Anne Christian
- Secretariat:** Mr John Ward
- Scribe:** Mr Chris Nickel
- Apologies:** Dr Tamie Weaver; Mr Peter Wilkinson
- Invitees:** Mr James Scott, Ms Francesca Wigney, Dr Samir Sarkar, Dr Keith Dessent
- Observers:** none
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1. Introduction

Item 1.1 Attendance and Apologies

The meeting commenced at 10:00am. Two members, Dr Tamie Weaver and Mr Peter Wilkinson, were apologies, all other members were in attendance. In the absence of the Chair of the Committee, Committee members unanimously approved Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson to chair the meeting.

Item 1.2 Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interests

The CEO of ARPANSA, Dr Larsson, has declared a potential conflict of interest as the Accountable Authority for the Regulatory Performance Framework report. As such, in item 4.3, he would not take part in the discussion or validation of the report as a member of the Committee. The Committee agreed that this item would be chaired by Mr Lyon.

There were no other conflicts of interest reported. 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 previous meeting. Any Member comments were addressed and the minutes have been agreed and published online.

Item 1.4 Meeting dates

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

- 16 March 2018
- 22 June 2018
- 2 November 2018

Item 1.5 Safety/Security Moment

A short safety/security moment on Institutional Defence in Depth was provided by ARPANSA Staff. This was based on the recent publication of the International Nuclear Safety Group, INSAG 27; *Ensuring robust national nuclear safety systems – institutional strength in depth*.

2. Business Arising

Item 2.1 Outstanding Actions

The Committee noted that all outstanding actions were completed, with the exception of the item on collaboration with other ARPANSA committees. This will be held until next meeting when the new committees are appointed.

Item 2.2 Planed Exposure Code

The Committee noted the overview of the Code for Radiation Protection in Planned Exposure Situations (2016). Compliance with this Code is a condition of all facility licences, since July 2017.

Item 2.3 Review of Information for Stakeholders

The Committee noted that the regulatory guide 'Applying for a licence for a radioactive waste storage or disposal facility' and the accompanying information document 'Radioactive waste storage and disposal facilities – information for stakeholders' covered information on interdependencies that must be considered for a licence application. This includes considering the impact of differences in how waste is generated, stored and disposed of.

3. Correspondence

None.

4. Main Items for Discussion

Item 4.1 ANM Regulatory Assessment Update

The Council noted that ARPANSA assessment of the operating licence application for ANM facility is progressing. The Committee previously reviewed the Risk Assessment of the ANM Facility. The Committee's review resulted in a number of questions, responses to which were provided by the applicant.

A draft Regulatory Assessment Report (RAR) was provided to the Committee one week prior to the meeting. The Committee discussed a number of the aspects considered in the assessment including the risk assessments, waste, commissioning processes, quality assurance and ongoing monitoring. The committee concluded that some changes and additional information would be desirable to verify that the facility had been built as planned and approved.

Action: The Committee agreed to form a sub-group of three members to provide written comments within one week on the meeting date.

Item 4.2 Critical Considerations in Relation to Licensing of the ANM Facility

The CEO of ARPANSA gave a brief overview of some of the key consideration that will inform his assessment on the ANM facility application. The Committee gave particular attention to management of radioactive waste, including intermediate level waste, on site and in the longer term.

Item 4.3 Regulatory Performance Framework (RPF) Annual Report

The Committee was provided with the draft RPF Annual Self-assessment Report prior to the meeting and was asked to provide comments. Comments were addressed and a revised version was provided to the committee for validation. After providing an introduction, in accordance with the declared potential conflict of interest the CEO of ARPANSA, Dr Larsson, left the room for the duration of this discussion, which was chaired by Mr Lyon.

The Committee concluded that the report appropriately reflects ARPANSA's performance against the Key Performance Indicators over the assessment period, and that ARPANSA has adopted and is currently working to the Government's Regulator Performance Framework.

The Committee found that the self-assessment has met the scope of reporting objectively on efforts and progress against administering regulation fairly, effectively and efficiently. The Committee noted that while the measures did not always align closely to the RPF KPIs, ARPANSA has used additional information to show performance where appropriate. The new performance measures, which were implemented from June 2017, will help to address this and to appropriately highlight some of the regulatory activities which are not inspection based.

The Committee determined that a number of important initiatives for improvements were identified in the report which would strengthen performance, particularly the proposed upgrades to the information management system. The Committee requested that they be updated periodically on this development.

The Committee provided validation of the report at the meeting.

5. Update on major Controlled Facilities and Inspections

Item 5.1 OPAL

The Committee noted the update on the regulatory activities since the previous meeting. This included a discussion of the recent maintenance activities and system performance evaluations carried out during the September shutdown. This included a detailed investigation which is being undertaken to determine the cause of reduction in the drop time of one of five control rods. The Committee was informed that this

maintenance had rectified the reduced drop time issue. No significant regulatory issues or safety concerns were raised among Committee members.

Item 5.2 ANSTO Health

The Committee noted the update on the regulatory activities since the previous meeting. The Committee noted the reported accident which involved contamination to a worker's hands that exceeded statutory dose limits. ARPANSA has reported this accident to the IAEA as an INES Level 3 Severe Incident, in accordance with international obligations. An investigation currently being undertaken by ANSTO. ARPANSA will closely follow the investigation and conduct one or more augmented inspections in relation to this investigation and of any corrective actions that are identified, and will take regulatory actions as appropriate.

Item 5.3 ANSTO Little Forest Legacy Site

The Committee noted the update on the regulatory activities since the previous meeting. This included recent emergency preparedness exercises carried out at the site, during which a helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing in an area away from the legacy waste storage.

Item 5.4 ANSTO SyMo Facility

The Committee noted the update on the regulatory activities since the previous meeting. This included the recent approval of a change request for the construction licence. No significant regulatory issues or safety concerns were raised among Committee members.

6. Reports

Item 6.1 ARPANSA significant Activities

The CEO provided an update on significant ARPANSA activities. This included the progress on the IRRS mission preparation which includes all states and territories, a recent global WMD prevention exercise held in Cairns, attendance at the IAEA General Conference, and the publication of the Existing Exposure Guide.

Item 6.2 Radiation Health Committee

The Committee noted that no meetings were held since the previous Committee meeting. Minutes of the Radiation Health Committee meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#).

Item 6.3 Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council

The Committee noted that no meetings were held since the previous Committee meeting. Minutes of the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#).

7. Other Business

Item 7.1 Membership Appointments for 2018-2020

The current Committee Members' appointments will expire on 31 December 2017. On 26 July 2017 the Office of the CEO sent an email calling for nominations to the RHC and NSC for the next triennium (1 January 2018 - 31 December 2020). Nominations closed on 31 August 2017.

The Committee, and the CEO on behalf of ARPANSA, acknowledged the valuable contributions of the three members (Mr Robert Lyon, Mr Chris Tola and Dr Peter Karamoskos) who are not serving in the next triennium and thanked them for their years of service to the Committee.

Action: The Committee requested that their thanks be included in a letter acknowledging the contribution of retiring members.

8. Information on Nuclear Safety Matters and Regulatory Activities

Item 8.1 Travel Reports

Committee noted the item.

Item 8.2 International Draft safety Standards for Comment

Committee noted the item.

9. Closure and Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 15:50. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 16 March 2018