



Nuclear Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date:	11 June 2021
Time:	10:00 to 14:10
Location:	Online, hosted by ARPANSA
Chair:	Dr Tamie Weaver
Members:	Ms Fay Bellis, Mr Ian Drinnan, Ms Jasmin Diab, Mr Tony Irwin, Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, Dr John Loy, Mr Cameron MacPhail, Mr Stuart Parr, Dr Peta Miller, Mr Peter Wilkinson, Dr Joanna Wriedt
Apologies:	None
Secretariat:	Mr Chris Nickel, Mr John Ward
Invitees:	Mr James Scott, Mr Robert Godfrey, Mr Vaz Mottl and Dr Gillian Hirth (ARPANSA) Mr David Vittorio, Mr Mark Healy and Mr David Carr (ANSTO – Item 2.1 Only)
Observers:	None

1. Introduction

Due to travel 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 were no apologies for this meeting, all members attended.

Item 1.2 Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interests

One previously declared potential conflict of interest was raised by Mr Wilkinson, whose employer is undertaking work with a licence holder, with provisions to ensure conflicts are managed or eliminated.

No new interests were declared at the meeting, and 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:

- NSC21-03 Friday, 12 November 2021
- NSC21-04 Friday, 25 February 2022
- NSC21-05 Friday, 10 June 2022

Item 1.5 Safety/Security Moment

A safety/security moment was presented on equipment failures from the Australian Radiation Incident Register (ARIR). The moment highlighted the importance of considering equipment over the full life cycle including design, equipment selection and training.

Item 1.6 Outstanding Actions

The Committee noted that all outstanding actions were completed.

Item 1.7 Correspondence

A – INCOMING - Request for advice from CEO of ARPANSA, OPAL Riser

B – OUTGOING - NSC advice to CEO of ARPANSA, OPAL Riser

C – INCOMING - Response from CEO of ARPANSA, Re: Advice to CEO of ARPANSA, OPAL Riser

2. Main Items for Discussion

Item 2.1 OPAL Riser - ANSTO presentation

[ANSTO]

ANSTO representatives joined the meeting from 11:05 until 12:05. The NSC was provided with a short overview of the ANSTO project investigating the ANSTO Open Pool Australian Lightwater (OPAL) riser defects. This included the results of recent inspections, modelling, and progress on remediation initiatives. In the following question and answer session the NSC explored the urgency and prioritisation of replacement of the riser under continued OPAL operations, and the ongoing validation exercises.

Item 2.2 OPAL updates - ARPANSA

The Committee was provided with an overview of the OPAL reactor performance since the last NSC meeting in March 2021. This included updates on ARPANSA's assessments of the riser defects. The content of NCS's advice on the riser matter was discussed.

ANSTO informed ARPANSA of an event on 16 March 2021 where the First Reactor Protection System (FRPS) did not function as designed during a reactor start-up, instead the Second Reactor Protection System (SRPS) activated resulting in a safe shutdown of the reactor. ANSTO was subsequently instructed to seek ARPANSA approval before restarting the reactor. ANSTO submitted an application to restart the reactor to demonstrate how the failure occurred and develop measures to prevent recurrence. In addition to addressing the cause of this failure the process identified a further scenario where the system may not operate as designed. Following detailed review, ARPANSA approved re-start with a licence condition requiring addressing of the additional scenario within six months. The Committee noted ARPANSA has

assessed this incident as rating as an ‘anomaly’ at Level 1 (out of 7) on the International Nuclear and Radiological Events Scale (INES).

Item 2.3 OPAL Periodic Safety and Security Review

The Committee noted the information about the ANSTO OPAL Periodic Safety and Security Review (PSSR), which is the second major review since the first Periodic Safety Review (PSR) that was signed off by ARPANSA in 2014, was ongoing and progressing in line with expectations. It is expected that the Committee will be requested to provide advice in relation to the PSSR.

3. Update on Major Controlled Facilities and Inspections

Item 3.1 ANSTO Health Products Periodic Safety and Security Review

The Committee noted that ARPANSA had carried out a gap analysis between the ANSTO Health Implementation Plan and the requirements placed on the ANSTO Health Products’ PSSR. While some of the actions have been addressed or partially completed, most require additional work. ARPANSA will engage ANSTO to establish timelines for completion, with the PSSR expected to be submitted to ARPANSA for regulatory review and assessment prior to the end of the year. It is expected that the Committee will have an advisory role also in this PSSR.

Item 3.2 Other Facilities

The Committee was provided with a general update on relevant activities. This includes applications and inspection outcomes such as breaches for Parks Australia, and the Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratory (SSDL) and Gamma Technology Research Irradiator (GATRI) facilities at ANSTO; and not receiving airborne discharges for some ANSTO facilities within the required timeframe.

4. Reports

Item 4.1 ARPANSA Significant Activities

The CEO of ARPANSA provided a brief update including information on ARPANSA’s recent Licence Holder Forum, which was held online and has received positive feedback.

To streamline the process for the provision of Committee advice, ARPANSA intends to prepare a short document outlining the process, including on desired level of background/context, resources available, and correspondence publication.

Item 4.2 Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council

The Committee noted the item and that minutes of the meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#) once published.

Item 4.3 Radiation Health Committee

The Committee noted the item and that the minutes of the meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#) once published.

Item 4.4 Member Representing the Interest of the General Public Update

The Committee noted that no member of the public correspondence had been received since the previous meeting.

5. Other Business

Item 5.1 Commonwealth Performance Guide for Regulatory Functions.

The Committee noted the item.

Item 5.2 New Teams

The Committee noted the item and confirmed the transition to the ARPANSA Microsoft Teams environment.

6. Information on Nuclear Safety Matters and Regulatory Activities

Item 6.1 International Engagement Reports

The Committee noted the item, including reports on the following engagements:

- Convention on Nuclear Safety Officer's Meeting
- 54th Session of the Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC), 3rd Session of the Committee on Decommissioning of Nuclear Installations and Legacy Management (CDLM), 3rd Joint Session of the RWMC and CDLM
- 24th Session of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) Regulators Forum (RF)
- First Programme Committee Meeting: International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources: Accomplishments and Future Endeavours (CN-295)
- Periodic Safety Review for Research Reactors Workshop

Item 6.2 Public Consultations and Publications

The Committee was provided with recent ARPANSA publications and consultations.

7. Closure and Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 14:10, the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 12 November 2021.