



Nuclear Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, 25 February 2022

Location: On-line via Teams (09:30 to 14:00)

Chair: Dr Tamie Weaver

Members Present: Ms Fay Bellis, 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 John Ward, Mr Scott Muston

Scribe: Mr Chris Nickel

Invitees: ARPANSA: Ms Francesca Wigney, Dr Gillian Hirth, Ms Joy Ho, Mr Vaz Mottl, Mr Chris Nickel, Mr Jim Scott.
 ANSTO representatives to talk for item 2.1: Mr Hefin Griffiths, Mr Mark Healy

Observers: None

1. Introduction

Item 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country and Opening Remarks Carl-Magnus Larsson

The CEO ARPANSA provided an Acknowledgement of Country to open the meeting at 09:30.

The Committee provided a tribute to the late Robert Godfrey, an ARPANSA staff member who had worked closely with the NSC. Mr Godfrey passed away suddenly in early January. He was recruited to ARPANSA in 2019 as Head of the Facility Safety Section. He brought with him a wealth of knowledge on nuclear technology and on safety of nuclear operations, knowledge he generously shared with his colleagues. We will miss him as a colleague and friend, and our thoughts go to his family.

Item 1.2 Attendance and Apologies

There were no apologies for this meeting.

Item 1.3 Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interests Chair

No new potential conflicts were declared at this meeting. Previously declared potential conflicts of interest are maintained by the secretariat.

Item 1.4 Minutes of the previous meeting Chair

Draft Minutes of the 26 November 2021 meeting was emailed to Members and all member comments were addressed. The minutes are published on the [ARPANSA](#) Website.

Item 1.5 Meeting dates Chair

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

- NSC22-02 Friday, 10 June 2022
- NSC22-03 Friday, 21 October 2022

ARPANSA will determine a suitable date for the February 2023 (NSC23-01) meeting in consultation with the Committee out of session.

Item 1.6 Safety/Security Moment Chair

A Committee member presented on 'what does an accident made in Australia look like'. The presentation took its point of departure in the OECD - Nuclear Energy Agency initiative to explore the contribution of 'national cultural traits' to culture for safety. A short discussion followed.

Item 1.7 Outstanding Actions Chair

The Committee noted that all outstanding actions were completed.

Item 1.8 Correspondence

The Committee noted that no correspondence was sent or received.

2. Main Items for Discussion

Item 2.1 OPAL Riser updates ANSTO/Vaz Mottl

ANSTO provided the Committee with updates on the OPAL riser defect. The Committee had discussed this defect, which includes weld cracks in the riser, at its meetings on 26 November 2021, 11 June 2021 and 5 March 2021. No crack growth had been observed since the last update. ANSTO has fabricated a mock-up of the riser and valves, which was observed by ARPANSA staff during testing using a reproduced pressure wave. The mock-up was able to demonstrate that a crack could be the result of pressure waves. ANSTO advanced a hypothesis that successive pressure waves cause the observed effects after a number of operational cycles that is compatible with the operational history of the reactor. The NSC noted, however, that there were differences in the crack locations and uncertainties with the number of pressure waves needed to generate cracking and are of the view that data from the mock-up is not yet compatible with the operational history. Several potential engineering solutions to rectify the issue are being considered. In ANSTO's view, OPAL can maintain safe operation for routine and beyond design basis operation.

ARPANSA has approved continued operation and required further assessment and periodic visual inspection of the defects and implementation of the mitigation and rectification plan as submitted to ARPANSA. The Committee wished to continue receiving updates on the progress.

Item 2.2 ANSTO Intermediate Level Waste Capacity Increase (ILWCI) Carl-Magnus Larsson/F Wigney

The Committee was provided an update on the status of the regulatory review of ANSTO's application to prepare a site at Lucas Heights for a new facility; the Intermediate Level Waste Capacity Increase (ILWCI) facility licence application. Members were provided the opportunity to review the ARPANSA regulatory assessment report and the ANSTO Safety Analysis Report out of session. Committee members provided extensive comments which were considered in ARPANSA's review and assessment. The CEO of ARPANSA thanked the Committee for its efforts and had provided the Committee with a draft Statement of Reasons for the ILWCI decision ahead of the meeting. The Statement of Reasons provides a record of the process and considerations for the licence decision.

As the proposed ILWCI facility is a nuclear installation, persons and bodies were invited to provide submissions in relation to the application. The consultation included a public forum, held virtually because of the ongoing pandemic. Issues raised during consultation centred mainly on the position of the ILWCI facility within the system for radioactive waste management in Australia, and the planned National Radioactive Waste Management Facility. All submissions had been considered in ARPANSA's review and assessment, and in the CEO's decision.

The Committee supported the content of the Statement of Reason and endorsed the CEO's preliminary decision to issue a licence to ANSTO for the ILWCI facility, with conditions. It is envisaged that the decision will become official in mid-March and will be posted on ARPANSA's website.

(Note: the decision was published on 16 March 2022; see [ANSTO Intermediate Level Waste Capacity Increase Facility | ARPANSA](#).)

3. Update on major Controlled Facilities and Inspections

Item 3.1 Periodic Safety and Security Reviews Vaz Mottl

The Committee was provided with an update on progress of the Periodic Safety and Security Review for OPAL. The Committee noted this item.

Item 3.2 ANSTO Health Products & ANSTO Nuclear Medicine Facility(ANM) Vaz Mottl

The Committee was provided with an update on ANSTO Health Products & ANM. This included an issue identified by ANSTO with the conduit holding the installed waste transfer line between ANM and SyMo. The conduit has experienced issues from water increase from the surrounding ground but the integrity of the double walled transfer pipe itself is unaffected. ARPANSA is overseeing ANSTO's work in reviewing options to rectify the issue of water entering the conduit.

The Committee noted this item and would like a further update on the issue at the next meeting.

Item 3.3 Other Updates Vaz Mottl

The Committee was provided an update on other regulatory activities including inspections, enforcements and licencing.

The Committee noted this update.

4. Reports

Item 4.1 ARPANSA significant Activities

Carl-Magnus Larsson

The CEO provided an update on significant ARPANSA activities. This included:

- The CEO of ARPANSA is retiring, and recruitment is underway for the appointment of a new CEO
- Recruitments, including as related to the nuclear-powered submarine program
- Restarting of a graduate recruitment program for ARPANSA
- Change to remote working arrangements due to relaxations in NSW and VIC government recommendations arising from COVID-19

The Committee noted the items presented.

Item 4.2 Radiation Health Committee

Fay Bellis

The Committee was provided a summary of the recent activities of the Radiation Health Committee, with the next meeting 11 March 2022.

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

Item 4.3 Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council

Carl-Magnus Larsson

The CEO of ARPANSA presented a summary of the recent activities of the Council, the next meeting will be in-person in Adelaide where the first proton therapy unit in Australia is under construction. There will also be opportunities for discussions with the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency and the Australian Space Agency.

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

Item 4.4 Update from the Member representing the interest of the general public

Joanna Wriedt

No issues raised.

5. Other Business

Item 5.1 Human and organisation factors update

Joy Ho

The Committee was provided an update on ARPANSA's work on human and organisation factors contributing to safety, in particular in the areas of capability building, legislative change and stakeholder communication and engagement.

The Committee noted the update.

6. Information on Nuclear Safety Matters and Regulatory Activities

The following agenda items on nuclear safety related topics were made available to the Committee. This was for information and discussion if desired by members.

Item 6.1 International Engagements Reports

NSC noted the item.

Item 6.2 Public Consultations and publications

NSC noted the item.

7. Closure and Next Meeting

The chair provided an acknowledgment of the role of Carl-Magnus Larsson as CEO ARPANSA and the Committee thanked him for his engagement with the NSC.

The meeting closed at 14:00 and the next meeting is scheduled for 10 June 2022.