



Radiation Health Committee

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** 7 June 2017
- Location:** Yarra Room, ARPANSA, 619 Lower Plenty Road, Yallambie, VIC, 3085
- Chair:** Dr Roslyn Drummond
- Members:** Dr Roslyn Drummond (Chair); Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson (CEO of ARPANSA); Mr Keith Baldry (SA); Mr Noel Cleaves (VIC); Mr Simon Critchley (QLD); Mr Len Potapof (NSW); Mr Bradley Feldtman (NT); Dr Stephen Newbery (TAS); Dr Peter Karamoskos (Public Representative); Dr Bruce Hocking (Member); Mr Robert Lyon (Nuclear Safety Committee Representative); Ms Penny Hill (ACT)
- Secretariat:** Dr Samir Sarkar
- Scribe:** Ms Fritzi Callaway
- Apologies:** Ms Hazel Upton
- Invitees:** Mr Ryan Hemsley (ARPANSA) (for items 2.1 and 4.2)
Mr Selva Kumar (ARPANSA)
Dr Peter Thomas (ARPANSA) (for item 3.2)
Dr Rick Tinker (ARPANSA) (for item 3.4 and 3.6)
Mr Alex Kalaiziovski (ARPANSA) (for item 3.7)
Ms Julie Murray (ARPANSA) (for item 3.10)
- Observers:** Mr Jim Scott (Acting Chief Inspector - Regulatory Services); Dr Ivan Williams (Chief Medical Radiation Scientist – Medical Radiation Services); Ms Tone Doyle (Chief of Staff – Office of the CEO); Mr Duncan Surin (WA); Dr Fiona Charalambous (Science Officer-Assessment and Advice); Dr Geoff Williams (Project Manager- Assessment and Advice); Mr Asela Atapattu (NSW Environment Protection Authority)

1. Introductions and Standing Items

Item 1.1 **Welcome by the Chair** **Chair**

Chair called the meeting to order. The Chair noted apologies from Ms Hazel Upton (WA) and welcomed Mr Duncan Surin and Mr Asela Atapattu as observers.

Item 1.2 **Minutes** **Chair**

Members noted that the minutes from the previous meeting held on 15 March 2017 were confirmed out of session.

Item 1.3 **Action and Business Arising** **Chair**

Members noted that items in the action list have either been completed or are on the agenda.

Item 1.4 Correspondence**Chair**

Members noted the following correspondence:

1. Mr Len Potapof, EPA NSW, Comment on draft Code *Radiation in Medical Exposure Situations*.
2. Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, ARPANSA, Response to comments provided by Mr Len Potapof on draft Code *Radiation in Medical Exposure Situations*.
3. Mr Brad Hazzard, NSW Government, Letter re: Out of Session Item CHC OOS 298: National Directory for Radiation Protection Amendment no 7, 2016

Item 1.5 Public Interest Issues**Dr Karamoskos**

Dr Karamoskos advised Members that he had no issues to raise.

Item 1.6 Conflict of Interest Declarations**All Members**

Nil

2. National Uniformity - Action

**Item 2.1 IRRS Mission to Australia
Hemsley****Mr**

Mr Hemsley provided the Members with a verbal update on the status of the IRRS Mission to Australia and advised that he will be the single point of contact for the Jurisdictions in addition to being the Liaison Officer for the review. Mr Hemsley requested the 1st draft of the self-assessment be completed by early August and offered his assistance if required. Mr Hemsley advised Members that he will arrange a tele-conference with the State & Territory oversight group.

Item 2.2 State & Territory update on IRRS Mission

Mr Hemsley provided Members with a verbal update on the State and Territory participation.

Action 1: Participating jurisdictions to forward their point of contact details to Mr Hemsley by the end of June.

Item 2.3 Roadmap for National Uniformity**Mr Cleeves**

Mr Cleaves provided Members with a verbal update on progress regarding the Roadmap for National Uniformity.

Item 2.4 Plan for NDRP Amendment 8**Mr Kumar**

Mr Kumar provided Members with a verbal update on the progress of NDRP Amendment 8. Dr Larsson requested that all Members facilitate feedback from their jurisdictions and Ministers on these changes prior to commencing the formal process for amending the NDRP and convey their responses to the Secretariat.

Members approved the scope of Amendment 8 and endorsed the continuation of the activity (see also Agenda Item 3.4).

The Committee noted that the process being followed for changes to the NDRP to be lengthy even for very minor or editorial changes. Measures which might allow this process to proceed in a more timely fashion will be discussed at a future time.

Action 2: The Secretariat to provide “track changes” to the current version of the NDRP which will form Amendment 8 of the NDRP and circulate to Members.

3. RHC Work Program – Action (cont.)

Item 3.1 Project Update

Project Managers

All the projects were listed as agenda items for discussion.

Dr Sarkar suggested simplification of the 21 step process. Members agreed and endorsed the development of a modified process.

Action 3: The Secretariat to circulate a revised RHC Project Management process to all Members out of session, prior to the next RHC Meeting in November 2017.

Item 3.2 Medical Exposure Code (MEC)

Mr Critchley / Dr Thomas

Mr Critchley presented the agenda paper on the Medical Exposure Code (MEC). Members noted significant concerns raised by five jurisdictions in relation to the draft Code and the draft Preliminary Assessment. Members agreed that the draft Code and draft Preliminary Assessment be revised taking into consideration the feedback and to include the responsibilities of the radiation medical practitioner and operator which are in the current RPS 14 by 30th September 2017.

Action 4: The working group to revise the draft of the MEC and, via the Secretariat, circulate this to Members by 1 October 2017 for consideration prior to the next RHC meeting, with the aim of having the draft suitable for endorsement for release for public comment at the next RHC meeting.

In parallel the OBPR Preliminary Assessment is to be revised and if necessary a Consultation RIS be developed. Progress to be reported at the next meeting of the Committee.

Item 3.3 Existing Exposure Guide (EEG)

Dr Tinker

Dr Tinker presented the agenda paper on the Existing Exposure Guide (EEG). Members noted that the final draft of the EEG and public consultation comments had been circulated out of session. Greater clarity surrounding the Australian context had been included and the reference level for aircrew had been revised to 6 mSv per year. Members approved the publication of the EEG with minor editing. Dr Tinker thanked the working group for their contribution. It was noted that preliminary endorsement for publication had already been sought from the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council, based on the assumption that the RHC would only make minor and immaterial amendments. Any comments from Council were expected within a week.

Action 5: The RHC approved the publication of the EEG.

Item 3.4 **Emergency Exposure Guide**

Dr Tinker

Dr Tinker presented the agenda paper on the Emergency Exposure Guide. The current draft was considered to contain a lot of useful guidance material but it was not in an easily accessible form for potential users of the Guide. A proposal was presented for revision of the Guide into a more “user friendly” form. This included incorporation of the four requirements from GSR Part 3 that are relevant to emergency management into the NDRP, and dividing the Emergency Exposure Guide into several parts relevant to the different phases of an emergency and target user groups. This plan was endorsed by the Committee.

Action 6: The Secretariat to circulate a revised draft Emergency Exposure Guide to Members out of session for possible approval to go out for public consultation by September 2017.

Item 3.5 **IPL Working Group**

Mr Critchley

Mr Critchley provided Members with a verbal update on the progress of the IPL Working Group. Members noted the progress on the guidance documents. Members also noted that the documents do not need approval from the RHC but the progress of these documents will be monitored by the RHC. The proposed guidance will be assessed in terms of any compliance requirement that ought to be cleared by the OBPR.

Action 7: The Working Group will explore options for capturing incident reporting and report to the next RHC in November.

Action 8: The Working Group to send the finalised documents to the Secretariat for a preliminary assessment in accordance with OBPR requirements.

Item 3.6 **National Model for Public Information**

Dr Tinker

Dr Tinker presented the agenda paper on “A uniform approach to communication” and provided a summary of the meeting of RHC members and communication experts from multiple jurisdictions held on 23 May 2017. Members noted and commended the ARPANSA Advisory notes on issues related to the implications arising from ICRP’s expected changes to the dose coefficients for radon and radon progeny.

Item 3.7 **Proposed Code on industrial radiography licence conditions**

Mr Cleaves

Mr Kalaiziovski provided the Members with a verbal update on the status of the proposed Code on industrial radiography. Members requested Mr Kalaiziovski to continue drafting the Code and to develop the preliminary assessment which will determine if a RIS will be required. A radiation management plan to be developed and approved by the regulator is required in this Code and others. The regulatory members of the Committee agreed that some national uniformity of these plans is desirable. Members agreed that the sharing of templates for radiation management plans relating to different practices between regulators would be a useful aid to national uniformity. A protected website would be a useful place for these to reside.

Action 9: To complete and circulate out of session the draft Code and separate supplementary guidance material for practices on how to develop a radiation management plan, for feedback.

Action 10: To explore the use of platforms for sharing de-identified templates and report back at the next RHC meeting in November 2017.

Item 3.8 **Review of RPS 3**

Dr Hocking

Dr Hocking provided Members with a verbal update on the review of RPS 3, *Radiation Protection Standard for Maximum Exposure Levels to Radiofrequency Fields – 3 kHz to 300 GHz (2002)*. The Members noted that the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) is currently updating its guidance and it may take some time for this to be finalised. The Committee suggested that a concept draft of a revised RPS 3 could be developed that may influence the ICNIRP draft regarding occupational aspects that lacked clarity in the past.

Action 11: The Working Group to develop a concept draft RPS3 for viewing at the next RHC in November.

Item 3.9 **RHS 35 – Disposal Code**

Dr Tinker

Dr Tinker presented the agenda paper on the *Code of practice for the near-surface disposal of radioactive waste in Australia (1992)*. Members noted the draft Disposal Code and OBPR Preliminary Assessment had been circulated to members out of session. Some comment had been received. Members agreed that this work should progress. They requested the working group perform a gap analysis to determine that the scope of the Code will cover all possible and potential disposal of solid radioactive waste situations. Committee agreed to review a revised draft of the Code out of session

Members approved the request to seek advice from the OBPR on whether a RIS will be required.

Action 12: The Working Group to perform a gap analysis to confirm that the scope of the Code will cover all relevant scenarios and circulate this out of session

Action 13: If no RIS is required, Members to be contacted out of session for feedback on the revised Code and possible approval for release for public consultation

Action 14: The Working Group to draft consultation RIS if required, if possible by the next RHC in November 2017.

Item 3.10 **Advice on RPS11**

Ms Murray

Ms Murray presented the agenda paper on the update of RPS 11, *Code of Practice for the Security of Radioactive Sources (2007)*. Members noted the progress of the amendment to the RPS 11 threat level scale and approved the proposed text to replace the existing RPS 11 text. This will be part of Amendment 8 to the NDRP. Members accepted the RPS 11 revision Working Group's proposal to undertake an extensive gap analysis on NSS 11 that will inform the RPS 11 revision options by the end of the 2017 calendar year.

Action 15: The Committee approved revised wording for RPS 11.

Action 16: The Working Group to undertake an extensive gap analysis of NSS 11 and RPS 11 to inform revision options for RPS 11. To be completed by end of 2017

Item 3.11 **Withdrawal of RHS 13**

Mr Dessent

Mr Dessent presented an additional agenda item, 3.11, in which he advised Members that Amendment 7 has been accepted for inclusion into the NDRP to cover disposal of low level radioactive waste by the user. Mr Dessent advised that the original intention of this amendment, once published, would be to replace the *NHMRC Code of practice for the disposal of radioactive wastes by the user (1985)* (RHS 13) although no explicit mention of this has been found in previous minutes of RHC. A draft Regulatory Impact Statement

(unused) relating to the inclusion of Amendment 7 into the NDRP does, however, state the intention to replace RHS 13, and a paper tabled at the RHC planning meeting of February 2012 notes that: [the amendment] will ensure a uniform approach to the disposal of low-level radioactive waste by the user and RHS 13 will become redundant.

Members were therefore asked to confirm the original intention by vote at this meeting. The vote to revoke RHS 13 once the NDRP including Amendment 7 is published was unanimous.

Action 17: The Committee approved withdrawal of RHS 13, Code of Practice for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste by the User, to be effective when Amendment 7 to the NDRP is published.

After-note: RHS 13 has been removed from the ARPANSA Website with a note stating that it has been superseded by Amendment 7 to the NDRP.

4. General Information Items

Item 4.1 **Report from the Nuclear Safety Committee** **Mr Lyons**

Mr Lyon advised the Members that the next NSC meeting will be at the end of June 2017.

Item 4.2 **International Liaison** **Mr Hemsley**

Mr Hemsley presented an agenda paper on recent International Engagement by ARPANSA. Members noted the ARPANSA Overseas Travel Reports.

Item 4.3 **Next triennial RHC Membership** **Dr Larsson**

Dr Larsson advised the Members that the RHC membership term will cease at the end of this calendar year and nominations would be sought in due course.

5. Closing

Item 5.1 **Any Other Business** **Chair**

Item 5.1.1 Advisory note and fact sheet on dose coefficient of radon progeny **Dr Tinker**

Dr Tinker presented an agenda paper on Advisory Note and Fact Sheet on dose coefficient of radon following agenda item 3.6. Mr Baldry and Mr Cleaves commended the excellent initiative by ARPANSA. It was suggested that the same mechanism could be used to communicate information on lasers and IPL.

Item 5.1.2 Rules and procedures for Committees **Dr Larsson**

Dr Larsson presented agenda paper titled "Roles and Expectations for Advisory Bodies". Dr Larsson advised the Members that the document was discussed that the Council and will be tabled at the NSC at the end of June 2017. Members approved and accepted the Rules and Procedures as circulated out of session.

Item 5.2 Next Meeting

Chair

The next meeting will be on 15 November 2017. Location and venue for the next meeting will be determined at a later date. Dr Sarkar requested the Members to act promptly on request for travel bookings.

Meeting closed at 3:00pm.