



Australian Government

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

INSPECTION REPORT

Licence Holder: ANSTO Open Pool Australian Light Water Reactor (OPAL)	Licence Number: F0157
Location inspected: Lucas Heights, Sydney	Dates of inspection: 12-14 December 2016
	Report No: R16/14198
<p>An inspection was conducted as part of ARPANSA's baseline inspection program to assess compliance with the <i>Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998</i> (the Act), the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulations 1999 (the Regulations), and conditions of Facility Licence F0157 OPAL Reactor.</p> <p>The scope of the inspection included an assessment of ANSTO OPAL's performance in performance reporting and verification and consisted of a review of records and interviews.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>The ANSTO OPAL facility is a 20 MW, multipurpose research reactor which provides a variety of benefits to the community including production of radioisotopes for nuclear medicine and neutron scattering research. The performance reporting and verification relate to the OPAL facility internal reporting processes, their effectiveness and how they support learning and continuous improvement. It also relates to ANSTO's reporting commitments to ARPANSA.</p> <p>Observations</p> <p>In general, Performance Reporting and Verification at the OPAL reactor was found to be appropriate. The new ANSTO internal reporting system – the ANSTO Event Management System (EMS) that was implemented at the facility in May 2016, was found to be effective. There was one area for improvement that is described below.</p> <p>Internal reporting</p> <p>The ANSTO Event Management System is a tool for the management of events and arising actions at ANSTO. The suite of procedures and instructions describing how to use the system has been developed and staff have undergone training. The use of the system has been monitored by the OPAL management to ensure that a similar number of events are being raised as with the former ROEMS system.</p> <p>A small number of safety related events checked by ARPANSA inspectors were found to be marked as overdue in the system. It appeared that the event investigation report had been completed but in these cases the event report was awaiting acceptance/review by event owners.</p> <p>Although the new EMS has been in use at the facility since May 2016, not all its features are fully optimised. For example, the system is designed to issue relevant email notifications to staff involved in the event reporting management. At present, the system can issue irrelevant notifications to staff and therefore overall management of events can become difficult. It can result in the staff manually prioritising response to events arising from a large number of notifications.</p>	

In addition, the 'My Task' list, which is designed to alert staff to their own specific actions which are required for event management, is currently not operating as designed for some staff members, displaying a large number of unrelated and irrelevant notifications. It is noted that the ANSTO EMS owners are aware of these issues and are working towards a solution.

Findings

The licence holder was found to be in compliance with the requirements of the Act, the Regulations, and licence conditions.

The inspection revealed the following **area for improvement**.

The licence holder is encouraged to continue to work with the ANSTO Event Management System management to optimise features such as email notifications and task management.

It is expected that improvement actions be taken in a timely manner.