



Nuclear Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date:	26 November 2021
Time:	09:30 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
Invitees:	Mr Robert Godfrey, Dr Gillian Hirth, Ms Joy Ho, Mr Vaz Mottl, Mr James Scott, Ms Francesca Wigney (ARPANSA)
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

Mr Ian Drinnan declared a potential conflict of interest with item 3.1 the ANSTO Intermediate Level Waste Capacity Increase (ILWCI), for which his organisation had made a public submission. The Committee noted this was not a material conflict (such as a financial interest) and determined that Mr Drinnan should remain for the item but not take part in any decisions or recommendations.

Ms Jasmin Diab declared a potential conflict of interest for the discussion in item 2, due to her employment by the department of defence. As this agenda item was for information, it was determined that there was no material conflict.

One previously declared potential conflict of interest raised by Mr Wilkinson, whose employer is undertaking work with a licence holder, was noted as having been completed.

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. 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:

- NSC21-04 Friday, 25 February 2022
- NSC21-05 Friday, 10 June 2022
- NSC21-06 Friday, 21 October 2022

Item 1.5 Safety/Security Moment

A safety/security moment was presented on equipment failures based on information collated in the Australian Radiation Incident Register (ARIR). The moment highlighted the importance of considering workflows and reporting minor incidents and near misses.

Item 1.6 Outstanding Actions

The Committee noted that all outstanding actions were completed.

Item 1.7 Correspondence

The Committee noted no correspondence was sent or received.

2. Main Items for Discussion

Item 2.1 Australian nuclear-powered submarine update

The committee was provided with a brief overview of the Australian government intention to acquire nuclear-powered submarine technology, leveraging experience from the US and UK. The Nuclear-Powered Submarine Taskforce has been established in the Department of Defence, and one ARPANSA employee has been seconded to this taskforce. Over the next 18 months, Australia, the UK and US will focus on identifying the optimal pathway including potential roles in nuclear stewardship. The committee noted that ARPANSA will devote some additional resources to this project over the next 18 months.

3. Update on Major Controlled Facilities and Inspections

Item 3.1 ANSTO Intermediate Level Waste Capacity Increase (ILWCI)

The Committee was provided with an overview of the application that ARPANSA is assessing for ANSTO to prepare a site for the ILWCI facility (nuclear installation). The Committee noted the public consultation and that the ARPANSA regulatory assessment report had not yet been completed pending further information from the applicant. The Committee provided high-level feedback on the importance of learning from experience and capturing international best practice.

It is anticipated that further advice will be sought from the Committee once the application assessment is complete.

Item 3.2 OPAL updates

The Committee was provided with updates on the OPAL riser defect, including the results from latest visual inspections that monitor for any potential crack propagation. It was reported that no crack growth had been observed over the last 12 months. The committee noted the testing work with the riser mock-up was ongoing, and that other mitigation and rectification works will continue to be monitored by ARPANSA inspectors.

The Committee was also updated on the recent changes to the nucleonics instrumentation systems that is part of the reactor protection systems.

Item 3.3 Periodic Safety and Security Reviews

The Committee was provided with a high-level summary of intended Periodic Safety and Security Review for OPAL. The Committee noted the importance of objective analysis of both internal and external factors.

Item 3.4 ANSTO Health Products & ANM

The Committee was provided with an update on ANSTO Health Products & ANM. This included the event in August 2021 that rendered the ANM dissolution cell DCEL1 inoperable. This event did not have any radiological consequence; however, production was halted for 10 days while DCEL2 was prepared for operation. DCEL1 remains inoperative containing waste and other active materials. At the time of the meeting, no plan or submission had been received for recovery, including assessment of the radiological impact of recovery operations and plans for alterations to reduce the likelihood or eliminate the cause of the event.

Item 3.5 Other Facilities

The committee noted the update on other regulatory activities associated with facilities.

4. Reports

Item 4.1 Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council

The Committee was provided with a brief overview of upcoming work and noted that minutes of the meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#) once published.

Item 4.2 Radiation Health Committee

The Committee was provided with a brief overview of upcoming work and noted that minutes of the meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#) once published.

Item 4.3 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 Human and organisational factors update

To provide an overview of the proposed human and organisational factors work being undertaken and future involvement opportunities. The Committee noted that the initiatives were very positive and offered to provide assistance where applicable.

Item 5.2 Commonwealth Performance Guide for Regulatory Functions

The Committee noted the changes in reporting that was previously under the Regulatory Performance Framework.

6. Information on Nuclear Safety Matters and Regulatory Activities

Item 6.1 International Engagement Reports

The Committee was provided with recent international engagements including virtual and physical meetings.

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, 25 February 2022.