



Nuclear Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date:	Friday, 16 March 2018
Location:	Level 3, 38-40 Urunga Parade, Miranda
Chair:	Dr Tamie Weaver
Members:	Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, Ms Fay Bellis, Ms Kerrie-Anne Christian, Mr Tony Irwin, Dr Rob Lee, Mr Don Macnab, Mr Peter Wilkinson, Dr Joanna Wriedt, Dr John Loy, Mr Stuart Parr
Secretariat:	Mr John Ward
Scribe:	Mr Chris Nickel
Apologies:	Mr Ian Drinnan
Invitees:	Mr Jim Scott, Ms Francesca Wigney, Dr Samir Sakar
Observers:	None

1. Introduction

Item 1.1 Attendance and Apologies

Mr Ian Drinnan was an apology for this meeting. All other members were present.

On the preceding day a number of the members of the NSC visited the ANSTO site including the OPAL Reactor, the ANSTO Nuclear Medicine Facility, and the Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering.

Item 1.2 Welcome to new members

The Committee welcomed the four new members who had been appointed for the current triennium: Ms Fay Bellis, Dr Joanna Wriedt, Dr John Loy, Mr Stuart Parr.

The CEO of ARPANSA gave an overview of the responsibilities of members and the function of the Committee, as well as the Radiation Health Committee and the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council. Further information is available in the provided [roles and expectations for advisory bodies](#).

Item 1.3 Safety Brief

Members were provided with an overview of the safety considerations for the meeting venue, such as fire safety and evacuation procedures.

Item 1.4 Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interests

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

Item 1.5 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 1.6 Meeting dates

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

- 22 June 2018
- 2 November 2018
- 8 March 2019

Item 1.7 Safety/Security Moment

ARPANSA presented a safety moment from the Australian Radiation Incident Register 2016 Annual Report. The annual report is available on the [ARPANSA website](#).

2. Business Arising

Item 2.1 Outstanding Actions

The Committee noted that all outstanding actions, which were due, had been completed.

Item 2.2 RHC and RHSAC Engagements

The Committee noted the continuing work to increase engagement between the two Committees and Council, and noted the priorities of the other advisory bodies.

3. Correspondence

Item 3.1 Incoming Correspondence

The Committee noted the incoming letter from Wareham and Beavis of the Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW). The Committee requested they be copied in on any response by ARPANSA. The letter was further considered in the discussion under Agenda Item 5.1.

Item 3.2 Outgoing Correspondence

None

4. Main Items for Discussion

Item 4.1 Review of Regulatory Guide - Decommissioning

The Committee had prior to the meeting been provided with a copy of the draft Regulatory Guide: Decommissioning of Controlled Facilities (the Guide), which provides guidance to licence holders, technical support organisations, and other interested parties on planning, conducting and completing the decommissioning of controlled facilities. The guide was released for stakeholder comment from Monday 5 February 2018 to Friday 23 February 2018 <https://www.arpansa.gov.au/regulatory-guide-decommissioning-controlled-facilities>

Committee members provided comments on the Guide ahead of the meeting. The Committee provided additional feedback at the meeting, including on the language and to ensure that key issues such as the transition to decommissioning, waste segregation and records management were adequately emphasised. The Committee supported the preparation and publication of this guide, which will clarify the requirements and expectations for licence holders. Comments and feedback will be addressed through applicable revisions.

5. Update on major Controlled Facilities and Inspections

Item 5.1 ANSTO Nuclear Medicine (ANM) Facility Application

ARPANSA has received an application by ANSTO to operate the ANM Facility. ANSTO currently hold a construction licence for this facility. The Committee had previously reviewed the ANSTO risk assessment of the ANM Facility, and a first draft of the ARPANSA Regulatory Assessment Report (RAR) for the operating licence application.

A draft Statement of Reasons (SOR) was prepared by the CEO of ARPANSA which summarises the key information considered as part of the decision making process, including information submitted with the application. Following the decision, the SOR will be uploaded to ARPANSA's website and provides the justification for the regulatory decision.

The Committee was provided with an overview of the SOR and the underlying analysis and justification for the decision. This included an overview of progress and deviations from plans, emergency management, waste management, and the potential benefits and consequences of the facility. The Committee discussed potential licence conditions and the intended progression of the facility through hot commissioning and the transition to routine operation.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the information supplied with the application including the assessment of risk and benefit, resourcing, and waste. The Committee supported the CEO's preliminary intention to authorise only hot commissioning of the facility and left it with the CEO to decide on an appropriate way to implement this constraint. A range of licensing options, and conditions, were discussed which could efficiently and effectively achieve this outcome.

The Committee agreed that the information provided in the draft Statement of Reasons adequately supports the decision proposed. However, minor amendments were proposed to enhance the SOR.

Item 5.2 OPAL

The Committee was provided with an overview of the ANSTO OPAL reactor regulatory performance since the last NSC meeting in October 2017. This included details of a recent event that involved a tool which dropped into the pool, and the provisions being made for the planned fuel transport from OPAL to France.

The Committee noted that there was a high degree of reliance on human factors. The Committee noted that although a dropped cask into the fuel pool was considered under risk consequences, the use of non-procedural controls was not discussed. For example, the possibility or practicality of using a physical interlock that could ensure that the cask cannot be traversed above the reactor. Feedback from ANSTO would be sought and provided as part of the update at next NSC meeting.

Item 5.3 Gamma Irradiator Suite

The Committee was provided with an overview of the ANSTO Gamma Irradiator Suite (GIS) regulatory performance since the last NSC meeting in October 2017. This included the augmented inspection (report available [online](#)) which was carried out in November 2017 following a reported incident. The committee noted that ANSTO suspended operation of the facility and have confirmed that they are intending to decommission it.

Item 5.4 ANSTO Health

The Committee was provided with an overview of the ANSTO Health regulatory performance since the last NSC meeting in October 2017. This includes a report on the augmented inspection conducted in November 2017 which is available [online](#). The Committee also noted the [report](#) on the recent serious exposure (INES Level 3) of an ANSTO staff member, which had been tabled in Parliament.

The Committee noted the reports and discussed the importance of human factor considerations, especially in the assessment of risks and controls. The Committee expressed an interest in further information to understand how human factors has been employed within ANSTO, particularly regarding ANSTO Health and ANM.

Action: Two committee members to prepare an item on human factor considerations for the next meeting.

The Committee will be provided and requested to comment on a summary on the learnings which were identified by ARPANSA in its regulatory approaches, for example changes to the inspection or assessment process.

Action: ARPANSA to prepare an agenda item on what lessons it has learned from the ANSTO Health accident.

6. Reports

Due to time constraints, the Committee did not discuss the following agenda items:

Item 6.1 ARPANSA significant Activities

The Committee noted the information provided in the agenda and associated papers.

Item 6.2 Radiation Health Committee

Subsequent to the meeting the committee was provided with a summary report from Ms Fay Bellis on the recent activities of the Radiation Health Committee based on its meeting on 14 March 2018. Following approval, minutes of Radiation Health Committee meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#).

Item 6.3 Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council

The most recent meeting was held from 7 to 8 March 2018. Following approval, minutes of the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council meetings can be downloaded from the [ARPANSA website](#).

Item 6.4 Update on Regulatory Administration Database upgrade project

The Committee noted the information provided in the agenda and associated papers.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Information on Nuclear Safety Matters and Regulatory Activities

Due to time constraints, the Committee did not discuss the following agenda items:

Item 8.1 Travel Reports

The Committee noted the item.

Item 8.2 International and National Drafts for Comment

The Committee noted the item.

9. Closure and Next Meeting

The meeting concluded at 16:00. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 22 June 2018.