

**Minutes of the NDAWG Habits subgroup
26th January 2006, FSA London**

Present:

Mike Thorne	–	MT	(Mike Thorne & Associates, Chair)
Darren Cutts	–	DC	(FSA, Secretary)
Mike Gaunt	–	MG	(Rolls Royce)
John Hunt	–	JH	(CEFAS)
Rachel Smith	–	RS	(HPA-RPD)
John Titley	–	JT	(EA)
David Webbe-Wood	–	DWW	(FSA)

Apologies:

Peter Roche	–		(Independent, rep: Greenpeace)
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1. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Actions Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate account. All outstanding actions were also completed during the production of the first position paper.

2. Issues Arising from the 8th NDAWG Meeting

RS raised the issue of national surveys and whether it was in the remit of the habits subgroup to examine these. The minutes of the 8th NDAWG only mention this as a proposal. MT suggested the steering group should guide us on this.

JH stated that there was a push from CEDA to develop prospective assessments. These would require national data, however national data tended to be in a format not suitable for prospective assessments. The habits subgroup terms of reference only state that prospective assessments should be looked at in the future as such the terms of reference need to be updated.

Action 4/01: MT to approach steering group to clarify NDAWG position on national habits surveys.

Action 4/02: MT to update and feedback to main NDAWG revised terms of reference.

3. Extension to Scope of the Habits Subgroup to Include Prospective Assessments.

The structure of the second position paper describing the standard approach to prospective assessments was discussed. The draft outline suggested was included in the minutes as Annex I along with any captured thoughts. (This has not been reproduced, as the updated information is now provided in Appendix B.)

It was stated that it was not the remit of the group to provide data for national surveys. The paper should discuss what we currently use, but also suggest what we should have to perform an assessment describing a structured methodology.

RS commented that we need to revisit national surveys and review information as the basis of the current guidance is out of date. There are also problems with the presentation and content of the data, which are not likely to be fit for purpose. A recommendation that NDAWG should review national data was made. MT added that we need a standard set of numbers by pathway based on a national survey, but also a caveat for 'special local' cases. MT asked for descriptions of the national survey, local non-nuclear issues and the review document of the CEFAS habits surveys around the UK.

Action 4/03: RS to write a brief on the current national survey for NDAWG.

Action 4/04: JT to describe non-contentious local habits around non-nuclear sites.

Action 4/05: DC to obtain and give a copy of the CEFAS project (FSA code RP171, April 2000) to MT.

RS and DWW mentioned that any description of land use in the second position paper should include both current and future use using a suitable time scale. It is important to distinguish between the typical 20 years used for a nuclear site and the current use for a one off release. What could the land be reasonably used for, planning permissions etc? What output are we trying to get, is it a realistic dose or a maximum reasonable value?

4. Application of National and Aggregated Data in Retrospective Assessments

MT noted that much on this issue had already been discussed in determining the structure of the second position paper. However, it was important that the second position paper mentioned that the first position paper only touched upon national survey data as that paper was primarily concerned with retrospective dose assessments. The second position paper will be looking at prospective dose and will therefore need to go into detail about national data. However, it is important to mention that national data are relevant for retrospective assessments.

5. Arrangements for Production of a Second Position Paper.

It was agreed that the group should aim to produce and present the second position paper at the main NDAWG meeting which will be held in Easter 2007. Autumn 2006 would not be possible due to the NDAWG review meeting held at that time.

- 1st Draft by Friday 10th March 2006 (skeleton draft).
- Issue at the same time (above) a report of the subgroup meeting to NDAWG.
- Feedback from group on the first draft by 31st May 2006.
- Revised Draft by MT by 31st August 2006.
- Possible meeting before final production if necessary.

6. Membership of the Habits Subgroup.

MT was happy to remain as chair and there were no objections to this. It was noted that there was a problem in getting NGO's and small users to attend. RS identified a potential small user, but the group was asked whether they could come up with possible names and relay them to the group. In general the main NDAWG group through the steering group should make an effort to identify NGO's and small users.

Action 4/06: ALL to identify possible members of both subgroup and Main NDAWG.

Action 4/07: DWW to raise the issue of the low number of NGO and small users on the NDAWG groups.

7. Addressing Specific Issues Raised by the Modelling Subgroup.

- The Habits Subgroup should review generic consumption data for allotment, small holdings and similar sites.

MT said that there was a need to evaluate to determine whether this was a significant food issue. RS noted that there were small amounts of information but the small area of an allotment would mean food would be limited in amount. DC added that the CEFAS habits surveys contain information on allotment uses although this is not published explicitly. MT, commented that in the light of limited specific information, it would be prudent to develop a methodology drawing on standard information on allotment sizes etc. However this discussion would be fed back to the modelling subgroup.

Action 4/08: MT to feedback information to modelling group.

- The habits subgroup should consider seasonality.
DWW stated that you can look at the detail of the National database which does contain seasonal variation but does not show local produce. Complications occur with the storage of crop, a 'time dependant issue'. Do we consider short-term releases to occur at the time of maximum production and worst case wind direction? Other issues of regional variations, continuous cropping and making preserves were raised. It was thought ADAS would have agricultural information and should be contacted. However, the question was thought to be vague and in reply, the Habits subgroup will ask for clarification.

Action 4/09: MT to feedback information to modelling group.

- The habits subgroup should consider releases to freshwater. Large variability's exist between rivers, particularly as many discharges go to small rivers where little or no information on habits is known. The nuclear site habits surveys contain some information on discharges to freshwater, additionally there is likely to be information on type of fish and weights from angling clubs. JH added that monitoring data in upland lakes in England, Scotland and Wales was performed as part of the Chernobyl response, this may contain habits information. Seasonality of fishing was also thought to be an issue, particularly the 'legal basis' for fishing.

Action 4/10: DC to collate Fresh Water habits data from relevant sites for the next NDAWG subgroup meeting.

Action 4/11: JT to find out seasons for coarse fishing etc.

- Review generic habit data for leisure activities. The current habits survey contains generic information for in-water, on-water and on beach substrate activities. DC noted that the surveys do state whether the observation was dog walking, swimming etc., this can be found in the new round of habits surveys. The modelling subgroup will have to highlight pathways which it believes are significant and are missing from surveys.

Action 4/12: MT to ask modelling subgroup which leisure activities they are interested in.

- Review seaweed fertiliser issue. DWW confirmed that the FSA was commissioning research on this pathway. The Research Requirements Document has been published with proposals expected in February. The project is expected to last 2 years and will include the habits pathway.
- Short term releases to the marine environment and personal exposure. Seasonal variation and exposure from leisure activities has already been discussed in response to previous questions.
- Short term releases to sea washed pasture. MT suggested that this was no different to the other considerations already discussed.

- Occupancy of Sewage Works.

It was noted that two recent surveys had been performed for Cardiff and Amersham where there were discharges to sewage works. 2000h/y was suggested as a maximum occupancy as this is the typical working year.

JT stated that a survey is required, but that this information should be available from the operational procedure of each site.

Action 4/13: JT to examine the Cardiff and Amersham Habits Surveys to identify occupancy data.

Action 4/14: MT to investigate the availability of operational procedures.

8. Preparation of a report to the Forthcoming NDAWG Meeting.

The report will contain information on the proposed structure and layout of the second position paper, and a note on the proposed revised Terms of Reference. It will also contain complete responses to the modelling subgroup questions. The forward work programme as discussed under section 5 and NGO membership issues will additionally be included.

Action 4/15: MT to produce Habits Subgroup report for the NDAWG group.

9. AOB.

A suggestion was made to change the wording of the terms of reference. Reference to prospective assessment being reviewed at a 'later date' should be changed to 'being considered'. See action 4/02.

10. Date and venue of the next meeting.

No set date was fixed for the next meeting as this would be dependent on the development of the second paper.

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Incidents Division**