

NATIONAL DOSE ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

PAPER 4-08: NDAWG REVIEW

1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The current terms of reference are:

1. To facilitate the exchange of data and views between all parties on assessment methodologies.
2. To advance the understanding between groups who are likely to have differing objectives and views on dose assessment methods.
3. To meet on a regular basis (every 6 months) to discuss matters of mutual concern, and developments arising out of research, case histories (e.g., recent consultations) or changes in government policy.
4. To identify, discuss and evaluate research which will progress dose assessment methods.
5. To initiate debate beyond the group on key issues, as necessary (for example via the Society for Radiological Protection).
6. To keep abreast of international developments on dose assessment methodologies, and to provide feedback to the appropriate UK authorities for input into EU bodies.
7. To facilitate the development of *coherent transparent methods* for the assessment of radiation dose to the public from all pathways which arise as a result of the operations at nuclear and non-nuclear sites.

These were agreed at the 1st NDAWG meeting (April 2002) and revised at the 2nd and 3rd NDAWG meetings.

2 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The steering group has updated the work programme agreed at the 3rd NDAWG meeting. This takes account of the decision to include the effects of radiation on biota and the need to bring back issues to NDAWG.

The following work plan is proposed:

Meeting 4 Principles document for retrospective assessments, habit data, the use of measurements (model validation, prospective assessments predicted/observed ratios)

Meeting 5 Presenting data to the public, looking at wide range at issues including possibly a outside speaker, FSA dose assessment methodology (possible and probable dose).

Meeting 6 Review of progress on CEDA – are all issues being addressed? Small user issues, issues for the nuclear industry, particular problems associated with assessing doses from short term releases.

Meeting 7 Effects of radiation on biota, methods and data required to assess doses from radionuclides disposed of in sewage, including the use of sewage sludge.

Remaining topics are as follows:

- Methodologies available for carrying out dose assessments – differences, similarities and possible harmonisation.
- Modelling developments and studies relating to the transfer of radionuclides in the marine environment.
- Modelling the dispersion of radionuclides in the atmosphere, particularly experiences in using ADMS
- The need to consider the transfer of radionuclides to breast-fed infants – if ICRP report issued
- Compatibility of dose coefficients for ingestion and inhalation and related habit data
- The use and calculation of collective dose

Commentary: This proposed work plan is based on the results of last year's consultation with members on the priorities for future work. However, it was not possible to follow this directly, as some topics can not be discussed until studies elsewhere are completed or reports are published. For example, discussion on the ICRP report on breast fed infants has to await its publication. Also the steering group wanted similar or related topics to be dealt with at the same

meeting. They also felt that there was a need for a review of the issues raised at CEDA and whether they had been addressed and that fitted with a discussion of particular issues for small users and the nuclear industry. The proposed work plan is therefore a compromise. The plan is flexible and can be changed if necessary. It will therefore be reviewed at each meeting of NDAWG.

3 COLLATING ONGOING RESEARCH

It has been agreed that NDAWG should collate information on ongoing research and the Steering group felt that three types of information should be collected: on-going research; future planned research; possible future projects. All members of NDAWG have been sent forms to complete under these 3 headings but as of 4/11/03 the only response has been from Scottish Executive to say that they do not fund any relevant research. When information is received the secretariat will enter it on a simple database which will be available on the NDAWG website.

4 WEBSITE

Format of the webpage changed to allow Contribute software to be used.

206 visitors for September 2003, with 236 files downloaded.

Total of 1068 visitors since May 2003 with 605 files downloaded

5 NDAWG MEMBERSHIP

Current NDAWG membership/representation is as follows:

5.1 Chair

John Cooper NRPB

5.2 Regulators/agencies

Rob Allott, John Titley, EA

Stuart Conney, Darren Cutts, David Webbe-Wood FSA

Patrick Stephen, NII

Andrew Macpherson, DEFRA

Nancy Lawton, DTI

Cathy Griffiths, RWMAC

George Hunter, SEPA

Ken Ledgerwood, Dept Environment (NI)

Havard Prosser, National Assembly for Wales

Will Munro, FSA Scotland

Ian Hall, Scottish Executive

5.3 Industry

Tim Parker, BNFL

Laurence Austin, BNFL Magnox

Michael Gaunt, Rolls-Royce

Paul Marks, Amersham plc

5.4 Specialists/NGOs

Steve Jones, Westlakes Scientific Consulting

Barrie Lambert, NGO

John Hunt, CEFAS

Mike Thorne, Consultant

Philip Day, Consultant

John Asquith, Local Authorities representative

Pete Roche, Greenpeace

5.5 Secretariat

Jane Simmonds, NRPB

Ray Kowe, NRPB