

NATIONAL DOSE ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

PAPER 11-08: 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. At the Open meeting in November 2006 it was agreed that an additional term of reference was required to reflect the role of NDAWG in promoting 'best practice' in dose assessment methodologies. The following addition to the first term of reference above is therefore proposed:

1. To facilitate the exchange of data and views between all parties on assessment methodologies *and to promote the use of best practice and consistent methodologies.*

Are members happy with this proposed amendment?

2. Future Work Programme

The Steering Group considered the work programme at their meeting in February taking into account the discussions and recommendations at the Open meeting. The following points were agreed:

- NDAWG should keep a watching brief on contaminated land issues and it would be useful to have an item on RCLEA in a future meeting. NDAWG should also continue to keep a watching brief on doses to non-human biota.
- NDAWG should defer any consideration of solid waste at present and it should not consider accidents, due to the existing workload and the need to involve additional experts if solid waste was considered.
- The suggestions for future work from the Open meeting were accepted except for the proposal that NDAWG should consider source terms for unmonitored sources. It was felt that this was outside NDAWG's remit and that it should be dealt with as part of the authorisation system.

The following work programme was agreed.

Meeting 11. The use and calculation of collective dose, and environmental monitoring in relation to retrospective dose assessment

Meeting 12. The impact of radioactive particles in dose assessments, the outcome of the research into phosphorus in the freshwater environment, update on doses to biota.

Meeting 13. Atmospheric dispersion and contaminated land issues, including RCLEA.

Remaining topics are as follows:

- Modelling developments and studies relating to the transfer of radionuclides in the marine environment.
- Validation of sewer dose assessment methodologies.
- Response to the new ICRP recommendations
- Response to any changes in the EC Basic Safety Standards
- The need to consider the transfer of radionuclides to breast-fed infants
- Compatibility of dose coefficients for ingestion and inhalation and related habit data
- The IAEA EMRAS programme

Do members have any comments on this suggested work programme.?

3. NDAWG Membership

Current NDAWG membership/representation has been increased to reflect the decisions made at the Open meeting and is as follows:

Chair

John Cooper HPA

Regulators/agencies

Rob Allott, John Titley, EA

Stuart Conney, David Webbe-Wood, Paul Kennedy, FSA

Patrick Stephen, NII

Chris Wilson, DEFRA

Paul Dale, SEPA

Robert Larmour, Dept Environment (NI)

Havard Prosser, National Assembly for Wales

Will Munro, FSA Scotland

Ian Hall, Scottish Executive

Gerald Hudd, Somerset County Council

Industry

Tim Parker, BNFL

Laurence Austin, British Energy

Michael Gaunt, Rolls-Royce

Andrew Corns, GE healthcare

Lucy Bailey, Simon Morgan NDA Radioactive Waste Management Directorate

Andrew Craze, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Catherine Retberg, Springfields Fuels

Representative of MOD sites to be decided

Specialists/NGOs

Steve Jones, Westlakes Scientific Consulting

Barrie Lambert, NGO

John Hunt, CEFAS

Mike Thorne, Consultant

Philip Day, Consultant

Pete Roche, Consultant (representing Greenpeace)

Ian Fairlie, Consultant

4. Collating ongoing reserach

A database of on-going research, future planned research and possible future projects has been available on the NDAWG website for some time. It had proved very popular with people accessing the site but it is sadly out of date and incomplete. We would, therefore, welcome further contributions from members, which can include relevant research from member's organisations, and third parties.

5. Website

Between May 2006 and March 2007 there were 6671 visits to the NDAWG website (over 600 visits on average a month) with people accessing over 55,000 files.

NDAWG Secretariat
April 2007