

NATIONAL DOSE ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

PAPER 12-09: 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 and to promote the use of best practice and consistent 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, 3rd and 11th NDAWG meetings. The first term of reference was changed at the last NDAWG meeting and the Secretariat were asked to consider adding something on publicising or disseminating the methodologies. The following addition to the first term of reference was agreed by the Steering Group and is 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 *through dissemination of NDAWG guidance.*

Are members happy with this proposed amendment?

In addition the Steering Group were asked to consider the inclusion of risks in the terms of reference. In the past the view of NDAWG has been that health risks from radiation are considered by other groups such as COMARE and the HPA Ionising Radiation Advisory Group (plus in the past CERRIE). The Steering group felt that it would not be appropriate for NDAWG to consider topics related to risk and dose coefficients (i.e. the conversion from dose to health risks) as:

- There were other groups who had this as their remit
- Many of the current NDAWG members did not have the necessary expertise to consider these issues
- There were other sources of uncertainty in dose assessments which it would be more profitable for the group to deal with.
- It was felt that the HPA have the main remit in this area and not EA, SEPA, FSA or HSE. Hence, it is really for the HPA to decide how to consider this topic.

The Steering Group felt that NDAWG would wish to be kept informed of developments in issues relating to risk.

2. Future Work Programme

The Steering Group considered the work programme at their meeting in September taking into account the discussions and recommendations at the previous NDAWG meeting.

The following work programme was agreed.

Meeting 12. The impact of radioactive particles in dose assessments, the authorisation process, the new ICRP Recommendations.

Meeting 13. Update on doses to biota, contaminated land issues, including RCLEA, the inclusion of breast fed infants and the fetus in dose assessments, the IAEA EMRAS programme.

Meeting 14. Outcome of the research into phosphorus in the freshwater environment, modelling in the marine environment, sewer dose assessment comparison, update on the BSS revision.

Remaining topics are as follows:

- Response to the new ICRP recommendations
- Response to any changes in the EC Basic Safety Standards
- Compatibility of dose coefficients for ingestion and inhalation and related habit data
- Comparison of authorisation dose assessments

- Issues for solid wastes

Do members have any comments on this suggested work programme?

3. NDAWG Membership

Current NDAWG membership/representation was 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, Independent

Mike Thorne, Consultant

Philip Day, Consultant

Pete Roche*, Consultant (representing Greenpeace)

Ian Fairlie, Consultant

Jill Sutcliffe, Consultant

*Corresponding member

4. Collating ongoing research

A database of on-going research, future planned research and possible future projects has been available on the NDAWG website for some time. This has been recently updated with contributions from Ian Fairlie, FSA, EA and Cefas. However, we would still welcome further contributions from members, which can include relevant research from member's organisations, and third parties.

5. Website

Between May 2007 and October 2007 there were 4853 visits to the NDAWG website (over 600 visits on average a month) with people accessing over 18,400 files.

NDAWG Secretariat
November 2007