

NATIONAL DOSE ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

PAPER 13-09: 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 through dissemination of NDAWG guidance.
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, 11th and 12th NDAWG meetings. The Steering Group felt that the Terms of Reference should be clearer on the issue of whether dose coefficients could be considered by NDAWG and the position on risk as agreed at the last NDAWG meeting. The following change to the seventh term of reference is therefore proposed:

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. *This includes consideration of the use of dose coefficients in dose assessments but not the use of risk coefficients to estimate possible health effects, although NDAWG will keep informed of developments in this area.*

Are members happy with this proposed amendment?

2. Heterogeneous contamination sub-group

The suggested remit of the heterogeneous contamination sub-group is to consider ways in which assessment methodologies need to be adapted to take into account possible exposure from heterogeneous contamination (including radioactive particles) in the environment. In particular the group will consider:

- How to consider the probability of encountering a particle
- The need to consider deterministic and stochastic health effects
- What dose criteria are relevant and appropriate
- Other issues related to assessing the impact of radioactive particles
- The consideration of particles for both prospective and retrospective assessments.

The aim is to produce a guidance note with a supporting report if necessary.

Paul Dale, SEPA, has agreed to Chair this sub-group, which should not be too focussed on the situation at Dounreay or Sellafield. EA and HPA will be represented on the group and Joe Toole, UKAEA has asked to become a member. Members of NDAWG are asked to agree the proposed terms of reference and to suggest possible members of the group.

3. Future Work Programme

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

The following work programme was agreed.

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

Meeting 14. Contaminated land issues, including RCLEA, outcome of the research into phosphorus in the freshwater environment, update on the BSS revision.

Meeting 15. Modelling in the marine environment, sewer dose assessment comparison.

Remaining topics are as follows:

- Guidance on the use of dose coefficients
- Response to the new ICRP recommendations
- Response to any changes in the EC Basic Safety Standards
- Comparison of authorisation dose assessments
- Issues related to new build
- Issues for solid wastes

The guidance notes and the work programme of the sub-groups will also need to be discussed at future meetings.

Do members have any comments on this suggested work programme?

4. 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

Ray Kowe, HPA

Jane Simmonds, HPA

Patrick Stephen, NII

Steve Chandler, DEFRA

Paul Dale, SEPA

Robert Larmour*, Dept Environment (NI)

Havard Prosser*, National Assembly for Wales

Will Munro*, FSA Scotland

Stuart Hudson, Scottish Executive

Gerald Hudd, Somerset County Council

Industry

Tim Parker, BNFL

Laurence Austin, British Energy

Michael Gaunt, Rolls-Royce

Andrew Corns, GE healthcare

Katie Davis, NDA Radioactive Waste Management Directorate

Andrew Craze, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Catherine Retberg, Springfields Fuels

Robert Beveridge, Representative of MOD sites

Specialists/NGOs

Steve Jones, Westlakes Scientific Consulting

Barrie Lambert, Consultant

John Hunt, Consultant

Mike Thorne, Consultant

Philip Day, Consultant

Pete Roche*, Consultant (representing Greenpeace)

Ian Fairlie, Consultant

Jill Sutcliffe, Consultant

Peter Marsden, Small users representative

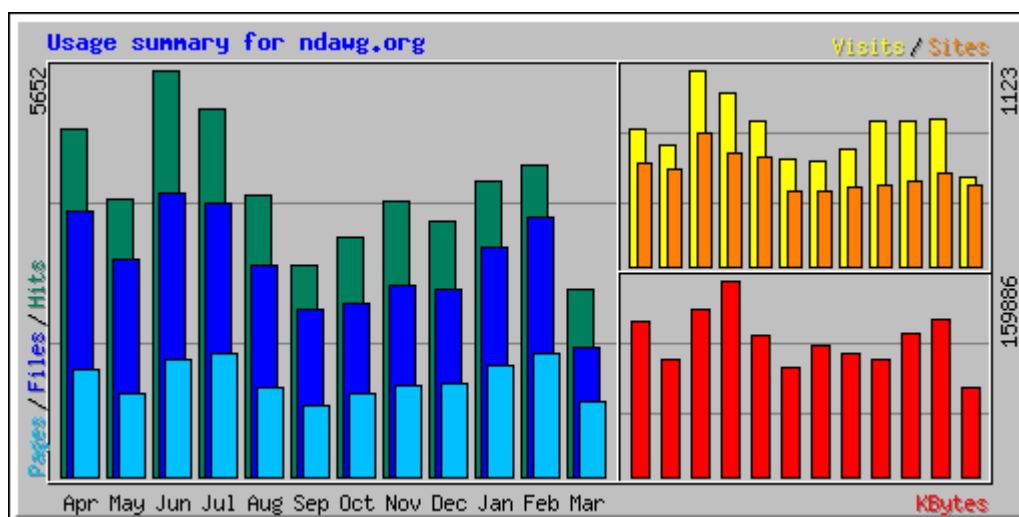
*Corresponding member

5. 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.

6. Website

Between April 2007 and March 2008 there were 9320 visits to the NDAWG website (over 500 visits on average a month) with people accessing over 35,000 files.



| Summary by Month | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|--------|----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Month | Daily Avg | | | | Monthly Totals | | | | | |
| | Hits | Files | Pages | Visits | Sites | KBytes | Visits | Pages | Files | Hits |
| Mar 2008 | 152 | 105 | 61 | 29 | 468 | 72395 | 506 | 1042 | 1800 | 2595 |
| Feb 2008 | 148 | 124 | 59 | 28 | 530 | 128121 | 840 | 1720 | 3603 | 4320 |
| Jan 2008 | 132 | 102 | 50 | 26 | 484 | 116635 | 834 | 1555 | 3184 | 4110 |
| Dec 2007 | 114 | 83 | 42 | 26 | 461 | 94850 | 828 | 1306 | 2592 | 3553 |
| Nov 2007 | 127 | 88 | 41 | 22 | 448 | 100418 | 670 | 1257 | 2661 | 3821 |
| Oct 2007 | 107 | 78 | 37 | 19 | 433 | 107369 | 599 | 1147 | 2421 | 3321 |
| Sep 2007 | 98 | 77 | 32 | 20 | 433 | 89606 | 614 | 984 | 2336 | 2945 |
| Aug 2007 | 126 | 95 | 40 | 26 | 621 | 114492 | 831 | 1243 | 2946 | 3913 |
| Jul 2007 | 165 | 122 | 55 | 32 | 651 | 159886 | 993 | 1707 | 3791 | 5118 |
| Jun 2007 | 188 | 130 | 54 | 37 | 757 | 136414 | 1123 | 1640 | 3928 | 5652 |
| May 2007 | 124 | 97 | 37 | 22 | 551 | 95482 | 693 | 1153 | 3024 | 3848 |
| Apr 2007 | 160 | 123 | 49 | 26 | 590 | 127252 | 789 | 1488 | 3699 | 4819 |
| Totals | | | | | | 1342920 | 9320 | 16242 | 35985 | 48015 |

NDAWG Secretariat
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