

NATIONAL DOSE ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

PAPER 5-08: 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 4th 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 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), total dose assessment methodology for RIFE.

Meeting 6 Effects of radiation on biota, framework for protection of wildlife, EA assessment of wildlife doses, review of ICRP draft recommendations.

Meeting 7 Small users, methods and data to assess doses from radionuclides disposed of in sewage, including the use of sewage sludge, initial radiological assessment methodologies

Meeting 8 Review of progress on CEDA - are all issues being addressed? Critique of EA, FSA and industry prospective assessment for typical nuclear (and non-nuclear?) site.

Meeting 9 Short term releases

Remaining topics are as follows:

- 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 has been changed by the Steering Group to reflect the availability of information on topics such as the effects on biota, and the need to review ICRP's latest recommendations. The plan is flexible and can be changed if necessary. It will therefore be reviewed at each meeting of NDAWG.

3 POSSIBLE SUB-GROUP ON MODELLING

The Steering Group feels that there is a need for a future sub-group on modelling to identify which radionuclides in particular environmental media and foodstuffs can be reliably modelled and which can not. The sub-group could then identify areas of work to improve modelling based on the significance of doses from actual discharges from both nuclear and non-nuclear industry. The steering group felt that this future sub-group should only be established once one of the existing sub-groups has completed its work. Members' views are sought on whether such a sub-group should be established.

4 COLLATING ONGOING RESEARCH

All members of NDAWG have been sent forms to complete on-going research; future planned research; possible future projects. In addition you should have received a draft letter for members to send to third parties to seek information on research they are sponsoring. We now have some entries onto the database but are awaiting further contributions from members. When information is received the secretariat will enter it on a simple database which will be available on the NDAWG website.

5 WEBSITE

Total of 1702 files accessed since September 2003

6 NDAWG MEMBERSHIP

Current NDAWG membership/representation is as follows:

6.1 Chair

John Cooper NRPB

6.2 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

6.3 Industry

Tim Parker, BNFL

Laurence Austin, BNFL Magnox

Michael Gaunt, Rolls-Royce

Paul Marks, GE healthcare

6.4 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, Consultant (representing Greenpeace)

6.5 Secretariat

Jane Simmonds, NRPB

Ray Kowe, NRPB