

NATIONAL DOSE ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

PAPER 6-09: 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.
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 work programme agreed at previous meetings is as follows:

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: The plan is flexible and can be changed if necessary. It will therefore be reviewed at each meeting of NDAWG.

3 SUB-GROUP ON MODELLING

At the fifth meeting of NDAWG it was agreed that a sub-group on modelling should be established and the Steering Group and secretariat were asked to identify a potential list of members and to draft terms of reference. Rob Allott has agreed to chair the modelling sub-group with NRPB and FSA also providing a representative on the group. Members are asked to suggest other possible members. The terms of reference for the group are:

The aim of this sub-group is to consider issues relating to modelling the transfer of radionuclides through the environment, as part of the assessment of the radiation doses from routine releases of radionuclides. In particular it will:

- Identify the environmental media and radionuclides for which reliable models and data exist. This should be in the context of assessing doses from routine releases and the low levels of doses that are generally found.
- Identify the environmental media and radionuclides for which the models and data are not considered adequate for routine release dose assessment.
- To identify areas of further work and priorities to improve modelling based on the significance of doses from actual discharges from both nuclear and non-nuclear industry.

Members are asked to comment on these terms of reference.

4 COLLATING ONGOING RESEARCH

A database of on-going research; future planned research; possible future projects is now available on the NDAWG website. We have several entries on the database but would welcome further contributions from members. This includes relevant research from member's organisations, and third parties.

5 WEBSITE

Total of 2523 visits between May-Oct 2004, with 2175 files downloaded.

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

Pete Roche, Consultant (representing Greenpeace)

6.5 Secretariat

Jane Simmonds, NRPB

Ray Kowe, NRPB