

NATIONAL DOSE ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

PAPER 7-10: 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 updated work programme is as follows:

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 Open meeting to review NDAWG. This would consist of a coherent set of presentations on what has been achieved so far and the planned future work programme. There would be time for a detailed discussion of whether NDAWG is meeting its objectives, what more needed to be done and indeed whether NDAWG is still required.

Meeting 10 Short term releases, the use and calculation of collective dose

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

Commentary: The Steering group modified the programme at its meeting in January to include the open meeting in April 2006. This arose from the action placed on the Steering group at the November 2004 NDAWG meeting to consider whether another CEDA meeting was required. It was felt that any CEDA type meeting would need to be after the planned review at the 8th NDAWG meeting in November 2005. Also it was felt that as NDAWG included the range of interests covered by CEDA it would be better to have an open meeting rather than a closed meeting such as CEDA. The meeting would last 1 or 2 days. Only limited funding is likely to be available to enable people to attend. Such a meeting needs to be planned well in advance and members are asked if they support the idea of an open meeting. If so are there any views on the format and set up of the meeting? For example, should it have an independent chair, should there be restrictions on numbers to encourage discussion, how can we ensure a wide representation of people attend the meeting?

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

3 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.

4 WEBSITE

Total of 4750 visits between Nov 2004-Mar 2005, with 2999 files downloaded.

5 NDAWG MEMBERSHIP

Current NDAWG membership/representation is as follows:

5.1 Chair

John Cooper HPA

5.2 Regulators/agencies

Rob Allott, John Titley, EA

Stuart Conney, Darren Cutts, David Webbe-Wood FSA

Patrick Stephen, NII

Chris Wilson, DEFRA

George Hunter, SEPA

Ken Ledgerwood, Dept Environment (NI)

Havard Prosser, National Assembly for Wales

Will Munro, FSA Scotland

Ian Hall, Scottish Executive

5.3 Industry

Tim Parker, BNFL

Laurence Austin, BNFL Magnox

Michael Gaunt, Rolls-Royce

David Tattam, GE healthcare

Representative from Nirex (to be decided)

5.4 Specialists/NGOs

Steve Jones, Westlakes Scientific Consulting

Barrie Lambert, NGO

John Hunt, CEFAS

Cathy Griffiths, Consultant

Mike Thorne, Consultant

Philip Day, Consultant

Pete Roche, Consultant (representing Greenpeace)

5.5 Secretariat

Jane Simmonds, HPA

Ray Kowe, HPA