

# NATIONAL DOSE ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

## SUB-GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS

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2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006, Aviation House London.

### 1. Present

Chair	Barrie Lambert	Consultant
Regulators/agencies	Anne Nisbet	HPA
	David Webbe-Wood	FSA
Specialists/NGOs	David Collier	Faulkland Associates
	Mike Poole	Nirex
Secretariat	Ray Kowe	HPA

Apologies	Andrew Craze	NDA
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In his absence Andrew has sent an update of the NDA and a few notes on agenda items. These are included as an annexe to the minutes. At the 9<sup>th</sup> main NDAWG meeting Patrick Stephen (NII) asked to be put on the distribution list for the subgroup. Rob Allot has said the Environment Agency (EA) cannot provide a representative for the subgroup. However the EA Corporate Communications department have said they would act as editors to review subgroup publications, outputs to provide a view on how to present information more clearly. This will be arranged on a trial basis. The Chairman welcomed the offer from the EA.

### 2. Minutes of first meeting

The chairman queried the use of the term “routine doses” in Section 4.1.

**Action 2.1** Mike to provide a form of words to replace the term “routine dose” in the minutes of first meeting.

The rest of the minutes were agreed.

### 3. Actions from the first meeting

Action 1.1 Barrie Lambert to formalise remit about aims of subgroup and members to comment upon it in time for NDAWG meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April. *Completed.*

Action 1.2 David Webbe-Wood to supply the subgroup with his presentation he gave to Heysham LCLC. *Completed.*

Action 1.3 Andrew Craze to ask NDA stakeholder engagement team to ask SSG’s at National Stakeholders Group meeting as to what information they want. *Completed.*

Action 1.4 Subgroup members to identify current practices of communicating technical aspects of risk within their own agencies. *Completed.*

Action 1.5 Barrie Lambert to ask Steering group to invite a representative from operators and HSE onto the subgroup. *Completed.*

## 4. Suggested topics for discussion

### 4.1 Consideration of attempts to communicate risk

The remit of the subgroup was discussed. There are three options for the subgroup: whether we act as a review at looking at what the authorities produce to communicate risk/dose to the public; to produce something ourselves; to act as an advisory group to help people understand the process.

It was decided that one of the first tasks of the subgroup was to produce a note on how nuclear sites are regulated and what is the respective role of the different agencies. There was some discussion as to how to draft such a document. It was decided that the different agencies will be approached to produce a paragraph on what their specific roles are. A specification is needed on what questions need to be answered with the public in mind, and what questions to ask the agencies.

**Action 2.2** All subgroup members to draft a specification in the form of bullet points and send them to Barrie by the end of July.

**Action 2.3** The subgroup secretary to send the NDAWG steering group the specification for an overview document and ask them to approach the different agencies for their contribution.

Upon receipt of the contributions from the agencies the subgroup will complete a draft of the document by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. It was suggested that the document would also form a perfect briefing note for Site Stakeholder Groups (SSG's) and Local Community Liaison Councils (LCLC's) and be presented to the NDA National Stakeholders Group meeting in October.

Anne then informed the subgroup of current practices for communicating risk within the HPA-RPD. The HPA (as NRPB) has in the past produced 'At a Glance' leaflets for many topics involving ionising and non-ionising radiation. A few of these have been updated and become web-based and interactive (radon, sunsense, doses from discharges, radiological emergencies, transport). The topic of risk is most developed in HPA-RPD publications on xrays, radon and UV. Anne stressed that HPA tended to have a hierarchy of publications going from very technical and scientific reports through formal advice documents to leaflets/web-based literature for the general public (e.g. AGNIR scientific report on UVR in 2002 led to sunsense poster/web leaflet in 2006). Anne also briefed the group on the work carried out by the Radiation, Risk and Society Advisory Group (RRSAG [http://www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/advisory\\_groups/rrsag/index.htm](http://www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/advisory_groups/rrsag/index.htm)) which has a remit similar to the Communications subgroup. The R,RSAG group was disbanded in 2005 to make way for an HPA-wide group to advise the HPA on communication with the public. R,RSAG had not produced any reports directly relevant to the work of this subgroup. Anne also alerted members to a recent report by Nick Pidgeon and colleagues (2005) from University of East Anglia on 'Public risk perceptions of the health effects of ionising radiation and power frequency EMFs'.

It was suggested that a task of the subgroup could be to review existing HPA-RPD at a glance leaflets and identify where there is a gap. An additional task would be to advise the HPA-RPD on what additional leaflets are required and to review them.

**Action 2.4** The subgroup secretary to issue relevant HPA-RPD at a glance leaflets to subgroup members by the end of July.

Mike gave an overview of Nirex's interest in communications. Nirex is interested in three areas involving risk: operational, transport and post-closure. They have in the past produced complicated assessments for regulatory bodies based on an actual site (Sellafield) and will shortly be carrying out an assessment for a generic site. In the future there is a need for communicating all three sources of risk, including complex technical issues, to a broader audience.

The subgroup will meet again in early September to review the draft regulatory paper and to look at what HPA-RPD leaflets have been produced.

#### 4.2 Vehicles of communication

Possible routes of communication for the subgroup include leaflets and the NDAWG website. The possibility of a workshop to bring together people who work on communication of dose was discussed. Anne informed the subgroup that the Agricultural Food Countermeasures Working Group (AFCWG) is hoping to include 'communication' as a specific topic for its next meeting in the autumn (date to be confirmed). Representatives from the communication departments of key stakeholder groups will be invited to participate and make presentations. The subgroup decided it may be of interest to co-promote a workshop with the AFCWG. This will consider post-accident risks, but also consider generic radiation risk information and include risk from chemicals.

**Action 2.4** The chairman to approach the NDAWG steering group as to setting up a joint workshop on communication of risk with the AFCWG.

**Action 2.5** Anne and David Webbe-Wood to discuss (with other members of FSA and HPA-RPD) how to promote the idea of a joint workshop on risk communication at the next AFCWG meeting.

#### 4.3 Use of dose/risk comparisons

The chairman suggested that the next deliverable from the subgroup should be a leaflet explaining risks and doses and dose limits to the public.

**Action 2.6** David Collier to email the Subgroup secretary a copy of the Quintessa report for CoRWM on the use of Nirex models using different dose conversion factors (European not ICRP).

## 5 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the first week of September 2006 at the FSA, Aviation house, London.

## 6 Summary of Actions

Action 2.1 Mike to provide a form of words to replace the term “routine dose” in the minutes of first meeting.

Action 2.2 All subgroup members to draft a specification in the form of bullet points and send them to Barrie by the end of July.

Action 2.3 The subgroup secretary to send the NDAWG steering group the specification for an overview document and ask them to approach the different agencies for their contribution.

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Ray Kowe      28<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Annexe

Note from Andrew Craze

- I. We have not got a lot of direct experience of communicating risk via SSG's or other routes as the majority of our engagement has been related to our Strategy and strategic issues surrounding each site and our views of them rather than the communication of risk/dose information. The majority of discussion on issues of risk and dose at SSG's has been through presentations by FSA, HSE and the Environment Agencies. We have addressed concerns regarding the radioactive contamination of Trawsfynydd Lake (but primarily by presenting our view of EA research in this area and our understanding of its implications for long term management of the lake) and we have been asked for information on the risks associated with waste disposal by the Dounreay SSG (still work in progress)
- II. There will be a need for the communications group to work closely with other relevant groups e.g. the Radiological Monitoring Standards Working group Established by the nuclear Industry Liaison group.
- III. There are a number of existing communications channels (discussed in outline at the last meeting) and I feel that the most effective method for driving improvement will be for the communications group to look at good practice to assist those organisations involved in these communication channels to make use of them more effectively.