

## NATIONAL DOSE ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

### SUB-GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS

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7<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008, Aviation House London.

#### 1 Present

Chair	Barrie Lambert	Consultant
Regulators/agencies	Stuart Conney	FSA
	Anne Nisbet	HPA
	Mark Toner	SEPA (telephone)
Specialists/NGOs	Jill Sutcliffe	Independent
Secretariat	Ray Kowe	HPA
	Wayne Oatway	HPA
Apologies	David Collier	Golders
	Andrew Craze	NDA
	Mike Poole	NDA
	Patrick Stephen	NII

#### 2 Minutes of previous meeting

Members agreed on the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 3 Actions from the sixth meeting

- Action 5.12 Mike to provide illustrations for questions 8 and 9 of the information leaflet by the end of November. *Completed.*
- Action 5.13 Barrie to provide illustrations for questions 10 and 11 of the information leaflet by the end of November. *Completed.*
- Action 5.14 David Collier to produce a table of who needs to be communicated to and what information they might need. *Ongoing.*
- Action 6.1 Anne to write a one page summary about the workshop by June that will go on the NDAWG website. *Superseded.* See agenda item 4.1.

- Action 6.2 Patrick to rewrite last sentence of question 2 and send it to Barrie. *Completed.*
- Action 6.3 Patrick to amend text for footnote 3. *Completed.*
- Action 6.4 Patrick to reword question 6 line 4. *Completed.*
- Action 6.5 Stuart to reword last sentence of question 7 containing 'extreme habits. *Completed.*
- Action 6.6 Stuart to add a sentence before the last line of question 2 to the effect of 'where issues of food are concerned the regulators take advice from the FSA and HPA'. *Completed.*
- Action 6.7 Stuart to add an explanation into question 4 of how historic discharges are accounted for and a footnote explaining the 0.3 mSv and 1 mSv limits. *Completed.*
- Action 6.8 Barrie to add hyperlinks to the ONS and OPCS in question 11. *Completed.*
- Action 6.9 Ray to send Mike Clark of the HPA a more final version of the information leaflet for comment. *Completed.*
- Action 6.10 Barrie to collate comments from the triallists and say why they have/haven't been addressed and to thank them for their contributions. *Completed.*
- Action 6.11 Barrie to ask for comments on the information leaflet from Ian Fairlie and Stuart Hudson at the 13<sup>th</sup> NDAWG meeting. *Completed.*
- Action 6.12 Barrie to approach the NDAWG steering group and John Cooper about support for a seminar on the communication of uncertainty. *Completed.*
- Action 6.13 Subgroup members to think about issues for the guidance note. *Completed.*

## **4 Topics for discussion**

### **4.1 Seminar on risk communication**

The first seminar on risk communication was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008. A follow up workshop focussing on communication aspects of emergency response scenarios is planned for the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at HPA, Chilton. A third event on the communication of uncertainty is being planned for later in 2009.

The February 2009 workshop is being run under the auspices of the AFCWG with support from HPA, EA, Golders and FSA. Two planning meetings have already taken place to agree format, content and participation in the event. The aim is to follow up actions from the February 2008 seminar by planning how to get messages out effectively. Specifically to:

- be clear about their organisation's role and the role of their partners
- understand issues and who leads on them
- decide on the audience for the messages

- develop examples of key messages by working through scenarios
- highlight what can go wrong
- identify mechanisms for communication

The day is aimed principally at communication specialists with a few technical people there for support rather than to drive the discussions. Attendance is by invitation only. The workshop is not intended as a training day, attendees should be briefed and ready to contribute. Types of communications specialists included press/media relations, external stakeholder relations, community relations and regional communications. Attendees would be asked to consider one or two scenarios involving for example contaminated drinking water, inhabited areas and food production systems. It is hoped that the methodology and facilitation techniques used at the workshop can be applied to more scenarios in the future. The workshop will also provide a good networking opportunity for those attending.

Anne said that communications specialists from the following organisations were going to be invited: police force, HPA, Primary Care Trust, Local authority, FSA, Defra, Drinking Water Inspectorate, BERR, NII, the Government Decontamination Service, SEPA, the Welsh Assembly, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, British Energy and NEPLG. Members stated that this represented a good use of this seminar and that a suitable mix of people was being invited to attend.

Anne noted that David Collier plans to present the key messages from the first seminar as part of the introduction to the workshop. Jill/Barrie asked Anne whether David could provide a short summary of his presentation for inclusion in the delegates briefing pack and as part of the promotional material for the workshop. It was suggested that action 6.1 could be completed with this note.

**Action 7.1** Anne to ask David Collier to prepare a summary note of the first seminar

Stuart noted that work has been done at HPA that considered the sea to land transfer of radionuclides when seaweed was used as a fertilizer. This work involved talking to local people, notably farmers.

**Action 7.2** Stuart to ask Jo Brown at HPA to provide a short summary of her experiences of communication with farmers with reference to the seaweed fertilizer project.

## 4.2 Draft briefing leaflet – feedback from trials

Barrie noted that to date he had received many comments on the leaflet and he wanted to draw the commenting process to an end as he had addressed all those received to date. Mark had sent some comments to members on the 21<sup>st</sup> October and these were reviewed by members at this meeting. Comments from Mark are addressed below, those not indicated were accepted.

The title was changed to “Information on the risk and regulations of radiation exposure from discharges”

**Question 1:**

Keep the original text dealing with ALARA.

**Question 3:**

Members agreed that the first sentence should be changed to “Compliance is demonstrated by measurement of the actual discharges and comparing this against the authorisation”.

Members agreed that for monitoring it was sufficient to state that monitoring was done and that stating who is responsible for the monitoring was not required.

Remove “an issue with the site” from Mark’s comments as this is not clear and open to interpretation.

**Question 4:**

Barrie to add footnote outlining differences in the roles of SEPA and the EA.

Keep the original text about reporting in RIFE due to the historical discharge information contained in these reports.

**Question 5:**

Barrie stated that the original text on risks was drawn up in consultation with many people and he felt that deleting the bulk of the text as suggested by Mark should not be done and that the original text kept.

There was felt not to be a need to include the sentence on “different dose limits for other situations” as this was in reference to contaminated land and not discharges.

**Question 6:**

Add in “limits set” to the question title.

A discussion was held about whether the leaflet should refer to “radioactive waste” or “radioactive material”. It was decided that “material” was the preferred word to use.

**Question 8:**

The new risk factor for cancer relates to contracting cancer and not contracting fatal cancer. The suggested change was agreed although using risk factor in relation to cancer.

**Question 9:**

The suggested change of referring the radiation doses to a population level was not agreed as the leaflet was aimed primarily at individuals and even in the most extreme case the doses from discharges are still small at the individual level when compared to other sources of radioactivity.

**Question 11:**

The text suggested for removal by Mark was a quote taken from a COMARE report and it was decided that this text should be kept in. Mark said he will ask the about this to make sure he was happy.

- Action 7.3** Mark to ask his contact in SEPA about the inclusion of the COMARE quote in question 11.
- Action 7.4** Stuart to update his picture of the RIFE report with the latest publication
- Action 7.5** Barrie to get a final version of the leaflet to HPA by the 7<sup>th</sup> November
- Action 7.6** Wayne to investigate whether a better version of the pie chart exists that will show the discharge better when it is reduced in size for printing
- Action 7.7** Stuart to ask at the main NDAWG meeting how many leaflets they thought should be produced.

It was decided that the leaflet would be placed on the NDAWG website and that it would not be translated into Welsh.

### 4.3 Communication of uncertainty

Barrie is organising a workshop, possibly to be held in May 2009. To aid possible discussions at the workshop Barrie has reviewed several papers on uncertainty and its presentation and Ray has sent members links to these. Barrie has lined up some speakers although he is still checking on availability.

Barrie noted that whilst he is happy to do the administration for this workshop, there would be a need for some financial support. Barrie has looked into a venue in London that will cost approximately £350 per day although catering costs will add to this.

- Action 7.8** Stuart to talk to FSA about funding for the uncertainty workshop
- Action 7.9** Anne to send Barrie a name for a contact at EA that he could approach with regard to funding for the uncertainty workshop

HPA stated that they were prepared to offer to produce a flyer for the workshop and offer limited administration support.

Barrie stated that he would draft an outline of the workshop and that Stuart would present this to the next main NDAWG meeting, raising the question of funding.

- Action 7.10** Barrie to write a draft outline of the workshop for Stuart to present at the next NDAWG main meeting
- Action 7.11** Stuart to raise the issue of funding for the uncertainty workshop at the next main NDAWG meeting.

### 4.4 Guidance notes on risk communication

The output of the workshops to be held next year will form the main part of the guidance to be produced in this area. Until these are held then limited work will be done.

Barrie has reviewed two papers dealing with this subject and he feels that the one from the DoH is better although a lot of the report is not relevant. Barrie will produce an outline of

what he has read for discussion at the proposed uncertainty seminar using the templates that have been used in the past.

**Action 7.12** Barrie to produce an outline for the guidance note on risk communication for future discussion.

## **5 AOB**

Jill stated that the 20<sup>th</sup> Low Level Radiation and Health Conference had taken place in Cumbria in June 2008.

Jill reported that she was aware of a new MSc in radiation ecology being run at the University of Norway. This was set up by the EU following an identification of a skills gap in this area.

Jill was in the process of planning work to look at the transfer of knowledge between experts from different fields, for example, between those involved in new build and those involved in waste repositories. She is putting in an application to NERC to fund this work. It was suggested that others may also be working on this, particularly Defra and the Sense in Science. Jill thanked members for their contribution and will review the work from these organisations as part of her proposal.

Barrie is unable to attend the next NDAWG main meeting so Stuart will report a summary of this meeting.

**Action 7.13** Anne to send Stuart details of the AFCWG seminar to allow him to report to the NDAWG main meeting

Wayne has now taken over Ray's roles, including that of secretary to this sub group. Members thanked Ray for his work within this sub group.

## **6 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in February 2009, before the planned seminars.

## **7 Summary of Actions**

**Action 5.14** David Collier to produce a table of who needs to be communicated to and what information they might need. Ongoing.

**Action 7.1** Anne to ask David Collier to prepare a summary note of the first seminar

**Action 7.2** Stuart to ask Jo Brown at HPA to provide a short summary of her experiences of communication with farmers with reference to the seaweed fertilizer project.

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