

NATIONAL DOSE ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

SUMMARY OF AGREEMENTS AND ACTIONS FROM 9TH MEETING

9th Meeting held on 27th April 2006, Aviation House London.

1. Present

Chair	John Cooper	HPA
Members	Rob Allott	EA
	Laurence Austin	British Energy
	Lucy Bailey	Nirex
	Stuart Conney	FSA
	Michael Gaunt	Rolls-Royce
	Ian Hall	Scottish Executive
	John Hunt	CEFAS
	Steve Jones	Westlakes Scientific Consulting
	Paul Kennedy	FSA
	Ray Kowe	HPA
	Amanda Moreton	NHS
	Simon Morgan	Nirex
	Tim Parker	BNFL
	Jane Simmonds	HPA
	Patrick Stephen	NII
	Mike Thorne	Mike Thorne and Associates Ltd
	David Webbe-Wood	FSA
Speakers	David Copplestone	EA
	Justin Smith	HPA

Apologies:

Andrew Corns	GE Healthcare
Andrew Craze	NDA
Paul Dale	SEPA
Philip Day	University of Manchester
Barrie Lambert	Consultant
Robert Larmour	Dept Environment (NI)
Ken Ledgerwood	Dept Environment (NI)
Will Munro	FSA Scotland
Havard Prosser	National Assembly for Wales
Pete Roche	Consultant representing Greenpeace
John Titley	EA
Chris Wilson	DEFRA

The Chairman announced the following changes to membership:

Paul Dale will be the SEPA representative at future meetings replacing George Hunter.

Paul Kennedy is taking over from Darren Cutts who has moved to SEAC.

Amanda Moreton is a new member of the group representing small users.

2. Actions from the 8th meeting and matters arising (Paper 9-01)

Action 8.1 The Secretariat to liaise with the Steering committee over including a small users section on the NDAWG website. *Ongoing.*

Action 8.2 The NDAWG Secretariat to produce a first draft of the assessment protocol and to send to members for comments before it is brought back to the 9th NDAWG meeting. *We will aim to do something before the Open meeting. Ongoing.*

Action 8.3 Steve Jones to draft a definition for the term 'transparency' for authorisation dose assessments. *Ongoing as waiting for the draft assessment protocol.*

Action 8.4 FSA to report back on their response to NDAWG's comments on their dose assessment methodology. *Item included in the agenda as paper 9-05. Completed.*

Action 8.5 The Secretariat will draft a letter to the Society for Radiological Protection to ask if it will act as a body to accredit people as having competence for external consultancy on uncertainty in radiological assessments. *Jane has written to Cathy Griffiths who has forwarded the request to RPA 2000 board members; one way forward would be to issue a specialist certificate. There is a meeting of RPA 2000 in May at which this matter will be discussed. Completed.*

Action 8.6 Members to email minor editorial changes on Paper 8-05 to David Webbe-Wood and for him to prepare a final version of the paper to go onto the website. *Paper is now on the website. Completed.*

Action 8.7 The Steering committee to organise membership of the communications subgroup to include David Collier, Barrie Lambert, Andrew Craze, and members of the FSA, EA and HPA. *Item is included on the agenda as paper 9-09. Completed.*

Research on phosphorus uptake by fish

This item was considered at the 7th NDAWG meeting in April 2005 when the Group recommended that there is a need for research on this as it is an important issue for small users, particularly given the HPA advice on the protection of the fetus. Rob Allot then outlined the EA and FSA progress to date as summarised in the note 'Review of phosphorous-32/33 transfer in fish'. The

EA have looked at the phosphorus-32/33 limits which could lead to discharges in England and Wales and have identified the River Cam as the river in which to carry out a scoping monitoring study of phosphorus levels in both the fish and water. The study will start in May and June when fish metabolism of phosphorus is likely to be at its optimum. If this study reveals a problem then a more comprehensive piece of work will be carried out to investigate this further.

NDAWG are pleased with this development and the proposed work by EA and FSA is welcomed; EA and FSA stated that they would keep NDAWG informed of progress.

3. Presentation of local doses to the public (Paper 9-02)

Jane outlined the results of focus groups held with David Collier on presenting information on localised radiation doses to the public, using example results for Cumbria and Cornwall. The HPA has now estimated doses for each county in the country but has not yet made them into charts, as the views of the focus groups need to be taken into account. The final aim is to have the material available on the HPA and NDAWG websites and to produce a NDAWG report outlining the process. Alternative methods of presenting the information will be developed and will be tested by the focus groups. The time scale for completion of the work is the end of 2006 and Jane hopes to circulate results of the work to members before the Open meeting.

Action 9.1 Jane to further develop ideas on presentation of dose to the public and to present the work to NDAWG at the Open meeting.

4. Update on effects of radiation on biota (Paper 9-03)

The effects of radiation on biota were first discussed at the 6th NDAWG meeting. David Copplestone from the EA gave an update on the ERICA project and Rob Allot presented the Environment Agency's progress with assessments for Natura 2000 habitat sites. ERICA is still a prototype and has not yet been applied to a real site. Support for the work after the development of the model is uncertain. There is some collaboration with the relevant ICRP Committee on this work as there is an overlap of members on ERICA and the ICRP.

The Chairman said that NDAWG needed to keep this developing area of work on the agenda and needs to take a view on ERICA and future ICRP recommendations. It raises the questions of whether NDAWG should have a formal position on how protection of biota fits into the dose assessment process and whether the terms of reference should be extended to include this. There should be a further presentation of this work at the Open meeting and a discussion of what NDAWG should do.

Action 9.2 The Secretariat and Steering committee to ensure NDAWG's position on the protection of biota is discussed at the Open meeting.

5. Assessment of doses from short-duration planned releases (Paper 9-04)

This item was presented by Justin Smith from RPD-HPA. He gave a summary of the generic assessment methodology for short-term planned discharges to atmosphere, which can be applied to a variety of release conditions. This methodology can be applied for nuclear and non-nuclear users and for revision of notification releases for authorisations.

There was some discussion as to what the purpose of short-term release assessments were and how best to do them.

The group agreed that short-term planned releases, not accidents, were of interest to NDAWG and that if the modelling subgroup is to be wound up it would be replaced by a subgroup which would look at the whole area of short-term releases. This would consider short-term planned releases to water bodies and sewage works as well as to atmosphere and also consider any special factors for discharges from hospitals.

6. Update on FSA dose assessment methodology (Paper 9-05)

This item presented by David Webbe-Wood outlined proposed changes to the FSA assessment methods resulting from the differences highlighted at the 8th NDAWG meeting in the inter-comparison between the FSA, EA and Industry authorisation dose assessments. FSA recognise that they might need to change their methodology again if NDAWG make relevant recommendations, particularly the habits data subgroup.

The Chairman said that the group welcomed the fact that the FSA has taken on board the comments from the group and that this was a practical example of why the group was formed. It is also important that the Secretariat liaise with FSA (and others) when developing NDAWG's protocol for dose assessment (Action 8.2). It was noted that all of the habits data profiles are published on the CD included in the RIFE report, but that these data should only be given to 2 significant figures. It was noted that advice was needed from the habits data subgroup on how to fill the occupancy values when they are given as zero in the profiles.

Action 9.3 Rob Allott to ask Bill Camplin of CEFAS to ensure that the habits data profiles are given to 2 significant figures.

The Chairman asked if the FSA methodology was consistent with the principles document for prospective assessments and was told that it was.

Action 9.4 The habits subgroup to give advice on specification of consumption rates and zero or low occupancy rates.

Laurence Austin asked whether the Office of Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) should be consulted before putting information, such as discharge points in the

public domain. The OCNS is another regulator for nuclear sites and would need to ensure that any information released is commensurate with the need for national security.

7. Report back from Subgroup on modelling and draft paper for discussion (Papers 9-06 and 9-07)

Rob Allot presented the review of the third meeting of the subgroup. The paper 'Overview of radiological assessment models – key gaps and uncertainties' has been extended to both take on board members comments and to include disposal to sewers. This will appear as an NDAWG paper on the website. The EA and FSA will use the work to help them decide on research priorities. There are also some areas of work recommended for the habits data subgroup. Rob felt that the work of the subgroup was complete and that the group could be suspended. However, the group would need to be re-formed in a few years time if NDAWG was still in existence to review the findings and whether progress had been made.

It was agreed that the modelling subgroup should be suspended and replaced with a short-term releases subgroup. The Chairman thanked members of the modelling subgroup for their work.

Laurence Austin said that subject of agreement from British Energy he would like to be a member of the short-term releases subgroup. David Webbe-Wood said that there will also be a representative from the FSA. Amanda Moreton said that she would also like to be a member.

Action 9.5 Steering committee to draw up with terms of reference for the short-term releases subgroup and to consider membership of the subgroup.

8. Report back from Subgroup on habit data and critical groups (Paper 9-08)

Mike Thorne presented this item. He outlined the minutes of the fourth meeting, the proposed structure and layout of the second position paper on collection and use of habits for prospective assessments, and a note on the proposed revised Terms of Reference for the subgroup.

The subgroup hoped to draft the second paper by the end of August and to have a draft version of the paper for discussion by the subgroup in the autumn. This paper would then come to the spring 2007 meeting of NDAWG.

Members discussed the terms of reference and felt that the last two bullet points were the most vital and that the first 9 bullet points were essentially outlining what work would be done to meet them. The important thing was for the group to characterise habits data applicable to the five year period of an authorisation.

The proposed structure of the report was discussed. Rob Allot suggested that an additional chapter on the 'way forward' was needed followed by the conclusions.

Mike reported that he felt that the subgroup would have finished its work on completion of these tasks.

David Webbe-Wood stated that although Darren Cutts had moved on the FSA would continue to provide the Secretariat for this subgroup. Simon Morgan requested that a member of Nirex be on the subgroup and Amanda Moreton asked to be a member. It was agreed that it was important to get NGO involvement in the work of this subgroup.

Action 9.6 Habits subgroup to draw up new terms of reference and a revised structure for the paper on habits data for prospective assessments and issue to NDAWG members for comment.

Action 9.7 Mike Thorne to contact Pete Roche to see if he would like to remain as a member of the habits subgroup or to suggest another NGO representative.

9. Report back from Communications Subgroup (Paper 9-09)

David Webbe-Wood presented this item in the absence of Barrie Lambert. This is the first meeting of this subgroup. Subgroup members agreed with the terms of reference drawn up by the Steering committee with the following amendment to the remit:

"The remit of the Communications subgroup is to consider the presentation of information on radiation doses and associated health risks to the public. In particular it will address:

- Who is the audience for such information, e.g. people being consulted on a proposed authorisation, local residents around a nuclear site, pressure groups;
- What kind of information people want;
- How such information should be presented;

Consideration should be given to retrospective and prospective dose assessments and total risks should be addressed as well as point value dose estimates and probabilistic results. The group will need to review the research carried out for FSA (and others) and will need to develop their work programme with frequent reviews by the full NDAWG."

The subgroup will meet in June 2006 and the chairman stated that NDAWG expects an update from the subgroup in spring 2007.

David Webbe-Wood said that the subgroup would welcome additional members, particularly from operators. Patrick Stephen asked to be put on the distribution list for the subgroup.

10. Report back from members

10.1 ICRP

The Chairman informed members that following the comments received on the draft ICRP 2005 recommendations and support documents, including those sent by NDAWG, a substantially revised draft of the ICRP 2005 recommendations will shortly be issued on the ICRP website for a further round of consultation of three months.

Action 9.8 NDAWG members to send comments on revised 2005 ICRP recommendations to Jane who will compile them.

The Chairman also informed members that an ICRP document 'The scope of radiological protection regulations' is currently available for comment on the ICRP website. This document includes ICRP recommendations on the scope of regulatory systems covering exclusion, exemption and clearance.

10.2 DEFRA

Ian Hall updated members on behalf of Chris Wilson of the following items:

Statutory guidance on regulation of radioactive discharges

The draft statutory guidance was the subject of public consultation in 2001 and is currently used by the Environment Agency in considering authorization under RSA 1993. The guidance is being redrafted and will be subject to another round of public consultation after which it has to be laid before Parliament. It is expected that the guidance will come into effect towards the end of 2006. SEPA has a similar guidance though this does not have to go before Parliament in Scotland.

UK discharge strategy

The first version of the strategy was published in 2002 and was presented to a ministerial meeting of the OSPAR commission. The Government undertook to review the strategy roughly every four years. A review is just beginning and will involve consultation with stakeholders and the public. The revised strategy needs to be published in time for the next OSPAR meeting in 2010.

Revision of BSS directive and other potential Euratom legislative initiatives

The European Commission is considering a revision of the BSS Directive in light of the ongoing work by ICRP and IAEA. A new Directive is likely to be negotiated in 2008-2010 with transposition by 2014.

The Commission's proposals may also affect the following: medical application, public information, ECURIE, outside workers, HASS, Article 36 and foodstuffs.

Patrick Stephen informed members that the latest information is that the current EC proposals are to amalgamate only 4 Directives: BSS, outside workers, HASS and public information.

Radioactively contaminated land

DEFRA will be taking control of the radiological assessment model RCLEA for the first year following its release after which it will be the responsibility of the Environment Agency. A problem has arisen with the proposed regulations on radioactively contaminated land due to a potential conflict between these recommendations and the terms of the Paris Convention. Lawyers at DTI and Defra are currently considering the way forward.

10.3 NIREX

Media reports had indicated that CoRWM was likely to issue its draft recommendations to Government on options for the long-term management of the UK's higher-activity radioactive wastes later on 27 April. It had been reported that deep geological disposal was to form part of the recommendations.

Nirex had been invited to make a presentation on its disposal concepts to the Government and Devolved Administrations' 'Managing Radioactive Waste Safely' (MRWS) Implementation Group on 3 May.

In December 2005 Nirex had published its Viability Report setting out why Nirex believes that the UK's long-lived radioactive waste should be placed in a Phased Geological Repository located deep in stable rock. The Viability Report has been reviewed by the Environment Agency which supported Nirex's conclusion that the repository concept is viable.

Nirex is currently updating its Radiological Protection Policy Manual, and will be circulating the draft for stakeholder comment later in the year.

10.4 BRITISH ENERGY

Laurence Austin informed members that the public consultation for revised authorisations for British Energy in England and Scotland was available for comment over the next two or three months.

10.5 HSE

The HSE are revising the NII Safety Assessment Principles. The current draft is undergoing public consultation. The closing date for this consultation is 31 May 2006. The consultation document is available at www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/saps/index.htm.

10.6 EA

Rob Allot informed members that the EA methodology for unit discharge assessments for use by small users is being finalised.

Action 9.9 Rob Allot to email Amanda Moreton the link on the EA methodology for assessments for small users.

10.7 HPA

Jane Simmonds informed members that the HPA work for the European Commission on collective doses is going to be published shortly.

11. NDAWG review (paper 9-10)

11.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference were addressed, the group felt comfortable they had been addressing them except there was some concern about the sixth, i.e:

“To keep abreast of international developments on dose assessment methodologies, and to provide feedback to the appropriate UK authorities for input into EU bodies”

NDAWG has been looking at international developments on biota with the ERICA project but felt that it has not yet looked at international developments on dose assessment methodologies. One possibility was the IAEA EMRAS project which is considering various aspects of dose assessment and model validation.

Action 9.10 HPA and FSA to identify a speaker on EMRAS for a future NDAWG meeting.

11.2 OPEN MEETING

The chairman outlined that the purpose of the meeting was to let people know what NDAWG does, to consider whether NDAWG should continue and if it does what the work programme of the group should be for the next five years.

The draft programme for the Open meeting was outlined in paper 9-10. Flyers were available for members to distribute to colleagues. Members were reminded that they should make sure to register in good time if they want to ensure a room at Cosener's House.

Members requested that an agenda position be reserved for a Local Authority perspective.

Action 9.11 Steering committee to consider having a Local Authority representative to talk at the Open meeting.

The Steering committee has proposed a change to the remit of NDAWG to cover contaminated land but not solid waste or accidents. Members were happy for this to be put forward in the Open meeting, and to consider in the Open meeting whether the group's remit should be extended to include dose assessments for solid waste disposal activities. Members also agreed with the suggested subjects for the following 3 NDAWG meetings and with the list of topics, these will also be put forward to the Open meeting.

11.3 RESEARCH LIST

Members were requested to keep sending in research information to go on the website to the NDAWG secretary.

11.4 WEBSITE

There were a total of 3906 visits between December 2005-Mar 2006, with 1670 files downloaded.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be the Open meeting at CRCE Chilton on 15th and 16th November; the Secretariat will email people as to availability for the 11th NDAWG meeting in April after the Open meeting.

13. Summary of Actions

Action 9.1 Jane to further develop ideas on presentation of dose to the public and to present the work to NDAWG at the Open meeting.

Action 9.2 The Secretariat and Steering committee to ensure NDAWG's position on the protection of biota is discussed at the Open meeting.

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NDAWG Secretariat 2 May