

SOUTH AUSTRALIA RADIATION PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

7 March 2024 1.00pm – 3.30pm

EPA 211 Victoria Square Adelaide SA 5000 Australia

Tarntanyangga, Kurna Country

and via Microsoft Teams video conference

We acknowledge the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work on. We respect their spiritual relationship with Sea and Country and acknowledge their Elders – past, present and emerging. We also pay our respect to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from other areas of South Australia and Australia.

1. MEETING ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1.1 Introductions and apologies

The Presiding Member opened the meeting at 1:00pm and welcomed the Committee.

Present

- Mr Keith Baldry (Presiding Member)
- Prof Pamela Sykes (Deputy Presiding Member)
- Prof Nigel Spooner (Member)
- Prof Nicola Spurrier (Member) from 2.02pm
- Mr Peter (Jim) Hondros (Member)
- Ms Kathryn Liedig-Levingstone (Member)

Observers

- Ms Carly Cilento (EPA, Secretary to the Committee)
- Mr Daniel Bellifemine (EPA)
- Ms Kavitha Srinivasan (EPA)
- Mr Artem Borysenko (EPA)
- Mr David Kruss (EPA)
- Ms Misha Richards (EPA)
- Ms Maya Cooper (EPA)
- Mr Tobias Hills (EPA)
- Ms Abigail Pearson (EPA)
- Ms Brenda Julian (EPA, Minutes)

Apologies

- Dr Michelle Nottage (Member)
- Dr Charlotte Sale (Member)

2. MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the 7 December 2023 meeting.

2.2 Action items

The Committee noted the action item:

- EPA to engage with SA Health to explore data sharing opportunities and alignment of radiation incident reporting – Ongoing.
- Letter to ARPANSA regarding lost radioactive sources (7 December 2023, item 4.2B) sent and acknowledged. No reply received to date, however the ARPANSA advisory council has convened a working group on sealed radioactive sources.

2.3 Forward Agenda

The Committee noted the forward agenda.

3. MEMBERS REPORTS

- Relocation of the EPA laboratories to a new premises in Gillman. This will be a shared space for the EPA's applied science: air quality, noise, water quality and marine as well as a radiation. It is expected to be operational in July 2024.
- The Australasian Radiation Protection Society (ARPS) annual conference to be held in Coffs Harbour in October 2024.
- Industrial Transformation Training Centres (ITTC) – in Radiation Innovation (Radinnovate) kick off 30 June 2024. The Training Centre will create a leading-edge workforce with sophisticated skills in nuclear and radiation science, policy and regulation.

4. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 Presentation: SAHMRI – ABC Proton Therapy – Radiation Safety Measures Update

- The Committee noted the presentation on the Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy and Research from Affiliate A/Professor Scott Penfold.

4.2 EPA Regulatory Governance Policies and Procedures

At 2.02pm Professor Spurrier took her seat,

- The Committee discussed draft EPA regulatory governance policies and procedures.
- The Committee resolved to:
 1. Note the finalised RPC minutes procedure and draft regulatory governance policy.
 2. Support the continued development of the draft policy and proposed regulatory governance arrangements.

4.3 EPA Science Laboratory Radioactive Source Transport

- The Committee was briefed on the issues on Transport Code compliance for moving the EPA's radioactive sources to the new EPA science laboratory.

Declaration on Conflict of Interest

Mr Keith Baldry (Presiding Member) declared a Conflict of Interest pursuant to The Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Act 1995 for item 4.3. The nature of Mr Baldry's conflict is that as Director of Science and Systems of the EPA he is responsible for the activity for which advice is being sought. Mr Baldry remained in the meeting to deal with questions however abstained from general discussion.

Due to the above noted Conflict of Interest of the Presiding Member, the Deputy Presiding Member, Professor Pamela Sykes took the chair at 2.08pm.

- The Committee resolved to:
 1. Note the EPA needs to transport its radioactive sources to a new facility.
 2. Note that the Type B(U) package required by the Transport Code is not available.
 3. Note the alternative options available to the EPA.
 4. Advise the EPA on the policy considerations for transport.
 5. The Committee provided the following advice as sought on this matter:

Radiation Protection Committee Advice to the EPA on policy considerations for Radioactive Source Management.

The Radiation Protection Committee was briefed on the need for transport of radioactive sources from the EPA Radiation Laboratory in Byron Place to a new EPA Facility in Gillman. A number of these sources are orphan radioactive sources which the EPA has been safely storing pending radioactive waste disposal options in South Australia or nationally. Four transport options were tabled based on the ARPANSA Code for Safe Transport of Radioactive Material 2019 RPS C-2 and the International Atomic Energy Agency Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material 2018 IAEA SSR-6.

The Radiation Protection Committee advised that a full Risk Assessment of the Transport Options be undertaken by the EPA, based on safety as the first criteria, followed by practicality, impact on provision of the radiation laboratory services, cost and public perception. The Committee noted that the transport is hoped to be a one-off requirement, however, also advised that longevity of safety of the radioactive sources should also be taken into consideration in the absence of a much needed radioactive waste repository. The Committee noted that any decisions on transport will be assessed by an EPA delegate.

At 2.37pm Mr Baldry resumed his position of the Chair.

4.4 OneSteel Whyalla – Lost Radioactive Source

- The Committee was updated on the investigation into the GFG Alliance Liberty Primary Steel (OneSteel) Whyalla lost radioactive source.
- The Committee resolved to:
 1. Note that the EPA expects to bring a report to the Committee for consideration in 2024.

4.5 Personal Radiation Dosimetry Monitoring: Dental Industry

- The Committee was provided the EPA analysis of worker dosimetry across the South Australian dental sector, and the EPA assessment that the regulations do not require employers in this sector to provide radiation monitoring and dose assessment.
- The Committee resolved to:
 1. Note the EPA analysis of worker dosimetry across the South Australian Dental sector.
 2. Note that based upon this analysis, the EPA has determined that the regulations do not require employers in this sector to provide radiation monitoring and dose assessment.
 3. Note that the EPA will follow up with ARPANSA on the data available for a national analysis.

4.6 Review of Radiation Incidents Response and Reporting

- The Committee was presented with the findings of the EPA Radiation Incident Response and Reporting Review.
- The Committee resolved to:
 1. Note the review outcomes of EPA radiation incident response and reporting, and the EPA’s proposed changes to the Radiation Incident Report Form Portal; radiation incident response; and reporting methods by the EPA.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- Nil

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday 6 June 2024, 1:00pm.

The Presiding Member closed the meeting at 3.15pm.

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Keith Baldry

Presiding Member

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Carly Cilento

Secretary to the Committee

Date: [6 June 2024]