

Notes of CNSC Staff – CNA Regulatory Affairs Committee Joint Meeting
Minto Place Suites Hotel, 433 Laurier Ave. West, Ottawa, Stanley Room
March 10, 2006

Participants

CNA

Lloyd Jones (Co-chair, Zircatec)
Steve Coupland (CNA)
Pierre Guimond (CNA)
Lloyd Hillier (MDS Nordion)
Doug Hink (SNC Lavalin Nuclear)
Dale Huffman (AREVA)
Imtiaz Malek (OPG)
Liam Mooney (Cameco)
Judy Ryan (COG)
Dave Wilson (NB Power)
Raidis Zemdegs (AECL)

CNSC

Jim Clarke (Co-Chair, OCRA)
Mark Dallaire (OCRA)
Ian Grant (DPRR)
Louise Gratton (HRD)
Paul Hough (OCRA)

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was brought to order at 10:00 a.m. The agenda was reviewed and accepted without change.

2. SUMMARY RECORD OF PREVIOUS MEETING (December 9, 2005)

The summary of the meeting of December 9, 2005 had been circulated within the CNSC and to the CNA. Only minor clarifications or changes were proposed. The main action items from that meeting form the basis for the agenda of this meeting. With respect to other items, the CNA has provided comments on the list of proposed new regulatory documents that was provided at the December meeting, and the CNSC will soon be posting its new regulatory document proposal form on the CNSC web site.

3 DISCUSSION ITEMS

3 a) Human Resources Symposium Concept (Discussion leader, Pierre Guimond, CNA)

It was noted that demographics, career definition and competing demands for highly skilled people are challenges facing industry and the CNSC. The CNSC has been focused on developing the business case for significant additional resources but it realizes that finding the appropriate people will be an even greater challenge.

In 2004 the Canadian Electricity Association (CEA) conducted a comprehensive human resources study of the challenges for the electricity sector in Canada. A short presentation was given by Pierre Guimond using information from the 2004 CEA human resources study.

Following discussion of the HR challenges facing both the industry and the CNSC, the CNA is to hold a symposium later in 2006 to focus on ways of coping with these issues. The CNSC suggested that representatives from the academic community be invited, along with other interested stakeholders, and the CNA proposed that young people be involved to provide their perspective of expectations.

3 b) Review of the CNSC by the IAEA IRRT (Discussion leader: Ian Grant, CNSC)

The CNSC provided an overview of the process for this review. Ian Grant described how the review was initiated and underlined the fact that it is essentially a peer-review exercise. The first undertaking is a self-assessment of the CNSC based on a comprehensive set of questions from the IAEA, from which a corrective action plan will be prepared to address any findings that have been identified in the self-assessment. In late 2007 a team from the IAEA will undertake an independent assessment of how well the CNSC is meeting expectations and implementing its corrective action plan. All reports from this review are to be made public.

4 INFORMATION ITEMS

4 a) Release of the Licensing Process Document (Ian Grant, CNSC)

This document had been the subject of a meeting on February 24, 2006, open to all interested parties, where it had been formally made public and where senior staff had been available to answer questions. The document is available on the CNSC web site.

4 b) Environmental Assessment Update (Steve Coupland, CNA)

EA consolidation is reported to remain a priority with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA), but next steps are not clear.

4 c) Coordinated Industry/Regulator Input to IAEA Standards (Steve Coupland, CNA)

The CNA recognizes the importance of incorporating IAEA standards into CNSC licensing and regulating wherever possible. Some greater clarity is sought on how a formal Canadian position is to be developed on any issue involving a particular IAEA document.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a) CNA – CNSC Exchange re Life Extensions

- The next step with the CNSC draft paper on life extensions is to put it into the regulatory documents process. Stakeholder input is an integral part of this process.
- Two important up-front aspects needed to determine the full description of the scope of the project are: the EA process that is meant to identify any mitigating measures needed to protect the environment; and an integrated safety review following the IAEA guidance for Periodic Safety Review (PSR).

b) Risk-Informed and Performance-Based Regulation: Next Steps

- The workshop on the regulation of pressure retaining components last December was described as very useful, but it was acknowledged that more work is required to fully utilize risk-informed processes.

6. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.