

October 3, 2001

Minutes of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Meeting held Wednesday, October 3, 2001, beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the Public Hearing Room, CNSC Offices, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

Present:

L.J. Keen, Chair
C.R. Barnes
Y.M. Giroux
A.R. Graham
L.J. MacLachlan

G.C. Jack, Secretary
I.V. Gendron, Senior Counsel
C.N. Taylor, Recording Secretary

Commission staff advisers were J. Harvie, M. Taylor, P. Webster, J. Waddington, P. Wigfull, K. Pereira, A. Aly, K. Wagstaff, and P. Dubé.

Adoption of the Agenda

1. The agenda, CMD 01-M61.A, was adopted as presented.

Chair and Secretary

2. The President took the Chair and the Secretary of the Commission acted as Secretary of the meeting with C.N. Taylor acting as recording secretary.

Constitution

3. Notice of meeting having been properly given and a quorum of Members being present, the meeting was declared to be properly constituted.
4. Since the meeting of the CNSC held August 9, 2001, Commission Member Documents CMD 01-M60 to CMD 01-M68 had been distributed to Members. These documents are further detailed in Annex A of these minutes.

Minutes of the CNSC Meeting Held August 9, 2001

5. Members approved the minutes of the August 9, 2001 meeting of the Commission (reference CMD 01-M62) with the following change to Minute No. 9 as proposed by Mr. Jack. Minute No. 9, relating to the reporting on operations at Shield Source Incorporated, was changed to read as follows: "CNSC staff committed to follow up issues relating to this program and to keep the Commission informed with a summary report being submitted to the Commission in one year's time."

DECISIONBusiness Arising

6. Members received for information the report on business arising from previous meetings of the Atomic Energy Control Board; reference CMD 01-M63.

7. Members received for information the report on business arising from previous hearings and meetings of the CNSC; reference CMD 01-M64.

Significant Development Report

8. Members reviewed with CNSC staff Significant Development Report (SDR) number 2001-7; reference CMD 01-M65 and CMD 01-M65.A. Staff explained that item 1.1.8.1 was added to the Significant Development Report (SDR) on October 2, 2001. The purpose was to inform the Commission of the CNSC staff's actions following the terrorist attacks that took place in the United States on September 11, 2001. Staff noted that the results of two studies on security at nuclear facilities had recently been completed and that this information was timely in light of those events.

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Staff reported that, following the events of September 11, 2001, CNSC staff instructed the major licensees to implement enhanced security measures at their facilities, and that these enhanced measures remained in place. Staff further reported that the licensees were instructed to confirm within two weeks the measures that they have taken to minimize and protect against threats of intrusion, theft or sabotage at their facilities. Furthermore, staff informed the Commission that a review of the *Nuclear Security Regulations* had been initiated.

Referring to item 1.2 of the SDR, staff briefed the Commission on applications from Hydro-Quebec and New Brunswick Power to amend their reactor licences to allow more time to prepare schedules for meeting the CNSC's quality assurance requirements. Staff noted that those applications are currently under review and that a decision concerning the submission of the schedules would be made by the Designated Officer. Staff further noted that decisions concerning the incorporation of the revised dates would be brought to the Commission for decision at a later date.

CNSC staff informed the Commission that the planned briefing on the results of a meeting with the power reactor industry on the subject of feeder pipes would be delayed. The delay was due to the fact that the industry meeting had to be postponed due to transportation problems following the events of September 11, 2001.

CNSC Research and Support Program

9. Members received for information an update on the CNSC Research and Support Program in CMD 01-M51B. Included in that information was a performance report for the fiscal year 2000/2001 and a description of the program for the fiscal year 2001/2002.

CNSC staff indicated that the current report incorporates the comments and recommendations of the Members over the past year.

A Member questioned whether the reduction in funding for the program over the past two years can be expected to continue in the future. Staff explained that a new approach to planning the research program will be taken for next year. Staff indicated that it is proposing to relate the research program more closely to the CNSC's mandate, and to integrate the program more directly with the industry's approach. Staff could not speculate on how the budgets would change as a result of this initiative. Staff noted that Executive Committee would need to consider the matter further.

A Member sought clarification from staff concerning how research work could be coordinated with the power reactor licensees, while preserving the independence of the work. Staff explained that this coordination is not yet underway, but that the intent would be to look at the industry research and try to address what appear to be gaps.

A Member raised a question as to whether the budgets for several of the research projects are adequate to effectively and meaningfully address the topics. In response, staff explained that the program is focusing more on confirmatory research in support of the CNSC regulatory mission, rather than in areas of anticipatory or pure research which would normally demand more resources.

In response to a Member's question on the relatively large budget for a study of Cameco's management processes, staff explained that the research is part of a multi-phase project to develop and test an innovative way of measuring organization and management performance. Staff explained that although Cameco is participating in this phase, the results will be used to improve a model that will be applicable to the evaluation of any licensee organization.

A Member sought information on the progress being made on research project 2.351.1 (Reactor Physics Aspects of LOCA Analysis) and the timetable expected for closure of the related Generic Action Item. Staff responded that it expects to close the Generic Action Item by some time next year. Staff reported that all of the experimental information has been gathered and that the interpretation is underway with the assistance of a joint international expert group.

A Member asked about research project R160.1 (Scientific Advisory Group to oversee Health Studies conducted in Port Hope) and specifically the process used to identify qualified and impartial participants. Staff noted that the matter is currently under review and that an advisory group has not yet been established. Staff envisions that, if established, the group would consist of about four individuals, of which three would be highly respected epidemiologists, selected on the basis of competence, expertise and high standing in the epidemiological community.

Also in regards to the Port Hope studies (ref. CMD 01-M51.B Appendix A, Sub-program 2), Members sought and received confirmation that the health study completed to date has been made available to the public. Staff reported that the Standardized Mortality Ratio Study (7.536.1) will be completed shortly by Health Canada and will also be publicly available. Staff further explained that the Port Hope Community Health Concerns Committee and the Town Council are actively consulted by CNSC staff on these studies.

Nuclear Substance Processing Facilities

10. Members received for consideration in CMD 01-M66, an annual status report on the operation of nuclear substance processing facilities.

CNSC staff reported on the performance of MDS Nordion KOB, Shield Source Inc. (SSI), and SRB Technologies Canada. In its report, staff used a comparison to specific performance indicators and a review of trends over the past five years in respect of worker, public and environmental protection. Staff noted that SRB's and SSI's environmental monitoring programs were assessed as "conditionally acceptable" because the programs were not fully implemented in 2000; those programs are now fully implemented and are under CNSC staff review for the balance of the current year. Staff reported that all other performance aspects of the three facilities were rated as "acceptable".

A Member sought clarification of the reasons for why the environmental monitoring programs of SSI and SRB were not fully implemented in 2000. Staff noted that the problems were reviewed in recent licence renewal hearings and emphasized that, although problems were encountered in the environmental sampling, stack sampling has been uninterrupted.

ACNS-23 Transport of Radioactive Material in Canada

11. Members received for consideration in CMD 01-M67, a status report on issues raised in 1997 by the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Safety (ACNS).

CNSC staff reported that they have addressed, or are in the process of addressing, the seven recommendations made by the ACNS.

Staff noted that some of the recommendations will be addressed in planned revisions to the *Transport of Dangerous Goods Act* and the *Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulations* under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*.

Closing

12. The public meeting concluded at 3:20 p.m. and continued in camera.

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Nuclear Security Regulations

13. Members received for consideration CMD 01-M68 on Authorization of Commission staff to give Inner Area Authorization and written consents for Nuclear Security Guards pursuant to sections 18 and 31 of the *Nuclear Security Regulations*.

The Commission decided to authorize the Executive Director, Office of International Affairs, and in his/her absence, either the Director General, Directorate of Reactor Regulation, or Director General, Directorate of Fuel Cycle and Materials Regulation, to issue the above-noted authorizations and consents in accordance with specified criteria and instructions.

DECISION

Closing

14. The meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Secretary