



ISOE NEWS

Electronic edition

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ISOE Asian, European, North American and IAEA Technical Centres

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ISOE Management Board Meeting

The 19th annual meeting of the ISOE Management Board, held 18-20 November 2009 at OECD Headquarters in Paris, France, was attended by participants from nuclear electricity utilities and national regulatory authorities from fourteen countries. The meeting was chaired by the new ISOE Chairman, Mr. Vasile Simionov from the Cernavoda nuclear power plant (Romania).

Following presentations from participants on occupational dose trends and ALARA activities at nuclear power plants in their countries, the Management Board reviewed the current ISOE programme. Key outcomes included approvals to:



- launch, at the start of 2010, the new web-based data entry system for the ISOE occupational exposure database on the ISOE Network website;
- investigate possibilities of removing data access restrictions for national regulatory authorities participating in ISOE; and
- pursue co-operation with the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) to provide selected data from the ISOE database for use in UNSCEAR reports on global exposure trends.

Participants also considered possible future activities aimed at better meeting ISOE end-user needs.

Improving Experience Exchange

Among other subjects, the Management Board discussed ways to enhance experience exchange between ISOE participants to facilitate the management of occupational exposures at nuclear power plants and better promote ISOE's important role in this area.

The ISOE Network website has received a major upgrade after a period of development, including integration and enhancement of the ISOE occupational exposure database. The Network has become an excellent ALARA resource for radiation protection professionals at NPPs and regulatory authorities. The website can also promote the work of ISOE and inform the public. Its usefulness, however, relies on the active involvement of ISOE members in providing their ISOE data and operating experiences and in providing feedback to the ISOE Technical Centres and Management Board.

The Management Board also discussed the possibility of removing the current access restrictions on ISOE participating authorities to certain types of data in the ISOE database, as described in the ISOE Terms and Conditions. The participants noted that in many countries, radiation protection managers



*ISOE Chairs Past and Present
L to R: D. Miller (USA), J.Y. Gagnon (Canada),
V. Simionov (Romania, ISOE Chair), W. Mizumachi (Japan),
C.G. Lindvall (Sweden), B. Breznik (Slovenia)*

generally have an “open book” policy to share good practice and lessons learned, and that there was no overwhelming reason to continue to limit the ISOE Participating Authorities to certain data types. As a result, the Management Board has agreed in principle to fully open the ISOE data to Participating Authorities, pending further feedback from the ISOE National Coordinators, for decision by the ISOE Bureau at its next meeting.

The ISOE past-Chair, Mr. W. Mizumachi (Japan), noted that with the publication of the report on “Work Management to

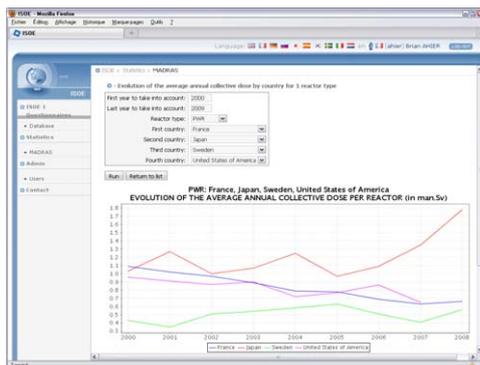
Optimise Occupational Radiological Protection at Nuclear Power Plants”, ISOE should now turn its focus towards exchanging operational experience and lessons learned in occupational radiological protection. In the RP community, each event is treated as a lesson learned to help understand the circumstances of the event, and should be viewed as a “golden nugget” for improving practices and training to prevent reoccurrences.

Given the breadth of its membership, the ISOE programme and ISOE Network website can play an important role in exchanging and analysing such experience. Further, as the national policy in many countries is that radiation protection related information is open to the public, Dr. V. Holahan (ISOE regulatory vice-chair) as well as Dr. S. Djeflal (Canada) also suggested that links to on-line national operating experience reports could be added to the ISOE Network website. As a first step, Dr. S. Jahn (Switzerland) volunteered to prepare a draft ISOE reporting form for consideration at the next ISOE Bureau meeting. ISOE members will be kept informed as these initiatives progress.

ISOE Network (www.isoe-network.net) and the ISOE Occupational Exposure Database

The ISOE Network has recently undergone a major enhancement to improve its layout and usability. The Network now provides easy access to a wealth of ISOE resources, including ISOE publications, symposium proceedings, contacts, user forums, the ISOE RP Library, and the updated ISOE occupational exposure database

ISOE members have been able to access the global ISOE database and its associated statistical analysis interface (MADRAS) through the website for several years. As of February 2010, users will also be able to enter their annual ISOE data directly on-line through the website using a web browser.



In preparation for this roll-out, the ISOE National Coordinators are now in the process of identifying the ISOE members in each country who will be responsible for entering and/or validating their ISOE data. By bringing this new feature to the Network, the migration of the ISOE database to the web is now complete.

To access the ISOE database and other resources for ISOE Participants, please visit www.isoe-network.net. If you do not yet have a password, this can be requested from the ISOE Secretariat (brian.ahier@oecd.org).

Selected Publications and Presentations on the ISOE Network

The following publications and presentations are available for download from the ISOE Network:

- Work Management to Optimise Occupational Radiation Protection at Nuclear Power Plants
- Presentations and papers from:
 - 2009 ISOE International ALARA Symposium
 - 2009 ISOE Asian ALARA Symposium
 - 2010 ISOE North American ALARA Symposium

News from Recent ISOE Symposia

More information on all ISOE Symposia, including papers and presentations from previous symposia, can be found on the ISOE Network.

2009 ISOE International ALARA Symposium (October 2009)

In October 2009, the IAEA hosted the 2009 ISOE International ALARA Symposium in Vienna. The 2009 international symposium welcomed 110 participants from 27 countries to discuss optimisation of radiological protection at NPPs. A number of IAEA Member States are now considering building NPPs or research reactors for the first time. The transfer of good radiation protection practices and safety culture learnt over the many years of world-wide reactor operations is of great importance for workers at new reactor sites and also for maintaining the good working record of reactor operations world-wide.



Thirty five papers were presented in six sessions: Setting the scene; Examples and evaluation of the ALARA principle implementation; Technical and managerial approaches to dose reduction; Occupational exposure in NPPs; Management of occupational exposure in CANDU NPPs; and trends and perspectives. The keynote lecture “Global Nuclear Safety and Security Regime” was given by Mr. K. Mrabit (IAEA). Other IAEA presentations included, for example, “The OSART programme and radiation safety related findings during recent OSART missions” and “The IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme”.



A refresher course on “The Optimisation Principle”, given by Ms. C. Schieber (ISOE-ETC), provided an overview of historical and current approaches to ALARA. A second course on “The ISOE Website and Databases”, presented by Ms. L. D’Ascenzo (ISOE-ETC), focused on the updated ISOE website resources.

Following two days of interesting presentations, two distinguished papers were awarded: “CANDU 6 Refurbishment and Optimization of Radiation Protection”, by Ms. S. Alavi and Mr. J. Pequegnat (Canada) and “RP for the Angra 1 Steam Generator Replacement Outage” by Mr. M.A. do Amaral *et al* (Brazil).

2010 ISOE North American ALARA Symposium (January 2010)

The 2010 ISOE North American ALARA Symposium /EPRI Radiation Protection Conference was held 10-13 January 2010 in Fort Lauderdale (USA), and attended by an audience of 130 participants from 7 countries including Canada, Mexico, France, Japan, Switzerland, The Netherlands, and USA.

Dr. T. Jamieson (CNSC, Canada) delivered the plenary speech entitled “The Canadian Nuclear Renaissance”. Dr. Jamieson provided a comprehensive overview of the Canadian nuclear expansion plans, and addressed the significant on-going efforts to refurbish selected CANDU units. His paper was chosen as one of the distinguished papers for the 2010 meeting.



Brown's Ferry Managers

Mr. T. Brown (Cook Nuclear Plant, USA) presented a paper on the Cook Unit 2 refuelling outage: a US collective dose industry record (0.34 man-Sv) for Westinghouse ice condenser PWRs. The management commitment of \$25 million (USD) on ALARA dose reduction initiatives was critical to the success of the Cook 5-year ALARA Plan and the refuelling outage achievement.

Other symposium topics included lessons learned from an airborne event, CANDU ALARA challenges, human factors and site ALARA programmes, hot particle removal and new NRC RP inspection modules.

Browns Ferry 1, TVA, won the 2009 NATC ISOE World Class ALARA Performance Award for achieving major stellite valve replacements prior to restart in 2007 after being in administrative shutdown since 1984. Browns Ferry 1 committed over \$1 billion (USD) to the ALARA and modernisation efforts prior to restart.

Dr. Y. Garcier (France) was recognized by ISOE-NATC members as the Occupational Health Professional of the Year for his outstanding accomplishments with the EDF fleet during his 7 year tenure as Vice-President of Radiation Protection, EDF. His presentation on EDF's Occupational Dose Achievements was impressive, eloquently delivered and very well received by the audience.

Upcoming: 2010 ISOE International ALARA Symposium (November 2010)

The 2010 ISOE International ALARA Symposium, organised by the ISOE European Technical Centre, will take place 17-19 November 2010 in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

The symposium will be preceded on 16 November 2010 by the Radiation Protection Managers (RPM) and Regulatory Body Representatives meetings.

The Symposium announcement, call for papers and registration form are available on the ISOE Network.

ISOE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON
OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT AT NUCLEAR FACILITIES
Cambridge, United Kingdom, 17-19 November 2010

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

GENERAL INFORMATION
The European Technical Centre of the International Institute for Occupational Radiation Protection (ETCR) is organizing in collaboration with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) the 2010 ISOE International Symposium on Occupational Exposure Management at Nuclear Facilities. The Symposium will be held in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from 17-19 November 2010. The CECS Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) co-sponsor the Symposium.

TARGET AUDIENCE
The Symposium is targeted at all those concerned with radiological protection at nuclear power plants: radiation protection managers and staff members, maintenance and operation planners, a contractors, regional authorities (represented by state bodies or work associations), inspectors and other regulatory bodies representatives, and international organisations. The Symposium is also opened to research reactors and professionals from other nuclear fuel cycle installations that have common radiological protection problems with nuclear power plants.

SYMPOSIUM GOALS
The main aims of the Symposium are:
• to provide a large forum of information exchange on occupational exposure concepts, practice, management and procedures, dose limits and reduction, improvements of techniques and tools, etc.; and
• to allow contacts to present their recent experience and developments on radiation protection management techniques, operating and plant design improvements, ALARA practices during operation and outage, etc. in a semi-annual exhibition.

Schedule of ISOE Meetings for 2010

- 21 May 2010 : ISOE Bureau (OECD, Paris, France)
- 13-15 Sep 2010: ISOE Working Group on Data Analysis (OECD, Paris, France)
- 30 Aug-1 Sep 2010: 2010 ISOE Asian Regional ALARA Symposium (Korea)
- 15 Nov 2010: 20th ISOE Management Board meeting (Cambridge, UK)
- 17-19 Nov 2010: 2010 ISOE International ALARA Symposium (Cambridge, UK), preceded on 16 November by the Radiation Protection Managers (RPM) and Regulatory Body Representatives meetings.

For further information, please visit the ISOE Network: www.isoe-network.net