

University of Dundee

RADIATION SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Radiation Safety Sub-Committee was held at 2.10pm on 19th December 2010 in the Seminar Room, WTB.

Present: Prof Mike Stark (MJRS) [Chair]
Ms Lisa Grayson (LG) [Minutes]
Mr Damian Leddy (DL) [University Radiation Protection Adviser]
Mr Martin Rollo (MR) [University Radiation Protection Officer]
Ms Letty Gibson (LMG)
Ms Shellagh Neil (SN)
Dr Sheila Sharp (SS)
Dr Nick Helps (NRH)
Ms Allison Bridges (AB)

Apologies were received from Dr C Connolly (CC), Dr David Sutton (DS)

MINUTES

ACTION

1. Composition of the Committee - Welcome CC to the committee

CC was not present.

2. The minutes of the meeting on the June 2010

The minutes were approved.

3. Previous Meeting Action Points (PMAP)

- a) LG has sent another reminder to committee members explaining how to register for the necessary LS directory account. (PMAP Matters Arising 4a)
- b) MR reported that a way of ensuring sealed sources in scintillation counters can be tested for leaks has been identified, and authenticated. The machines that make use of sealed sources will effectively check for leaks during operation. This method has been communicated to all RPS's. (PMAP New Agenda Items 4a)
- c) DL notified committee that he was now the RPA for the City Campus having gained RPA accreditation. (PMAP New Agenda Items 4c)
- d) DL and LG informed the committee that the process of re-vamping the Generic Risk Assessment's is still underway and hopefully will be completed by the next meeting. (PMAP New Agenda Items 5b)

DL & LG

e) WTB 3 south side has been decommissioned by MR and a report has been sent to SEPA as requested. (PMAP New Agenda Items 6c)

f) LG and SN have had a meeting to discuss LS databases. Shellagh agreed that the databases were more advanced than those used by Med Physics, but there could be some compatibility issues with accessing the databases at Ninewells Hospital. The option of running the databases at a computer terminal in the University's E&B office at Ninewells was put forward as a possible solution. Shellagh to look into this possibility. (PMAP New Agenda Items 7b)

SN

g) Spill training by Safety services has progressed; 10 RPS have been trained in how to deal to a P-32 spill. (PMAP New Agenda Items 8)

4. New Agenda Items

a) Main Campus - SEPA report

The SEPA report for the May 2010 inspection has arrived and the University scored 22 out of 30. This is considered by SEPA and us to be a good score.

b) Main Campus - Radon survey

The University is committed to undertaking a Radon survey of lower ground/basement rooms on the Main Campus. A meeting is to be held with E&B to identify likely locations and phase one of the planning procedures. It is hoped to install the first set of Radon detection badges before the next meeting. Ninewells Medical School will also be supplied with a badge.

DL & MR

c) Main Campus - Fire-detector survey

As fire detectors historically could contain ionising sealed sources, Safety Services are going to liaise with Campus E&B to identify if any such detectors are present in University of Dundee buildings.

MR

d) Main Campus - New Ionising Radiation Policy

DL informed the committee that he has written a new ionising radiation management policy and it will be sent out to the committee for comment. It will then be submitted to the University Safety Committee for approval in February.

DL

e) Main Campus - New dosimetry supplier

Mirion Technologies has been chosen to supply the Main Campus with both body and finger-badges for at least the next two years. DL and MR reported that the change from HPA to Mirion has gone smoothly. Nick Helps suggested testing the badges against a known source of radiation to test their response. DL agreed and will carry out the tests before the next meeting.

DL & MR

f) Scottish AURPO

The first meeting of the Scottish AURPO was held in November 2010 MR and

DL & MR

DL attended and will inform the committee after each meeting of relevant topics and decisions. There were no topics or decisions to report from this first meeting that are not already being implemented by the University.

g) MRC Unit – Variation Notice

The MRC have sent their Variation Notice application to SEPA for approval. NRH to report on progress of the application at the next meeting.

NRH

h) Medical School – SEPA report

SN presented The Med school Annual Audit Survey to the Committee. SEPA Inspection report was received and summarised as a successful inspection.

SN

One point raised in the SEPA report that should be addressed is the matter of issuing waste receipts by Medical Physics. This was acknowledge as an improvement in waste security and traceability, and will be implemented.

i) Medical School – Non-ionising radiation

SN reported that the Control of Artificial Optical Radiation at Work Regulations 2010 policy is in place in the Medical School and is implemented in conjunction with the NHS Trust E&B
CRC is up and running and the University's use of the facility is expected to increase.

j) RPS Matters - Spill Training Class schedule for 2011

DL and MR plan to run the P-32 spill classes again for two RPS early in January or February 2011 and then again in the summer with a slightly different scenario.

DL & MR

DL and MR have also been in contact with other Universities about renting the monitor out to them or going to the Universities themselves to train users. It will also be made available to Ninewells to train their users if they would like but MR reminded the committee that a group from Ninewells was trained in the summer.

k) Waste Disposal - 2010 Campus costs

MR reported the waste disposal cost for the main campus would be £1527. The reason for the lower than usual cost is because only one sealed source was disposed of as well as an increase in the VLLW limits for H-3 and C-14 (from 0.4MBq to 4MBq) that means the majority of waste of this type can be disposed of as VLLW for free.

l) Waste Disposal - Proposed tender agreement for radioactive waste

MR informed the committee that the University is considering a University wide waste disposal tender that would cover all types of waste including radioactive and is being setup by Estates & Buildings in connection with a national Scottish University's scheme. MR only found out about this while making enquires regarding a similar tender scheme Safety Services were attempting

MR

to setup. Safety Services may have to drop their tender idea. MR expected the new national tender scheme to come into effect in April 2011. MR will meet with Colin Girdwood (Estates & Buildings) to discuss the radioactive waste requirements of the tender scheme and report back to the committee.

5. Additional Agenda Items

a) Email dates and times of future meetings

Several members requested the dates and times of future meetings be emailed to them. DL will email a Groupwise appointment to all members after this meeting with the date and time of the next meeting.

DL

b) Lab Manager in SCRI

Currently there is a lab manager who is based in the Scottish Crop Research Institute who might sometimes be called upon to work in the College of Life Sciences. LMG raised the point that the RIMMS system is not used in SCRI and the lab manager might not be suitably familiar with it when they are required to use it in the College of Life Sciences. LGib suggested that RIMMS might be used in SCRI but LG and DL thought this might not be suitable for SCRI's systems. LMG will meet with SCRI to discuss and report back to the committee.

LMG

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 9th June at 2pm

[N.B. this date later proved to be unsuitable and the meeting will be held on 23rd June at 2pm]