Advisory Commission on Safety Standards (ACSS)
Second Meeting
2-3 December 1996
IAEA Headquarters, Vienna

Report of the Meeting

I. Introduction

The meeting was opened by the Director General. The agenda for the second meeting of ACSS was approved. Presentations on activities of the Department of Nuclear Safety were given by Mr. G. Linsley (A/Director of the Division of Radiation and Waste Safety) and Ms. A. Carnino (Director of the Division of Nuclear Installation Safety).

The Commission was informed that a meeting between the Chairmen of the Advisory Committees and the Chair of ACSS is scheduled for 3-5 February 1997, the primary objective of the meeting being to agree on a set of unified procedures for the development of Safety Standards and to discuss interaction among the Committees and the Commission.

Mr. R. Kelleher (Head of Publishing Section) informed the ACSS of the IAEA plan to introduce two new series of publications to replace the existing Safety Series: the Safety Standards Series and the Safety Reports Series. ACSS recommended that the categories of publications within the Safety Standards Series be changed to Fundamentals, Requirements, and Guides. The Director General accepted the recommendation after the meeting.

The reports of the four Advisory Committees (RASSAC, WASSAC, TRANSSAC, and NUSSAC) were presented by Messrs. Mason, Raynal, Blalock and Campbell respectively. Clarification was requested regarding differences between the types of reports (i.e. meeting report and the Chairman's report) submitted by the Advisory Committees to the ACSS. ACSS was informed that the Chairman's report is generally prepared and approved during the meetings, whereas the meeting reports are prepared by the Scientific Secretary after the meeting and sent to the Chairman for approval before distribution to the members and submission to ACSS. Dr. Bishop informed the members that the matter will be raised in the February meeting with the Chairmen of the Advisory Committees.

II. Commitments and Decisions

An outline of the commitments and decisions made by the Commission on various items of the Agenda is outlined below:

1. Programme Performance Assessment System (PPAS)

The Scientific Secretary presented the results of the PPAS review of the IAEA Safety Standards programme. The PPAS report, prepared by consultants on 14-16 October 1996, contains 16 recommendations addressing resources, organizational aspects and procedures for development of safety standards as well as working procedures of the Advisory Committees and the ACSS. The latter will be discussed in the meeting planned for February 1997. The Commission was informed that an action plan for the implementation of the recommendation will be prepared after the planned review of programme of Nuclear Safety Department in January 1997.

2. Document on Health Surveillance of Persons Occupationally Exposed to Ionizing

Radiation

ACSS endorsed the publication of the document in the Safety Reports Series.

3. New Topics for Consideration by ACSS

3.1. Criteria for reporting of significant events

Mr. Križ presented the activities of the Agency on this topic. ACSS considered the topic and decided that it was difficult, on the basis of the information presented, to make a judgement on the treatment of the topic within the Safety Standards Series. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a report on the topic for consideration at the next ACSS meeting. The report should state clear objectives as well as the target audience and proposals on how to proceed for consideration at the next ACSS meeting. The report should be distributed to the members well in advance of the meeting.

3.2. Safety culture

Mr. Zhong presented a report on the development of safety culture. ACSS agreed on the need for a report on safety culture to discuss not only how safety culture may be developed but also how it can be evaluated by the safety authorities. The current report should be expanded appropriately to provide recommendations on evaluation of safety culture with an insight on how and why a well developed safety culture can deteriorate in a span of a few years. The initial view of the ACSS was that the report should probably be published in the Safety Reports Series.

4. Dates and agenda for the next meeting

The meetings of ACSS for 1997 are scheduled for 2-4 June and 17-19 November.

The Scientific Secretary was requested to submit the plan for development of Safety Standards Series publications and a draft glossary of terms to the Commission for consideration at the June 1997 meeting. The plan should include the proposed timetable for meetings as well as the status of each document.

A report by the Secretariat on Model Projects for Radiation Safety is to be included as an item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

The topic of backfitting should be discussed at a future meeting.

PARTICIPATION

Mr. D. Beninson, Argentina
Mr. K. Lokan, Australia
Dr. A. Bishop (Chair), Canada
Mr. P.H. Wigfull, Canada
Mr. Q. Huang, China
Mr. A-C. Lacoste, France
Ms. C. Feltin, France
Mr. G. Hennenhöfer, Germany
Mr. R.D. Wendling, Germany

Mr. K. Sato, Japan
Mr. K. Muramatsu, Japan
Mr. K.W. Cho, Korea, Republic of
Mr. J. Mišák, Slovak Republic
Mr. A. Alonso, Spain
Mr. P. Trueba, Spain
Mr. J. Valentin, Sweden
Mr. S. Prêtre, Switzerland
Mr. S. Harbison, United Kingdom
Mr. I.F. Crawford, United Kingdom
Mr. H. Thompson, United States of America

IAEA Staff Members

Dr. H. Blix, Director General
Mr. Z. Domaratzki, Deputy Director General, Department of Nuclear Safety
Ms. A. Carnino, Director, Division of Nuclear Installation Safety (NSNI)
Mr. G. Linsley, Acting Direction, Division of Radiation & Waste Safety (NSRW)
Mr. R. Kelleher, Publishing Section (ADPU)
Mr. A. Karbassioun, Scientific Secretary, Safety Co-ordination Section
Mr. R. Campbell, Safety Co-ordination Section
Mr. C. Mason, Radiation Safety Section
Mr. M. Raynal, Waste Safety Section
Mr. L. Blalock, Radiation Safety Section
Mr. W. Zhong, Safety Co-ordination Section
Mr. Z. Križ, Safety Assessment Section
Mr. D. Delves, Safety Co-ordination Section