

Open Government Status:

**FULLY OPEN**

**NuSAC/SCR/03/8**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION**

**NUCLEAR SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH**

**28 March 2003**

**NuSAC SCR TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Paper by HSE**

1. It is appropriate to review the terms of reference (TOR) of the sub committee in the light of the changing circumstances. These are specifically:

- the new arrangements for reactor safety research.
- the changes in the waste management and decommissioning area connected with the setting up of the new authority.
- the proposed extension of HSE's oversight to other licensees.

2. There is currently a debate about the terms of reference of the main committee, and a wish to move to a more strategic advisory committee. The SCR is not at liberty to change its main aim. However the sub committee may discuss the detailed terms of reference. The existing TOR are given in appendix 1. The proposed revision below is offered with the aim of stimulating the discussion rather than being definitive in any sense. The SCR would obviously need a wider range of briefing material than at present if some of the suggestions were adopted.

3. The SCR may not have the resources necessary to deal with some of the suggestions. One possible strategy is to deal with the full range over a period of time.

4. Aim - To provide independent advice, on behalf of NuSAC, to the HSC on all aspects of research related subjects within NuSAC's remit.

5. Proposed new Terms of Reference

- To judge the adequacy and balance of UK Nuclear Safety Research procured by the nuclear licensees and HSE
- In this judgement, to consider the contents of the HSE Nuclear Research Index and the licensees' Nuclear Research Schedules
- To consider the role played by research in supporting nuclear safety
- To examine how the UK maintains access to capability in key technical areas, both for the licensees and for the regulator, with due regard for the regulator's need for independence
- To consider longer term UK nuclear safety research needs and perform a horizon scanning role (or ensure that HSE is performing this role in accordance with the HSE S&I strategy)
- To consider the implementation of HSE's research strategy across the range of licensees
- To consider the adequacy of the collaboration on nuclear safety research between HSE and other government departments and agencies
- To examine how the UK achieves benefit from international collaboration in nuclear safety research
- To take into account where appropriate the experience of other countries' nuclear safety research programmes and the advice of the international agencies
- To advise HSC in cases of disagreement between HSE and licensees
- To advise HSC on any relevant nuclear safety research issues, including those which HSE may bring to its attention.

## **Action**

6. The SCR are invited to comment on the proposed revision to the terms of reference, and agree on a version to be submitted to the main committee for approval.

## **Appendix Existing Terms of reference of NuSAC and the SCR**

### NuSAC

NuSAC's terms of reference are:

- To advise the Health and Safety Commission and, when appropriate Secretaries of State, on major issues affecting the safety of nuclear installations including design, siting, operation, maintenance and decommissioning which are referred to it or which it considers require attention; and
- To advise the Health and Safety Commission on the adequacy and balance of its nuclear safety research programme.

### NuSAC SCR

Aim - To provide independent advice, on behalf of NuSAC, to the HSC on all aspects of research related subjects within NuSAC's remit.

### Terms of reference

- To identify the necessity and completeness of the major issues being identified in the HSE Nuclear Research Index (NRI)
- To identify research needs to fill gaps in the coverage of the NRI
- To identify the adequacy and balance of the HSC coordinated programme of Nuclear Safety Research procured by the nuclear licensees and HSE
- To examine how the UK achieves benefit from international collaboration
- To examine how the UK maintains access to capability in key technical areas
- To examine the broad content of nuclear licensees' other nuclear safety research programmes
- To offer advice on any relevant nuclear safety research issues.