

NuSAC Paper		NuSAC (2008)P18	
Date:	3 July 2008	Open Gov. Status:	Open
Type of Paper:	INFORMATION	File Ref:	TRIM 1.14.2.10
Exemptions:			

NUCLEAR SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Research report to NuSAC, July 2008

A Paper by Peter Manning, on behalf of Review Group 6

1. On behalf of NuSAC, RG6 has provided its annual letter of advice to the HSE.
2. We were pleased to record the effort that had been put into properly displaying the research that relates to operating reactors. This work is progressing satisfactorily. We also reported on the status of the NDA's Technical Baseline Research Documents (2008), which are focussed on other nuclear sites. Although still capable of improvement, the documents have now reached a good standard. They are able to explain the gaps in knowledge, and what programmes are in place to find solutions. These are now live, working documents- and are of real value to the people involved.
3. We noted that following a successful workshop, there is now an agreed approach about work relating to Human Factors.
4. RG6 members attend meetings related to reactor research. In particular, one expert has participated in a thorough review of Control and Instrumentation issues, and reported positively. The properties of graphite continue to be another topic of substantial interest, and issues relating to reactor life are currently receiving attention.
5. We formed a favourable impression during our review of the *TBuRDs (2008)*. Standardisation of format has helped to ensure that all sites are addressing relevant issues, and some topics have yielded results that have been implemented. We did advise where further improvements might still be beneficial. These covered:
 - Additional checks for completeness;
 - Improved ways of monitoring whether technical progress is being made at the rate needed by the operational programmes;
 - Applying similar methodology to research into waste disposal;
 - Understanding the level of resources (people and facilities) needed to underpin the work; and,
 - The impact of the assumptions underpinning the document

6. The Nuclear Waste Research Forum established by the NDA meets quarterly and is helping to share both problems and solutions. Around 50 topic groups are in existence to help this process in a practical way.

7. Again, we should record that the arrangements for the National Nuclear Laboratory have not yet been implemented. The level of UK expertise has been so reduced since the days of the CEGB that it is now vital to underpin essential skills.
