

2000-12-13

Minutes of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Meeting held Wednesday, December 13, 2000, beginning at 11:45 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room, CNSC Offices, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

Present:

A.J. Bishop, Chair
C.R. Barnes
A.J. Carty
Y.M. Giroux
A.R. Graham
L.J. Keen

G.C. Jack, Secretary
A. Nowack, Senior Counsel
B. Gerestein, Recording Secretary

Commission staff advisers were A. Aly, K. Pereira, J. Power, M. Taylor, P. Thompson, J. Waddington and M. White.

Chair and Secretary

1. The President took the chair and the Secretary of the Commission acted as Secretary of the meeting with the Manager, Commission Services Group acting as recording secretary.

Constitution

2. Notice of the meeting having been properly given and a quorum of Members being present, the meeting was declared to be properly constituted.

3. Since the meeting of the CNSC held November 9, 2000, Commission Member Documents CMD 00-M67 to CMD 00-M75 had been distributed to Members. These documents are further detailed in Annex A of these minutes.

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Adoption of the Agenda

4. The updated agenda, CMD 00-M68.1, was adopted as presented.

DECISIONMinutes of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Meeting Held November 9, 2000

5. Members approved the minutes of the November 9, 2000 meeting of the Commission; reference CMD 00-M69.

DECISIONBusiness Arising

6. Members received for information the report on business arising from previous meetings of the Atomic Energy Control Board; reference CMD 00-M70.

7. Members received for information the report on business arising from previous hearings and meetings of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission; reference CMD 00-M71.

Significant Development Report

8. Members reviewed with CNSC staff Significant Development Report (SDR) number 2000-05; reference CMD 00-M72 and CMD 00-M72.A.

CNSC Staff Report Regarding Uranium in Port Hope Soils

9. Members received for information the CNSC staff report summarizing the results of the CNSC staff review of issues related to the potential accumulation of uranium in Port Hope, Ontario soils and staff's plan to address the identified data gaps and areas of uncertainty; reference CMD 00-M73.

In response to a Member's question about public involvement in the research plan, CNSC staff provided some historical background for Members and stated that a representative of the Port Hope Community Environmental Advisory Committee attended a meeting on the subject organized by Environment Canada. Staff also stated that members of the community will be involved as the design of the research program is further developed.

Shut Off Rods in the MAPLE 1 Reactor at the AECL Chalk River Laboratories

10. Members received for information a report from CNSC staff on the investigations carried out by AECL of the failures of shut off rods that occurred during commissioning of the MAPLE 1 reactor at the AECL Chalk River Laboratories, Chalk River, Ontario; reference CMD 00-M74.

Members discussed the issue in further detail with CNSC staff and licensee representatives. CNSC staff outlined AECL management, communication and process deficiencies which led to the problems encountered in the operation of the shut off rods during the commissioning program. CNSC staff stated that they would provide a more detailed report to the Commission at its January 2001 meeting. The report would include a review of CNSC regulatory oversight of AECL's activities over the duration of the project.

ACTION
J. Waddington

CNSC Regulatory Transition Plan

11. Following consideration of a request from CNSC staff that this subject be dealt with in private session because of security-related issues, the Commission decided to conclude the public portion of the meeting and continue this subject in private session; reference CMD 00-M75. (Continued in item 13.)

Closing of the Public Session

12. The public session of the meeting concluded on consensus at 12:25 p.m.

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CNSC Regulatory Transition Plan

13. Following in camera discussion and deliberation, the Commission concluded that extending the 12-month exemption regarding the issue of Protected Area Intrusion Detection Alarm Assessment, noted in issue 18 of Appendix 1 of the CNSC's Regulatory Transition Plan, CMD 00-M19 (approved by the Commission May 31, 2000), would not create an additional security risk. On motion duly moved and seconded, the Commission, pursuant to section 7 of *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, approved an amendment to the duration of the above-noted exemption from 12 months to 16 months, i.e. to September 30, 2001.

DECISIONClosing

14. The meeting concluded at 12:45 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Secretary