

July 16, 2003

Minutes of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Meeting held Wednesday July 16, 2003, beginning at 3:30 p.m. in the Public Hearing Room, CNSC Offices, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

Present:

L.J. Keen, Chair

C.R. Barnes

J.A. Dosman

Y.M. Giroux

A. Graham

L. MacLachlan

M.J. McDill

M.A. Leblanc, Secretary

I. V. Gendron, Senior Counsel

C.N. Taylor, Recording Secretary

CNSC staff advisers were B. Howden, J. Blyth, I. Grant, M. Dallaire and P. Nelson. Other contributors were from Atomic Energy Canada Limited (AECL): G. Kugler, J.P. Labrie, D. Taylor and P.J. Allen.

#### Adoption of the Agenda

1. The agenda, CMD 03-M47.A, was adopted as presented.

**DECISION**

#### Chair and Secretary

2. The President took the Chair and the Secretary of the Commission acted as Secretary of the meeting with C.N. Taylor acting as recording secretary.

#### Constitution

3. With the notice of meeting having been properly given and a quorum of Members being present, the meeting was declared to be properly constituted.
4. Since the meeting of the CNSC held June 25, 2003, Commission Member Documents CMD 03-M46 to CMD 03-M52 had been distributed to Members. These documents are further detailed in Annex A of these minutes.

Minutes of the CNSC Meeting Held June 25, 2003

5. Prior to moving for approval of the minutes, the President asked staff to provide an update requested at the previous meeting on the decommissioning financial guarantee for the McMaster University Nuclear Reactor. Staff replied that the reserve fund and other arrangements have been set up by McMaster University and reviewed by staff. Since the reserve fund did not meet all regulatory requirements, staff is currently determining what changes will be requested. Staff will advise the Secretary of the Commission when this matter has been closed.

**ACTION**

6. The Chairperson also asked staff to provide the requested update on the progress report on the development of a further multi-jurisdictional action plan on emergency preparedness. Staff explained that senior officials from federal and provincial organizations have had initial discussions and that they will be meeting in September to develop a joint action plan. Staff will provide an update on this issue at the November 2003 Commission meeting.

**ACTION**

7. In response to a question from a Member on paragraph 14 of the draft meeting minutes (i.e., concerning pitting and damage to the nickel surfaces of the valve seats at Pickering A NGS), staff undertook to provide an update at the September 2003 Commission meeting.

**ACTION**

8. The Members approved the minutes of the June 25, 2003 Commission meeting (reference CMD 03-M48) without change.

**DECISION**

Significant Development Report

9. Significant Development Report (SDR) no. 2003-6 (CMD 03-M49 and CMD 03-M49.A) was submitted by staff. Staff reported on the following with reference to the SDR.

MAPLE 1 Reactor Positive Power Coefficient

AECL reported that, despite having designed the MAPLE reactor to have a small negative power coefficient, the power coefficient based on the reactor measurements and modelling during commissioning tests, has proven to be small and positive in the mid-power range. AECL noted that the power coefficient decreases at higher power and is expected, based on data extrapolation, to be slightly negative at full power. The analysis of the power coefficient and its effects on accident analysis is ongoing.

10. Staff stated that it is continuing to discuss the findings with AECL and that a detailed submission from AECL is expected at the end of July.
11. In response to a question from the Members, AECL explained that the preliminary analysis indicated that the power coefficient would have only a very small effect on the safety analysis and therefore would not invalidate the conclusions in the safety report. Staff will provide a report at the September 2003 meeting on this issue. AECL indicated that it would also be available to provide additional information at that meeting.

**ACTION****Status Report on Power Reactors**

12. With reference to CMD 03-M50, staff presented its regular Status Report on Power Reactors.
13. Staff provided updated information that was not available at the time of submitting CMD 03-M50. Further information was provided on: Bruce B Unit 5, Bruce B Unit 8, Gentilly-2, Pickering A Unit 4 and Pickering B Unit 7.
14. In response to a question from the Members, staff added that Unit 8 of Pickering B is back at power, following removal of a stuck fuelling machine.
15. In response to a question from the Members on the reported problem at Pickering B that resulted from the use of the wrong material in the moderator ion-exchange filters, staff is of the view that this was most likely due to a human error.

**Designated Officers**

16. With reference to CMD 03-M51, staff requested the Commission's approval (pursuant to section 37 of the NSCA) of revised designations of authority to staff, subject to one correction in a Division title. Staff noted that the Division identified as "Uranium and Contaminated Lands Division" in CMD 03-M51 should read as "Uranium Mines and Lands Evaluation Division". Staff noted that, while the recommended designations would result in changes to reflect the current organization and responsibility structure of the CNSC, no additional devolution of authority to designated officers from the Commission is being proposed.

17. The Members approved the revised designations of authority as set out in CMD 03-M51 with the above-noted change by staff, as well as the following additional changes:

“Packaging and Transportation Licensing Division” is changed to “Packaging and Transport Licensing Division”; “Production Facilities Division” is changed to “Processing Facilities and Technical Support Division”; and “Program and Evaluation Assessment Division” is changed to “Licensee Program Evaluation Division”.

**DECISION**

18. The Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Commission to issue the Designated Officers’ Certificates accordingly.

**DECISION**

**Proposed amendments to the CNSC Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulation**

19. Staff provided information on the proposed amendments to the regulations and schedule for their completion. In response to a question from the Members about the low response of potentially affected parties to the proposed amendments, staff confirmed that approximately 26,000 letters of consultation were sent out, but that very few responses were received.

**Closure of the Public Meeting**

The public portion of the meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.

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*Chair*

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*Recording Secretary*

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*Secretary*

ANNEX A

CMD	DATE	File No
03-M46	2003-06-16	(1-3-1-5)
Notice of Meeting held on Wednesday, July 16, 2003 in Ottawa		
03-M47	2003-07-02	(1-3-1-5)
Agenda of the meeting of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) held in the Public Hearing Room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, on Wednesday, July 16, 2003		
03-M47.A	2003-07-10	(1-3-1-5)
Revised Agenda of the meeting of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) held in the Public Hearing Room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, on Wednesday, July 16, 2003		
03-M48	2003-06-30	(1-3-1-5)
Approval of minutes of Commission meeting held June 25, 2003		
03-M49	2003-06-27	(1-3-1-5)
Significant Development Report no. 2003-6		
03-M49.A	2003-07-09	(1-3-1-5)
Significant Development Report no. 2003-6 - Supplementary Information		
03-M50	2003-06-30	(1-3-1-5)
Status Report on Power Reactors		
03-M51	2003-06-30	(1-3-1-5)
Designated Officer		
03-M52	2003-06-27	(20-1-18-7, 30-1-18)
The proposed amendments to the CNSC <i>Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulation</i>		