

Minutes of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Meeting held Thursday, June 29, 2005 beginning at 3:42 p.m. in the Public Hearing Room, CNSC Offices, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

Present:

L.J. Keen, Chair

C.R. Barnes

J. Dosman

A. Graham

M.J. McDill

M. Taylor

M.A. Leblanc, Secretary

J. Lavoie, General Counsel

P. Bourassa, Recording Secretary

CNSC staff advisers were: P. Webster, T. Schaubel, A. Ibrahim, G. Schwarz, B. Howden, K. Scissons, G. Lamarre, A. Alwani, D. Chaput and B. Ecroyd

Other contributors were:

- Ontario Power Generation Inc.: P. McNeil
- Bruce Power: F. Saunders
- Cameco Corporation: J. Jarrell and K. Vetor
- Atomic Energy of Canada Limited: K. Hedges, P. Lafrenière, P. Fehrenbach and R. Van Adel
- TRIUMF: A. Shotter and L. Moritz

Adoption of the Agenda

1. The revised agenda, CMD 05-M38.A, was adopted as presented.

Chair and Secretary

2. The President chaired the meeting of the Commission, assisted by M. A. Leblanc, Secretary and P. Bourassa, Recording Secretary.

Constitution

3. With the notice of meeting having been properly given and a quorum of Commission Members being present, the meeting was declared to be properly constituted.
4. Since the meeting of the Commission held May 19, 2005, Commission Member Documents CMD 05-M37 to CMD 05-M42

were distributed to Members for the purpose of this meeting. These documents are further detailed in Annex A of these minutes.

Minutes of the CNSC Meeting Held May 19, 2005

5. The Members approved the minutes of the May 19, 2005 Commission meeting (reference CMD 05-M39) without change.

Minutes of the CNSC Meeting Held March 23, 2005

6. The President noted that the Members have earlier approved the minutes of the March 23, 2005 Commission meeting.

Significant Development Report

7. Significant Development Report (SDR) no. 2005-05 (CMDs 05-M40 and 05-M40.A) was submitted by staff. The following information was added orally during the meeting.
8. With reference to item 4.1.1 of CMD 05-M40 regarding a suspicious item at Unit 1 of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (NGS) A, the Commission sought further information on the location and nature of the item. In response, CNSC staff stated that the item, made from readily available material on site, was found in a non-nuclear, conventional area of the facility. At the request of the Commission, CNSC staff will submit a report following the investigation by Durham Regional Police.
9. With reference to item 4.1.2 of CMD 05-M40 regarding a forced outage at Unit 4 of the Bruce NGS-A as a result of a handswitch being mistakenly selected, the Commission questioned whether corrective steps had been taken to prevent such incidents in future. CNSC staff responded that, despite best practices already in place, such incidents will recur at times. Bruce Power concurred with CNSC staff, adding that it strives for continuous improvement to further decrease an already low error frequency in this area.
10. With reference to item 4.1.3 of CMD 05-M40 regarding periodic inspections, CNSC staff reported that it was currently reviewing Bruce Power's recent submission of its inspection program performance. CNSC staff stated that it anticipates performing a Type 1 inspection of Bruce Power's periodic inspection program later in the year, once Bruce Power submits the program to CNSC staff for review. In response to the Commission's concerns regarding the safety consequences of missed inspections, CNSC staff stated that although no consequences had been noted, an

ACTION

- assessment of the impact on safety will be available once CNSC staff's review is completed. **ACTION**
11. As a follow-up on an action from the May 19, 2005 Commission meeting (item 14 of CMD 05-M39), CNSC staff reported on its follow-up inspection regarding the storage of combustible materials at Bruce NGS-A. CNSC staff stated that long-term resolution is anticipated based on the inspection findings. CNSC staff will provide a more detailed follow-up at a future Commission meeting. **ACTION**
 12. With regard to the on-going strike by members of the Society of Energy Professionals in Ontario, CNSC staff reported that the minimum shift complement at the Darlington NGS was being maintained during the picketing and that the plant continued to operate safely. Furthermore, CNSC staff expressed its satisfaction with the Ontario licensees', namely OPG and Bruce Power, contingency plans to handle the current situation.
 13. CNSC staff indicated that, as part of long-term planning, it will be requesting that all nuclear power plant licensees submit, for CNSC staff review, their strategies for dealing with any offsite contingencies.
 14. In expressing its concerns on the possible impact that the on-going strike may have on the safe operation of Ontario's nuclear power plants, the Commission requested to be kept informed of any developing situation so that appropriate action can be taken by the Commission as necessary. **ACTION**
 15. With reference to item 4.1.4 of CMD 05-M40 regarding a lost time accident at the McArthur River Operation, CNSC staff reported that Saskatchewan Labour staff and CNSC staff are currently reviewing a preliminary report that, based on an initial assessment, appears to be incomplete. Cameco indicated it would conduct a more thorough investigation to look at specific areas such as protective equipment, work procedures and modified operation.
 16. With reference to item 4.1.5 of CMD 05-M40 regarding an update on a MAPLE reactor event where Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) had not met the requirements for maintaining a guaranteed shutdown state, the Commission requested further information on available training for AECL staff to ensure their understanding of the new requirements. AECL responded that it has developed extensive training for the new procedures and has begun and will continue the training over the next year.

17. With respect to AECL's commitments to address and resolve the issues related to this event, the Commission requested to be kept informed of the on-going progress.
18. With reference to item 4.1.6 of CMD 05-M40 regarding an update on an NRU reactor event, the Commission sought further information on the actions taken by AECL to improve the situation. AECL noted that it is actively recruiting to increase staff and, at CNSC staff's request, is currently preparing for an independent audit to evaluate the staffing adequacy at the facility.
19. The Commission expressed its concern with the on-going effect of staffing issues on the safe operation of the facility, as demonstrated by the number of significant events reported in the past year. The Commission further expressed its intent to maintain an enhanced level of regulatory oversight on the matter and to provide regulatory direction as necessary to ensure that AECL is making adequate provision for the protection of the environment and the health and safety of persons at the facility. The Commission therefore requested CNSC staff, following its further discussion with AECL, to submit a report informing the Commission on AECL's planned improvements in this regard, including implementation timelines.
20. With reference to item 4.1.7 of CMD 05-M40.A regarding a follow-up report on an event at Cameco's Port Hope, Ontario facility, Cameco noted that it had taken corrective actions. Cameco added that an upcoming UF₆ safety working group meeting could address further corrective actions by the supplier.

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Status Report on Power Reactors

21. With reference to the Status Report on Power Reactors (CMD 05-M41), CNSC staff provided the following information that was added orally during the meeting:
- Gentilly-2 NGS is now operating at high power.

Mid-Term Report on TRIUMF's Class IB Particle Accelerator Facility in Vancouver, British Columbia

22. The President noted that Dr. McDill and Dr. Barnes have excused themselves from this matter to avoid any perceived conflict of interest because of the relationship between their respective universities and TRIUMF.

23. With reference to CMD 05-M24, CMD 05-M24.A, CMD 05-M24.B and CMD 05-M24.C, CNSC staff presented a mid-term report on TRIUMF's Class 1B Particle Accelerator Facility. The Commission requested that the mid-term report be prepared at the time it issued the licence in May 2002.
24. In response to the Commission's concern regarding the deficiencies identified during the licensing process, both CNSC staff and TRIUMF's representatives expressed confidence in the process underway to address all remaining deficiencies. The Commission, while noting the progress to date, expressed concern with the length of time being taken to resolve the outstanding issues. The Commission noted specifically that some deficiencies in the areas of quality assurance, safety culture and decommissioning financial guarantee had not yet been addressed, or were taking too long to address.
25. In response to the Commission's concerns, CNSC staff noted a large majority of TRIUMF workers are demonstrating awareness and due diligence with respect to safety issues. CNSC staff stated it would maintain open communications with TRIUMF to improve its understanding of the regulatory requirements.
26. The representatives from TRIUMF indicated that there is a strong commitment to safety at the facility and that this message has been conveyed from the Board of Management down to the workers. TRIUMF's representatives further stated their view that the facility has been, and continues to be, operated safely.
27. The Commission noted that, although the mid-term report states the facility is safe, it was concerned with TRIUMF's safety culture and with TRIUMF's position regarding overall regulatory compliance. The Commission is of the view that the noted deficiencies demonstrate TRIUMF's lack of commitment or diligence to comply with regulatory requirements. In addition, the Commission stated its expectation that licensees should strive to achieve excellence in performance beyond meeting the minimum regulatory requirements.
28. In addressing how TRIUMF could improve on its performance, the Commission recommended that TRIUMF benchmark its operation with those of facilities who have demonstrated strong performance.
29. The Commission further noted that it will consider if it wishes to communicate its comments and concerns on this matter to TRIUMF's Board of Management.

ACTION

Regulatory Documents Program Annual Report 2004-05

30. With reference to CMD 05-M42, CNSC staff presented the annual report on the regulatory documents program.
31. In response to the Commission's question with respect to consultation, CNSC staff explained that the program has expanded in the past few years to allow for extensive consultation at various stages of the development of the document. CNSC staff added that the consultations are addressed to all interested stakeholders, including licensees, industry associations and the general public.
32. The Commission noted the importance of this program to help define the regulatory framework of the CNSC. The Commission further noted the importance of the annual report and expressed its satisfaction with the progress made to date.

Closure of the Public Meeting

The public portion of the meeting closed at 7:02 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Secretary

ANNEX A

CMD	DATE	File No
05-M37	2005-05-26	(1-3-1-5)
Notice of meeting held on Thursday, June 29, 2005 in Ottawa		
05-M38	2005-06-14	(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 Thursday, June 29, 2005		
05-M38.A	2005-06-23	(1-3-1-5)
Updated 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 Thursday, June 29, 2005 – Supplementary Information		
05-M39	2005-05-03	(1-3-1-5)
Approval of minutes of Commission meeting held May 19, 2005		
05-M40	2005-06-10	(1-3-1-5)
Significant Development Report no. 2005-5 for the period of April 28, 2005 to June 9, 2005		
05-M40.A	2005-06-20	(1-3-1-5)
Significant Development Report no. 2005-5 for the period of April 28, 2005 to June 9, 2005– Supplementary Information		
05-M41	2005-06-14	(1-3-1-5)
Status report on power reactors for the period of May 3, 2005 to June 10, 2005		
05-M24	2005-03-22	(29-1-1-0-0)
Mid-Term Report on TRIUMF's Class IB Particle Accelerator Facility in Vancouver, British Columbia		
05-M24.A	2005-03-21	(29-1-1-0-0)
Mid-Term Report on TRIUMF's Class IB Particle Accelerator Facility in Vancouver, British Columbia - Contains prescribed security information and is not publicly available		
05-M24.B	2005-03-30	(29-1-1-0-0)
Mid-Term Report on TRIUMF's Class IB Particle Accelerator Facility in Vancouver, British Columbia – Supplementary Information		

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05-M24.C 2005-06-22 (29-1-1-0-0)

Mid-Term Report on TRIUMF's Class IB Particle Accelerator Facility in Vancouver,
British Columbia – Supplementary Information

05-M42 2005-06-10 (1-8-8-0)

CNSC Regulatory Documents Program: Performance Report 2004