Report on the Pre-Conference Workshop for the Americas

Tony Colgan
Scientific secretary
Dates: 7-11 October 2019

Venue: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Hosts: Autoridad Regulatoria Nuclear (ARN)

Chair: Michael Gaunt, UK

Experts: Pablo Jimenez (PAHO); Dominique Nsengiyumva (Health Canada)

National participants: 32

Participating Member States: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela
Format

• Participants identify the key issues to be covered

• Secretariat develops the agenda

• Each session consists of
  - summary of requirements in the BSS + available guidance
  - presentations from 2-3 Member States on experience and challenges
  - open discussion

• Working group discussion on ‘scenarios’ – views are shared with the larger group, for discussion
A mining company is concerned about theft of diamonds and other high-value gemstones by its staff. To act as a deterrent and to detect stolen items, it plans to install a personnel monitoring system using radiation. The system specifications indicate that each scan gives a radiation dose of 10 μSv to the person being scanned.

As the regulatory body

• what criteria would you apply to decide if this use of radiation is justified; and

• if you decide it is justified, how would you regulate it?

You decide not to justify the practice. The mining company contacts the Minister for Industry and threatens to close the mine. The Minister asks the regulatory body to ‘re-consider’ this decision. How do you respond?
Issues Covered

• Justification and Optimization
• Planned Exposure Situations – protection of workers
• Planned Exposure Situations – protection of the public
• Emergency Exposure Situations
• Existing Exposure Situations – justification, radon, reference levels, commodities, food and drinking water etc.
• Medical Exposures
• Veterinary Medicine
• NORM industries and remediation

Special Presentations:

Second cancers following radiotherapy (Marina di Giorgio, ARN)
Challenges in radiation protection – a global perspective (Abel Gonzalez, ARN)
Key Challenges

• Regulatory infrastructure, staffing and expertise – strongest regulatory bodies in the region are Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Cuba

• Prioritizing use of resources – graded approach

• Security screening - not just airports but also widely used in penitentiaries to screen staff and visitors
  - justification of the practice
  - role of the regulatory body
  - individual risk –v- societal benefit

• Non-medical human imaging, especially of children involved in sports

• Veterinary medicine
  - need to work with the professional societies

• Managing radiation exposures in NORM industries
  - relatively new issue for the region
  - known problems but little or no action to date
Thank you!