



Australian Government

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

Senior Regulators Meeting

IRRS Mission to Australia

Presented by John Loy – CEO of ARPANSA



Scope of IRRS Mission

- **Australian regulation of activities of national government agencies**
 - including establishment and operation of research reactors and waste facilities
- **ARPANSA leadership in radiation protection through the process of national uniformity**
- **Australia has a Federal system –**
 - the IRRS scope did not include activities of Australian State and Territory regulators
 - such as regulation of medical use of radiation and U mining operations



Scope of IRRS Mission

- **ARPANSA regulatory system reviewed against :**
 - GS-R-1 Legal & Governmental Infrastructure
 - GS-R-3 Management System
 - WS-R-2 Predisposal Management
 - Basic Safety Standard 115
 - GS-R-2 Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency
 - Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources
 - TS-R-1 Regulation for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material



Organisation

- **11 experts from Europe, US, Canada and South Africa and IAEA staff**
- **Preparation (self audit process) began in December 2006**
 - Self audit documentation sent to IAEA in April 2007
- **Mission duration of two weeks (end June – mid July 2007)**
- **Direct cost – approx €120,000**



Outcomes

- **Identification of Good Practices included:**
 - Development by ARPANSA of a National Directory for Radiation Protection adopted by all regulators
 - Use of IAEA peer review services
 - Requirement to take into account international best practice in radiation protection and nuclear safety when making licensing decisions
 - ARPANSA's extensive involvement in the international regulatory framework for radiation protection and nuclear safety
 - Health physics arm and emergency operations unit
 - The systematic strategic planning framework for regulatory function



Outcomes

- **Recommendations for improvement included:**
 - Establishment of a more comprehensive training and professional development program for regulatory staff
 - Preparation of guidelines for end-point of decommissioning
 - Expansion of current compliance program to include use of unannounced inspections
 - Further reform of management system to improve, promote and support strong safety culture within the regulatory function
 - Review of implementation of Transport regulations assurance including need to review number of competent authorities



Policy Issues

- **issues discussed including:**
 - Promotion of national uniformity in radiation protection
 - Code of Practice for Security of Radioactive Sources
 - Enhancing regulatory effectiveness and compliance
 - Risk informed and performance based approach to regulation
 - Openness and transparency as vital attributes of a regulatory body
 - Human resources and knowledge management
 - Emergency response capability
 - Stakeholder consultation



Benefits

- **Process of self-assessment identified major issues prior to the mission**
- **Frank and open exchange between ARPANSA and experts**
- **Opportunity to discuss APANSA operating environment with international peers**
- **Immediate knowledge and discussion of findings throughout the course of the mission – no surprises**
- **Action plan to build in findings to process of continuous improvement**



Recommendations for Improvement re IRRS processes

- **Self assessment documentation too burdensome and repetitive**
- **Further development of the thematic and policy components of the self audit and assessment**
- **Mission report:**
 - Detailed draft at end of Mission is very valuable
 - Could benefit from a considered overview report prepared later



Thanks

- **Kaare Ulbak (Denmark) - Team Leader**
- **George Pangburn (US) - Deputy Team Leader**
 - And the other Mission members from France, Canada, South Africa, Spain and Finland
- **And to Khammar Mrabit**
 - And members of the IAEA team

