

Open



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Electromagnetic Radiation Safety Committee

2015/04

MINUTES

Electromagnetic Radiation Committee Meeting occurred on Wednesday 9th December 2015, at 1.00pm on the Ground Floor, Meeting Room G11, Old Geology (Building 155).

Meeting opened at 1:15pm

Chairperson: David Keizer

Minute Secretary: Verity Fisher

1. Attendance/Apologies

1.1. Attendees

David Keizer (DK)

Ian Bouch (IB)

Ira Tedja (IT)

Jill Williams (JW)

Julie McNeice (JM)

Malka Halgamuge (MH)

Steve Guggenheimer (SG)

Susan Butler (SB)

Verity Fisher (VF)

1.2. Apologies

Petronella Nel (PN)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes from 2015/03 were then accepted as accurate.

3. Review of incidents

3.1. TLD badges

TLD badge at Physics recorded a reading of higher than 1mCv/yr in one exposure, the cause is still to be determined. This reading is below allowable exposure to the general public but still within UoM range for a researcher. The exposure may be ongoing but with only one result (in the quarter before the most recent) it is more likely to be an isolated incident.

Action: SG to contact the TLD owner, investigate cause/s and report to committed at next meeting.

3.2. New Incidents

a. RESTRICTED

- b. Waste contractor refused to take waste as radiation sticker still attached. Item no longer radioactive but signage not removed as per process. Definition of 'radioactivity' requires clarification.

Action: Incident report needs to be raised in Themis. SG to follow up with Christian Rantza (University Chemical Safety Consultant).

In response to waste management issues, SB requested the local areas be 'inconvenienced' as a direct result of not following University waste disposal procedures. St Vincent's will be required to pay associated costs relating to the removal of waste. Areas that prove to be repeat offenders may need to pay extra costs or find alternative arrangements.

- c. MH raised concerns regarding a substation being too close to occupied office spaces, and the possible exposure to high magnetic levels.

Action: DK and SG to follow up.

4. Action items from last meeting

4.1. Radiation Management

Processes to be created in Promapp for moving sources within the university (between different rooms in the same building or between different buildings) so we capture the information and can pass it onto DHHS. Processes will also be created in Promapp for acquiring and disposing of sources, and decommissioning permitted sites.

Action: Ongoing.

4.2. RESTRICTED

5. Other Business

5.1. Membership

Nominations article appeared in Staff News on Friday 5th September. No nominations were received. Further discussions required to target a new member with safety/biosafety background. JW covers all of BioSciences. ERSC is made up mainly of senior University staff, perhaps membership should target lower levels. Mentoring opportunity.

Action: Offline discussion between DK, SG and SB to nominate possible new members.

5.2. ARPS Conference

SB, SG and DK attended the ARPS Conference held in Canberra in October.

Highlights included:

DK: Networking opportunities and feedback on current practice.

SG: Networking and hearing about shared challengers, training issues and the idea of an Australia wide standardised training suite used in all Australian universities. AUSA (University Conference) looking to put a 'commonality of training' point on the 2016 agenda. Look at lowering AUSA membership requirements or creating a new category so membership is open to more people.

SB: Attended a pre-conference workshop on Risk/Emergency Communications in regards to dealing with the media/public.

Action: Nil (Closed out)

5.3. ANSO

Body responsible for Non-Proliferation monitoring gave the University two weeks to renew the Licence for uranium materials held by the University. A large amount of work by SB and SG resulted in the CFO signing off on the renewed licence before the due date. The University now has a new 5 year licence.

Action: Nil (Closed out)

5.4. Permanent removal of sources

Still looking for funding in order to permanently remove sources from Central Radiation Store (Bio21). Source removal is becoming time critical as construction work nearby is beginning soon and may affect the store. Review of the storage and handling of radiation within Bio21 as part of Stage 2 construction works. DK is working with the Project Manager to implement changes as required. Requires close monitoring with project team to ensure ongoing safety of employees working near the Store. Increase neutron readings need to be taken.

Action: DK to take the discussion offline and update committee at March meeting.

5.5. Radiation Licence update

DHHS now has more detailed information requirements. Now site requires more information regarding location within room and building, surrounding occupancy, disposal methods, shielding and load limits. Rooms numbers needed to be given to DHHS for all sources held by the University. If a source is on the licence as being in Room 1 but is moved to Room 2, the licence will need to be updated to reflect this. Disposal (particularly of open sources) needs to be complete and disposal method needs to be stipulated to DHHS.

Action: Promapp processes will be created to streamline the process of updating the licence.

5.6. Laser Training

SG has updated the laser training considerable to include Surgery and other areas not previously covered by the training module. Other laser issues have arisen, including inhalation danger with the 3D printer in Architecture. A Canadian research team has been investigating the risks and have found a by-product of burning may cause carcinogenic particles to be released into the air.

Action: Nil

5.7. Grants

Grants have been received for new equipment. \$805000 has been spent of a Gyrotron (microwave radiation) with 395GHz power. No licencing requirements for this unit. An electron microscope and a \$3.5M mass spectrometer have also been purchased using recent grants. There are also future plans to purchase a particle accelerator but no further information is available at present.

Action: Nil (Closed out)

5.8. BioChemistry DRSO for Building 181

Biochemistry has recently moved into Building 181 (from Bio21) and are using radiation, therefore a DRSO needs to be appointed.

Action: DK to provide SG with a suitable candidate's name for assessment and approval.

Meeting closed at 2.10pm

ERSC Meetings Scheduled for 2016 - All meetings will begin at **11am** and run for one hour.

Wednesday 2nd March

Wednesday 1st June

Wednesday 7th September

Wednesday 7th December

Distribution List:

Electromagnetic Radiation Committee Members: David Keizer, Ian Bouch, Ira Tedja, Jill Williams, Julie McNiece, Malka Halgamuge, Petronella Nel, Sam Montalto, Steve Guggenheimer, Susan Butler, Verity Fisher

Director, Occupational Health & Safety and Injury Management: Stefan Delaney

Attendance Record 2015:

Member	Attendance
David Keizer	3/4
Ian Bouch	4/4
Ira Tedja	3/4
Jill Williams	4/4
Julie McNiece	3/4
Malka Halgamuge	3/4
Petronella Nel	3/4
Sam Montalto	3/4
Steve Guggenheimer	4/4
Susan Butler	4/4