



Imperial College Reactor Centre

Licence Condition 13 Nuclear Safety Committee

**Approval of Imperial College Consort Reactor Nuclear Safety Committee Revised
Terms of Reference**

**Project Assessment Report ONR-SDFW-PAR-18-016
Revision 0
July 2018**

© Office for Nuclear Regulation, [2019]

If you wish to reuse this information visit www.onr.org.uk/copyright for details.

Published 01/19

For published documents, the electronic copy on the ONR website remains the most current publicly available version and copying or printing renders this document uncontrolled.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title

Approval of the Revised Imperial College Licence Condition 13 Nuclear Safety Committee Terms of Reference.

Permission Requested

This project assessment report relates to a request from Imperial College Reactor Centre for an approval of the revised Nuclear Safety Committee Terms of Reference under Licence Condition (LC) 13(3) and 13(12) of nuclear site licence 7B.

Background

The Imperial College owns and operates a research reactor at the Imperial College Reactor Centre at its Silwood Park campus at Ascot known as the Consort reactor. The reactor is in the final stages of decommissioning: the nuclear fuel and coolant have been removed from the reactor and dispatched from the site. Final reactor dismantling will shortly commence.

The siting, design, construction, operation and decommissioning of all civil nuclear sites are subject to the granting of a nuclear site licence by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). A nuclear site licence is granted only after ONR has fully satisfied itself that the licensee has made an adequate safety case for the site and developed appropriate safety standards.

There are a number of Licence Conditions attached to the nuclear site licence. Licence Condition 13(1) requires licensees to establish a Nuclear Safety Committee (NSC) or committees to consider and advise the Site Licence Company on specific topics. Licence condition 13(3) requires the licensee to ensure that no alteration or amendment to the approved terms of reference for any NSC is made unless ONR has approved such alteration or amendment.

The licensee has carried out a periodic review of its Nuclear Safety Committee terms of reference and identified some changes it requests to make. As required by LC 13(3), the licensee has written to ONR to request approval of the revised terms of reference.

Additionally, approval is required by LC 13(12) for the revised arrangements for NSC advice on Urgent Safety Proposals, contained within the licensee's revised terms of reference.

Assessment and inspection work carried out by ONR in consideration of this request

ONR has carried out a programme of assessment and approval of previous revisions to the terms of reference of the licensee's Nuclear Safety Committee, including the arrangements for NSC advice on Urgent Safety Proposals. The extant terms of reference were reviewed and approved in 2005.

I have assessed the differences between the proposed new terms of reference and the existing approved terms of reference. Included in the terms of reference are the arrangements for NSC advice on Urgent Safety Proposals. I have assessed the requested changes against the requirements of Licence Condition 13. My assessment has also been informed by ONR guidance on the arrangements for the Nuclear Safety Committee. The licensee's periodic review of the terms of reference, including the arrangements for NSC advice on Urgent Safety Proposals, was carried out to address minor issues identified by the licensee.

I have also assessed samples of the minutes of the previous NSC meetings, for clarity and the adequacy of independent advice provided to the licensee.

Matters arising from ONR's work

There are no matters arising from this project assessment report.

Conclusions

I am satisfied that Imperial College's proposed revisions to its Nuclear Safety Committee's Terms of Reference are appropriate to meet the requirements of Licence Condition 13 and that the proposed revisions to its arrangements for obtaining consideration of, or advice on, urgent safety proposals arrangements from its Nuclear Safety Committee are adequate.

Recommendation

This project assessment report recommends the following:

- An approval should be granted under Licence Condition 13(3) allowing Imperial College to revise its Nuclear Safety Committee Terms of Reference and that Licence Instrument 507 is issued.
- An approval should be granted under Licence Condition 13(12) to allow Imperial College to revise its arrangements for obtaining from its Nuclear Safety Committee consideration and advice on urgent safety proposals and that Licence Instrument 508 is issued.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ONR	Office for Nuclear Regulation
LC	Licence Condition
ToR	Terms of Reference
TIG	Technical Inspection Guide (ONR)
NSC	Nuclear Safety Committee

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	PERMISSION REQUESTED	7
2	BACKGROUND	7
3	ASSESSMENT AND INSPECTION WORK CARRIED OUT BY ONR IN CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST	7
4	MATTERS ARISING FROM ONR'S WORK.....	8
5	CONCLUSIONS	8
6	RECOMMENDATIONS.....	8
7	REFERENCES	9

1 PERMISSION REQUESTED

1. Imperial College (the licensee) has requested the Office for Nuclear Regulation's (ONR's) "Approval" under Licence Condition 13(3) for its proposed changes to the Nuclear Safety Committee's (NSC) terms of reference (ToR) [Ref 1]. This revision is documented as the "Imperial College Nuclear Safety Committee Terms of Reference & Arrangements for Urgent Safety Proposals and dated February 2017" [Ref 2]. Additionally, approval is required by LC 13(12) for the revised arrangements for NSC advice on Urgent Safety Proposals, contained within the licensee's ToR.
2. The licensee currently has an approved set of NSC ToR [Ref 3]. Licence Condition (LC) 13(3) requires the licensee to ensure that no alteration or amendment is made to the approved ToR unless ONR approves that alteration or amendment. Likewise, the licensee has an approved set of arrangements for NSC advice on urgent safety proposals and LC 13(12) requires the licensee to ensure that no alteration or amendment is made to the arrangements unless ONR has approved such alteration or amendment. This report presents the basis for ONR approval of the licensee's proposed revised LC 13 arrangements.
3. The proposed changes to the terms of reference have completed the licensee's due process and have been duly considered by the licensee's nuclear safety committee.

2 BACKGROUND

4. The licensee has undertaken a periodic review of its NSC terms of reference. The review of the terms of reference was carried out to address minor issues identified by the licensee.
5. As required by LC13 (3), the licensee has written to ONR to request approval of its revised ToR [Ref 1]. Additionally, as the minor revisions affect the arrangements for consideration of, and advice on Urgent Safety Proposals by the NSC which are contained within the licensee's revised terms of reference, approval of these changes is also required under LC 13(12).

3 ASSESSMENT AND INSPECTION WORK CARRIED OUT BY ONR IN CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST

6. In my assessment of the proposed NSC ToR I have considered the differences between proposed revised ToR [Ref 2] and the extant ToR [Ref 3]. In my opinion, the proposed changes to the ToR are not significant and do not make any material changes to the arrangements.
7. I have assessed the revised ToRs against the current ONR guidance [Ref 4]. I am content that the proposed ToR meets the requirements of this guidance. The extant terms of reference were reviewed and approved in 2005.
8. The proposed changes to the ToR have completed the licensee's due process and have been considered by its nuclear safety committee (NSC), for independent advice. Minor comments made by the NSC have been incorporated into the final version of the document, which has been subsequently reviewed and endorsed by the NSC chairman in accordance with the arrangements.
9. I have sampled the licensee's NSC minutes since the previous approval was granted. The NSC quorum as specified in the ToR has been met in all cases. The minutes are clear and concise, and the committee appears to be providing adequate independent advice and challenge. This meets the requirements of NS-INSP-GD-013 Revision 4.

10. I have drafted Licence Instrument (LI) 507 in response to the licensee's request for the "Approval" of Imperial College Nuclear Safety Committee Terms of Reference under Licence Condition 13(3).
11. I have also drafted LI 508 to "Approve" the licensee's arrangements for NSC advice on urgent safety proposals, contained within the revised ToR, as required by LI 13(12).
12. Both of these LIs are of the standard formats given within ONR procedures and so do not require review by the Treasury Solicitor's Department.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM ONR'S WORK

13. There are no matters arising from this project assessment report.

5 CONCLUSIONS

14. I am satisfied that Imperial College's proposed revisions under LC 13(3) to the ToR for its Nuclear Safety Committee introduces only minor changes to the extant arrangements made under LC 13(2), and that ONR's assessment concluded that the proposed changes are adequate and in accord with ONR's expectations set down in Nuclear Safety Technical Inspection Guide (TIG) (NS-INSP-GD-013 Revision 4).
15. I conclude that the licensee's proposed changes under LC 13(12) to its arrangements made under LC 13(11) for obtaining consideration of, or advice on urgent safety proposals from its Nuclear Safety Committee, are appropriate.
16. I conclude that the proposed amendments could be implemented by granting approvals under LC 13(3) and LC 13 (12).

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

17. I recommend that the alterations and amendments to Imperial College's ToRs for its Nuclear Safety Committee be approved under Licence Condition 13(3) and that Licence Instrument 507 be issued to implement this.
18. I also recommend that Imperial College's UK Limited's proposed revisions to its arrangements for obtaining consideration of, or advice on, urgent safety proposals from its Nuclear Safety Committee be approved under Licence Condition 13(12) and that Licence Instrument 508 be issued to implement this.

7 REFERENCES

1. Imperial College request for Approval of the revised NSC terms of reference, 6th February 2017 (TRIM Record 2018/222111).
2. IMPERIAL COLLEGE NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE & ARRANGEMENTS FOR URGENT SAFETY PROPOSALS, referenced ICRC/SD/200 ISSUE 13 dated 6 February 2017 (TRIM Record 2018/221303).
3. IMPERIAL COLLEGE NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR URGENT SAFETY PROPOSALS, referenced ICRC/SD/01 ISSUE 10.
4. Nuclear Safety Technical Inspection Guide for LC 13 NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMITTEE NS-INSP-GD-013 Revision 4.