

Standards Steering Committee (SSC) Minutes

13 November 2001 • Reno, Nevada

Members Present:

James F. Mallay, Chair, Framatome ANP
Suriya Ahmad, SSC Secretary, American Nuclear Society
Brian Grimes, Member-at-Large, Individual
Calvin Hopper, N16 Chair, Oak Ridge National Lab
N. Prasad Kadambi, Member-at-Large, U.S. NRC
Charles Moseley, Vice-Chair, BWXT Y-12
Tawfik Raby, N17 Chair, NIST
Steve Rosen, Member-at-Large, U.S. NRC
Don Spellman, NFSC Chair, Oak Ridge National Lab
Steve Stamm, Member-at-Large, Stone & Webster

Members Absent:

Paul Amico, RISC Chair, SAIC
William Hopkins, Member-at-Large, Bechtel Power Corp.

Guests:

Mary Beth Gardner, American Nuclear Society
Jean-Louis Nigon, Cogima
Denny Ross, ANS Marketing Consultant
Mike Ruby, NFSC member, Rochester Gas & Electric Company
John Schlessler, ANS-8 Secretary, Westinghouse Safety Management
Andy Smetana, Subcommittee Chair, N17, ANS-10

1. Call to Order

Mr. Mallay called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

2. Approval of June 19, 2001 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to approve the June 19, 2001 meeting minutes.
Motion was passed without dissent.

3. Action Items

Action Item 11/00-1: Review ANS process for withdrawing standards and referencing withdrawn standards. Don Spellman will give a report in November.

This action item remains open but has been transferred to Mr. Mallay and Ms. Ahmad. Mr. Moseley believes that a policy or supplemental statement had been developed and should be included in prior SSC meeting minutes. Mr. Spellman suggested that ANS consider using the DOD system in which a stamp is used that says

“Withdrawn – Not approved for design.” Others were not sure this was an appropriate approach. ANS only stamps “Withdrawn” on its standards with no other clarification. This led to the following action item:

Action 11/01-01: Ms. Ahmad will review past SSC meeting minutes (circa 11/99) for a statement to be stamped on withdrawn standards.

4. Chair’s Report – Mr. Mallay

A. Standards Service Award

Mr. Spellman (as chair), Mr. Kadambi, and Mr. Hopper were appointed to review nominees for the 2002 Standards Service Award. They were asked to make a recommendation to the SSC at its June 2002 meeting.

Action 11/01-02:

Ms. Ahmad will send Standard Service Award information and new and previous nominations to Mr. Spellman.

B. ANSI Report

At the beginning of October 2001, the NTAG position for ISO/TC 85 was transferred from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). Jean-Louis Nigon, who is chairman of TC-85, gave a brief presentation on TC-85 activities and its next meeting to be held in Sweden in May 2002. He emphasized that ISO/TC 85 Subcommittee 6 (Reactor Technology) needs considerable work to identify new projects and to get organized to meet its scope of responsibility.

C. Meeting Rooms

The SSC meeting was supposed to be announced in the ANS Official Program, but it was not. Some difficulties remain in scheduling standards meetings for those committees that need to meet during technical sessions or plenary sessions. Mr. Mallay obtained agreement with the ANS President and ANS Staff that the SSC and NFSC could continue to meet as they have during this November meeting. Although ANS-19 gained acceptance to meet on Monday, November 12th, at 8 – 10 AM, which was opposite a plenary session, it was not clear that this would be permitted in the future. Mr. Raby will suggest that Dimitrios Cokinos try to arrange future ANS-19 meetings for other times on Mondays, such as 1-3 or 3-5 PM. The ANS-8 Secretary, Mr. Schlessler, said that his committee has arranged its meetings as “panel” sessions. The June 2002 meeting of ANS-8 will be conducted in this fashion

D. Strategic Planning

Mr. Mallay submitted the status of those action items that are intended to fulfill five of the goals established in the strategic plan to the Board of Directors in the spring of 2001.

E. PRA Standards

The RISC Committee met in late October 2001 at NEI in Washington, D.C. Three main issues arose from the public review period for the external hazards PRA methodology standard. RISC resolved these issues and the standard will be redrafted. Robert Budnitz, the working group chair, expects to begin the second ballot for the External Hazards in early 2002. The group hopes to have the standard published by mid-2002. Concerning the format of the EH standards, RISC has asked the SSC if it can use ASME's format, which does not use "shall" and "should" statements; there are no "may" statements. ASME uses action statements that carry the intent of "shall" statements. The discussion on this issue led to the following motion and action items:

Motion: The SSC does not object to using action statements instead of "shall" statements in the case of the PRA external hazards standard.

The motion passed by a 5 to 2 vote with Mr. Spellman and Mr. Raby voting negative.

Action 11/01-03: Ms. Ahmad will confirm that ANSI permits the use of action statements instead of "shall" statements.

Action 11/01-04: Depending on the response from ANSI to Action Item 11/01-03, Ms. Ahmad will conduct an e-vote of the SSC.

RISC expects to begin development of the second standard, PRA for low power and shutdown (LPSD) in the near future. Additional research will be required to complete this standard by November 2002.

The NRC anticipates that fiscal 2002 appropriations will be approved early in the calendar year so that the Fire PRA grant can be issued. RISC estimates that the standard will need about two years to develop a draft.

5. Secretary's Report

A. Annual Activities Report

ANS staff initiated requests for input for an Annual Activities Report in July 2001. Responses have been very limited due in part to a lack of understanding of the format and content of the requested information. Mr. Mallay stated that only the working group chair, the subcommittee membership, and the consensus committee membership be listed in the report. The status of each standard should be brief and should provide the schedule for the next several actions. Summary reports are to be provided by the SC and CC chairs. The reports should include a general overview of the year's activities; it should not focus on particular standards.

Action 11/01-05: Consensus Committee Chairs shall submit their Annual Activities Report by January 31, 2002.

B. Clarifications (Appendix A, attachment 1)

Mr. Mallay emphasized that we are obligated to respond to clarifications within 60 days of their distribution by ANS. Mr. Spellman will contact the ANS-27 subcommittee chair, J. Cohen, to complete the clarification on ANS-5.1.

Action 11/01-06: Mr. Spellman will ask that Mr. Cohen expedite the completion of the clarification on ANS-5.1

Action 11/01-06: Ms. Ahmad will ensure that J. Schlessler has a copy of the [] ANS-8.1 clarifications.

Clarifications for ANS-59.51 and ANS-3.5 have been submitted to J. Mallay, who is in the process of formalizing final responses.

C. Staff Report

See Appendix A, attachment 2.

D. Project Status Report (Appendix A, attachment 3)

ANS-5.1 is being revised by ANS-19. Questions were raised as to whether this standard was under NFSC management or N17's management. According to the SSC members who were present, ANS-5.1 was ready for reaffirmation in 1994. In the absence of an ANS-5 subcommittee, the standard was transferred to ANS-19 in 1996 for technical oversight. Presently, ANS-5.1 is at ballot for reaffirmation under NFSC. Since ANS-5.1 is being revised by ANS-19 to incorporate comments received from the NRC and others, the action to reaffirm is not appropriate at this time. Therefore, the following action items were established.

Action 11/01-07: Ms. Ahmad will terminate the ballot for reaffirmation of ANS-5.1.

Action 11/01-08: Ms. Ahmad will request that ANS-19 prepare a PINS form for revising ANS-5.1.

Action 11/01-09: Ms. Ahmad will search past SSC minutes for the transfer of ANS-5.1 from ANS-5 to ANS-19 or from the NFSC to N17.

Mr. Grimes noted that the SSC did not have sufficient information to certify that the consensus process had been followed. He requested that a letter be developed by the consensus committee chair affirming that consensus had been achieved, including statements about the balloting results, the resolution

of comments, and the determination that consensus had been achieved. This letter should then be included in the letter ballot sent to the SSC for certification. This letter would be required for revisions and withdrawals, but not for reaffirmations.

E. Delinquent Projects Report (Appendix A, attachment 4)

Based on the review of the Delinquent Projects handout, the following action was assigned.

Action 11/01-10: All Consensus Committee Chairs will inform Ms. Ahmad by 15 December of the actions to be taken for any standard that will expire by January 2002.

A question was raised concerning what revisions are permitted in a standard, if any, in a reaffirmation. ANSI's procedures now permit changes in non-mandatory portions of standards, including the foreword and appendices, but not the references.

According to ANSI, a reaffirmed standard may include a new or revised appendix only if it is "informative." If the revision is "normative," then the standard cannot be reaffirmed but must be revised.

Although not required, ANSI staff recommends that a notation be included in the foreword whenever a revision is made to a reaffirmed standard. ANSI believes such a notation is also consistent with the revision made to the ANSI Procedures that will be posted in January 2002.

The relevant revision to clause 4.1 is posted at:

http://www.ansi.org/public/library/revise/procedure_updates/design4.html

The current requirement, which has not changed, follows:

1.3.1.2 Criteria for reaffirmation

The due process and consensus requirements contained in 1.2 apply to reaffirmations as they do to all approval actions related to American National Standards. The procedures used for reaffirmation of an American National Standard by an accredited standards developer shall be implemented according to the developer's ANSI-approved procedures. Reaffirmations shall provide an opportunity for public comment.

Reaffirmations shall be accomplished without any substantive change to the main text of the standard. All non-substantive changes in the main text of the standard shall be explained, or noted, in a foreword. An American National Standard undergoing an update of references to standards necessary to implement the American National Standard shall be processed as a revision

unless the updated reference is only a reaffirmation of the referenced standard. Any substantive change in such references requires processing as a revision.

In the case of a proposal for reaffirmation of an existing American National Standard for which one or more unresolved objections have been reported, the BSR shall consider evidence that the criteria above have been met. The designation of ANSI approval shall clearly indicate if the approval is a reaffirmation.

Action 11/01-11: Mr. Mallay will draft a policy on reaffirmation.

F. Web Site

A discussion of the ANS standards web site was held. Since the June 2001 meeting, the Standards section of the ANS website has undergone additional improvements, namely the NFSC Online Calendar. This interactive online calendar, administered by the Standards Department, serves as a tool to track each NFSC member's responsibilities such as NFSC projects, ballots, meetings, and other issues. Documents can be uploaded and downloaded. Automatic email reminders from the ANS server are sent out each day on selected dates to remind NFSC members of any existing deadlines.

Other enhancements to the Standards site include the uploaded Current Standards Sales List, the redesigned Standards Organizational Chart, the redesigned Standards Development Process, the ANS Standards Committee Procedures Manuals, and a PowerPoint presentation about the history and processes of the ANS Standards Committee.

G. Sales Data (Appendix A, attachment 6)

Sales data were distributed to those members of the SSC who were present. The sales report summarized ANS standards sales from May 2001 to November 2001, and annual sales from November 2000 and November 2001; and, annual international sales from November 2000 to November 2001.

6. Cooperation with Professional Divisions

The SSC had planned to establish a program whereby its members would attend selected professional divisions to enlist their interest and support for the standards committee, especially subcommittees. In some cases divisions already support subcommittees (such as ANS-8), but no division has established a direct liaison with any of the NFSC subcommittees. In view of this lack of support, NFSC took the initiative to visit several division meetings on November 11 to request their support. The responses were quite favorable.

7. Reports

A. Consensus Committee Chairs

N16: The ANS-8 Subcommittee plans to meet on Friday, November 16. No N16 actions were reported.

N17: Mr. Raby mentioned that there are about six standards in process. The ANS-15 Subcommittee remains very active. N17 plans to meet during the November 2002 ANS meeting in Washington D.C.

NFSC: NFSC is considering establishing a new subcommittee for gas-cooled reactors. Mr. Spellman noted that his subcommittees are very active. The NFSC executive committee held a teleconference in October 2001, and another teleconference is planned for March 2002. NFSC will meet during the June 2002 ANS meeting.

B. Liaison Personnel

ASME NQA (Appendix B, attachment 1)

The ASME NQA Committee met in October 2001. The meeting focused on the potential endorsement of NQA-1-1997 by the NRC and DOE. The NRC does not plan to endorse this standard because there is a lack of utility interest. Therefore, the ASME NQA Committee is looking to DOE to endorse the standard.

The NQA situation also affects ANS-3.2/ANSI-18.7. The NRC is not expected to endorse ANS-3.2 unless NQA-1 has been endorsed. Since ANS-3.2-1988 and ANS-3.2-1994 incorporate several performance-based approaches that are of interest to the industry, NQA and ANS will continue to seek NRC endorsement of ASME NQA-1-1997 (or 2000) and ANS-3.2-1994.

C. Marketing Activities (Appendix B, attachment 2)

Several specific subjects were suggested as potential marketing areas, including the proposed PBMR, the high level waste repository at Yucca Mountain, and additional PRA work. Mr. Grimes believes we should look more at level 3 PRA standards. It was concluded that none of these areas were of sufficient interest across the industry to warrant further action.

It was suggested that the SSC evaluate the discussion on PRA found in NUREG-1635, Volume 4, page 12.

Action Item 11/01-12: J. Mallay will comment on NUREG 1635 at the June 2002 meeting.

8. Consensus Committee Balance of Interests

The balance of interests for each consensus committee will be distributed at the June 2002 meeting.

Action Item 11/01-13: J. Mallay will draft a policy for Balance of Interest to apply to RISC only.

9. Security Standards

ANS-3.3, "Security for Nuclear Power Plants," and other similar documents were discussed. ANS -3.3 was withdrawn [Suriya—it that true?] and was effectively superceded by a Numarc "guidance document" on access authorization.

10. SSC Policies

This will be discussed at the June 2002 meeting.

11. Volunteer Forms

There was only one volunteer form and that individual has been assigned to ANS-19. J. Schlessor stated that he would submit more volunteer forms.

12. SSC Member Responsibilities

This will be discussed at the June 2002 meeting.

13. New Business

No new business was discussed.