

# Terms of Reference

## Advisory Committee on Nuclear and Radiation Safety

The Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (DSA) is the national authority and expert body in matters concerning nuclear safety and security, the use of radiation, natural radiation, and the presence of radioactive substances in the environment. It independently regulates nuclear and radiation facilities and activities in Norway, including facilities and activities for radioactive waste management, and advises the Norwegian Government, national bodies, industry and the general public on nuclear and radiation safety. DSA also undertakes international tasks related to promoting radiation protection, nuclear security, nuclear safety, disarmament and non-proliferation, and represents Norway in international organisations and forums.

DSA has established the **Advisory Committee on Nuclear and Radiation Safety** (herein referred to as the 'Committee'). The Committee will, as requested by the Chair or the Director of DSA, or on its own initiative, provide DSA with strategic and technical advice on the safety of nuclear and radiation facilities and activities, including but not limited to new technologies, reactors, decommissioning and radioactive waste management, protection of people and the environment, and sustainability. It will support DSA's work to maintain a fit-for-purpose regulatory system for existing facilities and for future-proofing the regulatory system for anticipated or potential future facilities and activities. The Committee's scope includes advising on knowledge management and the establishment of a support structure to provide strategic and technical assistance to DSA.

### ***Context and outlook to 2030***

DSA collaborates nationally and internationally with regulatory bodies, academia and other institutions to enhance its capabilities in relation to nuclear and radiation safety. DSA anticipates considerable challenges in the near future in relation to the safety of new and operational facilities, back-end management of nuclear facilities, radioactive waste and spent fuel management, and with recruitment, retention and training of qualified staff. DSA intends to enhance its capabilities in these areas over a period of 5 – 7 years, including the potential establishment of a support structure, in collaboration with national and international partners.

There are currently nuclear research reactors in a shut-down, or partially decommissioned state, at two sites in Norway (Kjeller and Halden) and spent fuel is stored in storage facilities at these sites. There is also a radioactive waste treatment facility at Kjeller and the Combined Disposal and Storage Facility (KLDRA) for low and intermediate level waste at Himdalen. There are also four disposal facilities in Norway

for radioactive waste containing naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) and a disposal facility for NORM wastes, primarily from the petroleum industry.

### **Scope**

The Committee will provide a broad perspective on the formulation of regulatory policy, regulations and guidance related to nuclear and radiation safety and on radioactive waste management, and to advise on relevant technical issues referred to it or identified by the Committee itself. It will provide advice to DSA on international best practice in relation to nuclear and radiation safety, including radioactive waste and used fuel management, with due consideration to international treaties, standards and recommendations. It will also provide advice on the establishment of a technical support structure that ensures access to relevant expertise and support, as DSA requires.

Concerning **nuclear safety**, the scope of advice provided by the Committee includes but is not limited to:

- safety assessment of nuclear facilities and activities, and regulation and management of research reactors, including issues related to ageing facilities and decommissioning
- application of operational experience from Norway and from other states
- application of international standards, recommendations and guidance on nuclear safety in Norway, including a risk-informed and graded approach to regulation and protection of people and the environment
- strategies for gaining, developing and maintaining competence in nuclear safety
- application of international standards, recommendations and guidance on nuclear safety in DSA's international activities
- implementation of international conventions and treaties related to nuclear safety to which Norway is a signatory.

Concerning **management of radioactive wastes** (solid, liquid and gaseous wastes and the clearance of waste from regulatory control) including treatment, storage and disposal of spent nuclear fuel, the scope of advice includes but is not limited to:

- setting goals for and implementing, in collaboration with other parties, a strategy for radioactive waste management in Norway
- regulation of all aspects of radioactive waste management, including all steps from generation of spent fuel and radioactive waste to its disposal and/or conditional or unconditional clearance
- application of international standards, recommendations and guidance on radioactive waste management in Norway or related to DSA's international activities
- stakeholder engagement and outreach in relation to establishment of new and potentially contentious facilities
- consideration of sustainability aspects, in particular in relation to the United Nation's Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals

- implementation of international legal instruments such as conventions and treaties to which Norway is a contracting party, related to the management of radioactive waste, including the trans-boundary movement of radioactive waste.

Concerning establishment and functioning of a **national technical support structure**, the scope of support provided by the Committee includes but is not limited to the following topics:

- the structure, efficiency and effectiveness of independent Technical Support Organisations (TSO) for nuclear and radiation safety established in other states
- specific requirements for technical support within the Norwegian context
- potential structure of a support structure, including the possible establishment of a network of bodies that may constitute a 'virtual TSO'.

### **Membership**

Members of the Committee are appointed by the Director General of DSA, who also appoints the Chair of the Committee. Membership is for a term of up to 3 years and members may be reappointed. The specific conditions governing the membership will be specified in the instrument of appointment.

Members are invited on the basis of their individual qualifications and experience. Members will typically have technical, regulatory and knowledge management expertise and experience within the topic areas identified in the scope above. Members are requested to provide broad, independent and unbiased perspectives on the matters referred to them or raised by the Committee. Members should not see themselves as advocates for the views or interests of their parent organisations or other affiliations. The deliberations of the Committee should be collegiate and constructive and focus on delivering sound advice to DSA on the matters before the Committee.

Members are requested to sign confidentiality undertakings and must disclose any interest in matters on the agenda for a meeting that may prevent them (or be perceived as preventing them) from acting with impartiality. In such cases, the member may opt to, or be requested by the Chair, to recuse themselves while the specific matter is discussed. This will be recorded in the meeting minutes.

Members are requested to refrain from attributing views or statements to individual members outside of the meetings but may use information presented during the meetings unless such information is deemed sensitive (Chatham House Rules).

Any advice offered by the Committee will not relieve DSA of its responsibilities for making decisions and recommendations, nor will any liability fall to Committee members arising from their advice.

### **Arrangements**

It is anticipated that the Committee will meet 2 - 4 times per year. At least one of these meetings will be held as an in-person meeting at the DSA Headquarters at Østerås,

Norway, or any other suitable location. Other meetings may be held by video conference.

The meetings will be held according to a pre-distributed agenda and may involve discussion of papers prepared and distributed in advance or presented by DSA at the meeting. The Committee can also suggest topics for discussion, based on its own assessment of their relevance.

Members will be expected to, from time to time, carry out limited intersessional work.

The Committee's work including meetings will be supported by a Secretariat established within DSA. Short factual minutes will be produced. These will be published on DSA's website alongside any reports or statements issued by the Committee. The minutes will not include material that is security-sensitive, commercial-in-confidence or otherwise not suited for public dissemination.

Meetings will be attended by members and those DSA representatives that have a direct involvement in the matters being discussed.

***Periodic review of the ToR***

These Terms of Reference and membership will be reviewed and revised within a maximum period of 3 years.

[Approved May 2023 by Director General, DSA]