

Necsa Public Safety Information Forum (PSIF)
Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday, 21 February 2026

Venue : Necsa Visitor Centre & MS Teams **Time** : 10:00 to 11:10
Chairperson : Mr Thabiso Malatsi **Deputy Chairperson** : Mr Theuns Phahlamohlala

REGISTRATION (P = PRESENT ATTENDING PHYSICALLY / V = PRESENT ATTENDING VIRTUALLY / A = APOLOGY)

NAME AND SURNAME	ORGANISATION	DATE – 2025/26			
		21/06/2024 Hybrid	23/09/2025 Hybrid	22/11/2025 Hybrid	21/02/2025 Hybrid
Azwimpheleli, Vele	UNISA				P
Baloyi, Breeze	Resident	P			
Baloyi, Johannah	Resident	P			P
Baloyi, Pertunia	Resident				P
Boyede, Qhamkile	Necsa	V		P	V
Chaba, Phyllis	Resident				P
Chauke, E	Necsa	P	P	P	P
Chinake, Alick	Necsa	V			
Damon, W	NNR		P	P	
Davis, E	Necsa			V	
De Bruyn, Charles	Necsa	P		P	P
Dubazana Sibusiso	DDE	V	V		V
Hawadi, Precious	Necsa	V		V	V
Hlabyago, Karabo	Resident			P	P
Hlaethwa, Jeanette	Resident		V		
Kekana, Mologadi	Necsa	P	P	P	P
Khoza, Darlington	Resident				P
Komane, John	Necsa		P		P
Kunene, Noxolo	Necsa	P			
Lekwe, Gilbert	Necsa			p	
Luthuli, N	Resident		P		
Maage, Steven	Necsa				P
Machaba, B	Necsa	P	V	V	V
Malaka, Sammy	Necsa	P	P	P	V
Malatsi, Thabiso	Chairperson	V	P	P	P
Makgae, Reuben	NNR	P			
Makhado, France	Resident	P			P
Makhado, Mashudu	Resident	P			
Masemola, Busisiwe	Necsa		V		
Mashabathakga, Clemmy	UNISA		V		
Mashabela, Zenzile	Resident			P	
Mashigo, Lesego	Resident				V
Matjena, PF	Resident				P
Matlhablane, Mosengi	Necsa		P		
Matshipi, Mario	Resident	V			
Mbuyisa, Sithembile	Necsa	V	V	V	
Mkhari, Constance	Resident				P
Modise, Lerato	Resident	V			
Moeletsi, Petrus	Resident	P	P		
Mokoena, Thabo	Resident				V
Mokubela, Karabo	Resident	V			
Molele, M	Resident				P
Mogotlhong, Leonard	Necsa	V		V	
Moonsamy, Gino	NNR		V		V
Mphahla, Joel	Resident				V
Mtali, T	Resident	P			
Mthombeni, Princess	Necsa	P	P	P	P

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Nemovhidi, A	Resident	P			
Newman, Jabez	Resident	P	P	P	P
Ngwenya, Jabu	Resident		P	P	
Nkopane, Lebohang	Resident	p	P	P	
Nkopane, V	Resident		P	P	P
Nkopane, Vincent	Resident	P	P	P	P
Nomnqa, NW	Resident			P	
Pelper, Graeme	Resident		P		P
Phahlamohlaka, Teuns	Deputy Chairperson	V	V	V	V
Phakoago, Evah	Resident				V
Phega, Charmaine	Resident	P			P
Rakoma, Mapudi	Resident	V			
Rampersadh, Pradish	Necsa	P	V	P	
Ramoshaba, L	Resident	p	P		
Rapanyane, Mavis	Necsa				P
Raphothle, Blessed	Necsa		V		
Rennie-Kroon, Amelia	Necsa			V	P
Rikhotso, Nto	Necsa	P	P	V	V
Santswere, Gaopalelwe	Necsa				V
Schutte, Petrus	Pelchem	V	P	P	
Sekati, Tshiamo	Necsa	P			
Selepe, Arnold	Resident	P	P	P	P
Selome, Jackson	NTP				P
Serero, Nolwazi	Madibeng Municipality	P	P	P	
Shabangu, Mandla	Necsa	V	V		
Shezi, Wandile	Resident	V	V	V	
Signh, Avinash	NTP		V		
Simelane, Sengiphile	Necsa	P		P	P
Steynberg, c	Resident	P		P	P
Sussa, Koketso	Resident		P	P	
Tengimfene, Nikelwa	Necsa		P		V
Tlhabadiro, Maria	Resident	P			P
Tlhone, B	Resident			P	P
Thobakgale, Johnny	Resident				
Tsatsinyane, Tshepo	Necsa				P
Tshivhombela, L	Necsa	P		P	
Tladi, Ernest	Resident	P	V	P	
Toulmin, G	Resident		P		P
Tselane, Thabo	NTP	P			
Tyabashe, Loyiso	Necsa	P	P	V	
Van Heerden, Eurika	Necsa		P		
Wentzel, Veronica	Necsa	V	V	V	V
Zituta, Zama	Necsa				P
John	Necsa	P			
Tshiamo	Necsa			P	
Thabang	Resident			P	
Kagiso	Resident				P
Mlungisi	Resident				P
Thalitha	Resident				P
Ouma	Resident				P

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ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION
(G)CEO	(Group) Chief Executive Officer
D&D	Decommission and Decontamination
DMRE	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
DSI	Department of Science and Innovation
ECC	Emergency Control Centre
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
JOC	Joint Operations Centre
JPC	Joint Planning Committee
Mo-99	Molybdenum-99
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPR	Multi-Purpose Reactor
Necsa	South African Nuclear Energy Corporation SOC Limited
NERSA	National Energy Regulator of South Africa
NGO	Non-government Organisation
NLA	Necsa Learning Academy
NNR	National Nuclear Regulator
NPO	Non-profit Organisation
NRWDI	National Radiation Waste Disposal Institute
PSIF	Public Safety Information Forum
SAFARI-1	South African Fundamental Atomic Research Installation
SAPS	South African Police Service
SDR	Special drawing rate
SHEQ	Safety Health Environment and Quality
ToR	Terms of Reference
TERM	CLARIFICATION / DEFINITION
Accident	An unintended event, including operating errors, equipment failures or other mishaps.
Disaster Management	A continuous and integrated multi-sectorial, multi-disciplinary process of planning and implementation of measures aimed at: a) Preventing or reducing the risk of disaster b) Limiting the severity or consequences of disasters c) Emergency preparedness d) Responding rapidly and effectively to disaster; and e) Post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation
Emergency	An event that requires taking prompt action, or the special regulation of persons or property, to limit the risk to people's health, safety or welfare, or to limit damage to property or the environment.
Emergency Plan	A document describing the organisational structures, its roles and responsibilities, concept of operation, means and principles for intervention during an emergency.
Evacuation	The rapid, temporary removal of people from the area to avoid or reduce short-term radiation exposure in the event of an emergency.
mSv	The millisievert (mSv) is a measure of the absorption of ionising radiation by the human body.
Public Notification	Notification to the public of an emergency and appropriate protective actions to be taken using the installed siren and loudspeaker system, local authorities, and Jacaranda FM and Motswedding.
Radiation	Energy released in the form of particles or electromagnetic waves during the breakdown of radioactive atoms.
Release	The controlled or accidental discharge of radioactive substances into the environment.
Sheltering	A protective action whereby members of the public stay indoors with windows and doors closed, to reduce their exposure to radioactive material in an emergency.

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1. WELCOME AND OPENING

No.	Minute	Responsible
	The chairperson, Mr Thabiso Malatsi welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the meeting housekeeping information.	T Malatsi

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

No.	Minute	Responsible
	The agenda was adopted with no adjustments.	T Malatsi

3. SAFETY MINUTES

No.	Minute	Responsible
	Ms Mologadi Kekana, conducted the safety briefing: • Focused on pedestrian safety; • Highlighted that road safety is taught from a young age – such as how to cross the road safely – these practices are often neglected in adulthood. Emphasised the importance of wearing visible clothing at night to ensure pedestrians can both see and be seen. • Reiterated that pedestrians should follow proper road-crossing rules by using designated crossings rather than crossing in the middle of the road, noting that jaywalking remains a common concern. • Cautioned against walking while using a mobile phone, as it increases the risk of collisions with objects or other pedestrians. • Advised attendees to remain aware of vehicle blind spots, particularly when vehicles are reversing, as drivers may not see pedestrians in these areas. Cautioned against walking while using a mobile phone, as it increases the risk of collisions with objects or other pedestrians. • Remain aware of vehicle blind spots, particularly when vehicles are reversing, as drivers may not see pedestrians in these areas. • Stressed the importance of avoiding driving under the influence of alcohol, as it significantly impairs judgment and increases the risk of accidents	M Kekana

4. APOLOGIES

No.	Minute	Responsible
	The following apologies were recorded: 1. Mr Loyiso Tyabashe, Necsa GCEO 2. Ms Qhamkile Boyede?	T Malatsi

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No.	Minute	Responsible
	No corrections were made to the minutes.	T Malatsi
	The minutes were adopted and seconded.	

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No.	Minute	Responsible
6.1	Schools of Specialisation (SOS): Consider inclusion of primary feeder schools into SOS programme to guide early STEM subject choice. Status: Ms Amelia Rennie Kroon from Communications provided feedback on behalf of colleagues from the Necsa Learning Academy, who were unable to attend the meeting.	T Malatsi

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6.2 6.2.1 6.2.2 6.2.3	She informed the forum that a meeting is scheduled for 24 February at Edward Phatudi Technical School. The meeting will not only involve Edward Phatudi Technical School but will also include all four Schools of Specialisation. representatives from Necsa will also be in attendance. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the new terms and conditions for the upcoming financial year, as well as to engage in the inclusion of primary feeder schools into the programme. Limited access to emergency services (e.g. ambulances) in public spaces such as shopping malls. Request for Necsa to include community safety awareness (fire safety, chemical hazards) in outreach; importance of explaining emergency plans and differentiating actual emergencies from drills. Status: Mr Charles du Bruyn provided feedback following his engagement with the City of Tshwane's Chief Assistant Fire Officer. He reported that, post-COVID, the City of Tshwane no longer has authority over ambulance services, as this function has been transferred to the Gauteng Provincial Government. He noted, however, that the City of Tshwane remains fully capable of responding to emergencies such as fires, motor vehicle accidents, and chemical incidents. In such cases, the public is advised to dial 107 for emergency assistance. For ambulance services, he clarified that the appropriate numbers to contact are 112 or 10177, which are managed at the provincial level. Although ambulance services are available within Pretoria, calls are routed through Gauteng, and response times are subject to the provincial system. Comment/Question 1: Mr Ben raised a concern regarding emergency response coordination, particularly in the context of reporting emergencies through Gauteng provincial systems. He highlighted the risks associated with nearby informal settlements, noting that fires can spread rapidly between shacks within a short period of time. He further questioned the level of safety and preparedness, given that Necsa forms part of the broader emergency response and safety structures. Specifically, he sought clarity on how adequately communities are protected under the current system and what assurances exist regarding timely and effective response in such high-risk scenarios. Response: The Chairperson advised that issues be addressed separately, clarifying that Necsa Emergency Services are responsible for matters within Necsa's jurisdiction. He indicated that, going forward, a representative from the City of Tshwane will be invited to attend future meetings to respond to questions that fall outside of Necsa's scope of responsibility. The Chairperson further noted that he was uncertain about the role of the City of Madibeng, given that it also falls within broader jurisdiction. In response, Ms Amelia Rennie Kroon clarified that both the City of Madibeng and the City of Tshwane are typically invited to attend these meetings. Comment/Question 2: Ms Karabo Hlabyago from Atteridgeville raised a follow-up on a previously discussed matter regarding the possibility of Necsa supporting capacity-building initiatives, specifically basic first aid training. She explained that shopping malls in her area often experience a high influx of elderly people and individuals with disabilities, which increases the likelihood of medical emergencies. She expressed concern about delays in emergency response times and suggested that having individuals on-site trained in basic first aid could provide critical assistance while awaiting professional medical services.	
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6.2.4	She sought clarity on whether such training support would need to be provided by the City of Tshwane, or whether Necsa would be in a position to assist with facilitating or offering these basic first aid training workshops. Response: Ms Mologadi Kekana responded that, regarding the provision of first aid training, there is a formal registration process required for institutions to be accredited to offer such training. She indicated that Necsa is currently not registered or accredited to provide first aid training. However, she noted that Necsa can recommend accredited institutions that can be approached to deliver the required training.	
6.3	Skills Development, Internships and Nuclear Capacity Building Necsa to package and showcase existing and planned skills development, internships, and training programmes. Status: Ms Amelia Rennie-Kroon reported that a detailed presentation on career paths at Necsa will be delivered at the next PSIF meeting. She indicated that the presentation will be conducted by colleagues from Human Capital.	
6.3.1	Comment/Question 1: A participant raised concerns regarding the planning and implementation of capacity-building initiatives. The participant sought clarity on where and how these programmes are being strategically implemented, and whether previously advertised skills and capacity-building programmes from late last year would continue alongside the current process or be set aside. The participant further expressed concern about delays in addressing capacity development needs, particularly if discussions are deferred to the next meeting scheduled for June. They questioned whether the current focus is limited to skills development and highlighted the need to also consider individuals involved in business across various sectors who may require support within the current quarter.	
6.3.2	Response: In response, the Chairperson recommended that the issue of capacity building be removed from the current meeting agenda and instead be addressed within the Supply Development meeting, which is organised separately by Necsa. Dr Nikelwa Tengimfene supported the Chairperson's recommendation to defer the matter of skills and capacity building. She agreed that the issue should be addressed in a separate Supply Development meeting, which will be organised accordingly, and confirmed that PSIF members will be invited to attend.	
6.3.3	Comment/Question 2: The Chairperson requested a response to a concern raised by Ernest regarding the duration and implementation of outreach programmes. He recalled a previous community outreach initiative during which commitments were made, particularly relating to learnership opportunities for young people and guidance on application processes. He further noted that he has since received queries indicating that residents from Gauteng and Western Cape may be excluded from certain sponsorship opportunities. He requested clarity on this matter and an explanation of the criteria being applied.	
6.3.4	Response: Dr Nikelwa Tengimfene responded by clarifying that the Necsa Learning Academy is responsible for skills development initiatives, including learnership programmes. She acknowledged the concern	

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	raised regarding the current round of the programme, which excludes applicants from Gauteng and the Western Cape. She proposed that a comprehensive response, including all relevant clarifications, be provided by the responsible officials. She further indicated that a dedicated meeting would be arranged, with a date to be communicated within a week.	
6.3.5	Comment/Question 3: A participant sought clarity regarding the timing of placements for applicants from the previous intake (2025). The participant questioned whether those who had already applied would be placed before the next PSIF meeting scheduled for June, or whether new applicants would be considered during that meeting.	
6.3.6	Response: Dr Nikelwa Tengimfene emphasised that, where funding is received with specific recruitment criteria, Necsa's role is primarily that of a facilitator. She clarified that Necsa cannot alter the fundamental principles attached to such funding. She reiterated that a date will be communicated within a week for a dedicated engagement session, during which the Necsa Learning Academy will address, and package all concerns related to skills development and learnership.	
6.3.7	Comment/Question 4: Mr Joel Mphahla raised concerns regarding the management of a previous community meeting held the prior year. He reflected that the meeting became chaotic, with community members arriving with CVs and leaving disappointed due to what he described as misinformation about opportunities. He expressed the view that the Chairperson should play a more visible leadership role in such engagements, particularly by opening and guiding public meetings. He noted his surprise at the Chairperson's absence during the event and suggested that this may have contributed to the lack of coordination. Mr Mphahla proposed that, going forward, the Chairperson should be actively involved in leading public-facing engagements, especially those involving community participation, to ensure clearer communication and improved organisation.	
6.3.8	Response: The Chairperson thanked Mr Joel Mphahla for his input and acknowledged the concern raised. He indicated that he had attended and opened one of the previous meetings related to the programme, held at Molapo Hall, but was unable to attend subsequent engagements due to other commitments. He emphasised that, despite his absence from some sessions, he remained involved behind the scenes in supporting the success of the public engagements. The Chairperson further noted the proposal for additional community engagements and indicated that there may still be outstanding engagements in Madibeng. He undertook to verify this with Necsa.	
6.3.9	Comment/Question 5: Mr Teuns Phahlamohlaka greeted the meeting and supported the concern raised by Mr Joel Mphahla. He suggested that, in instances where the Chairperson is unavailable to attend public engagements, the Deputy Chairperson should be requested to step in and provide leadership at such events.	
6.3.10	Response:	

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6.4	The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of the Deputy Chairperson, noting that they may have been out of the country during some of the engagements. He acknowledged the suggestion and emphasised the need to strengthen coordination and communication between himself and the Deputy Chairperson going forward. Request for NNR reports to categorise non-compliances by risk level (high, medium, low). NNR to consider incorporating risk categorisation into future presentations. Status: Mr Samuel Thugwane from the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) reported that the regulator has strengthened transparency measures regarding the reporting of non-compliances and events within the nuclear industry. He explained that, in line with the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA), the NNR is obligated to communicate relevant information to the public. He indicated that the NNR has begun publishing inspection outcomes on its website, including the categorisation of non-compliances. This allows the public to access monthly reports without having to wait for formal meetings. He further noted that these non-compliances are already communicated to the respective facilities through formal inspection reports, where they are categorised as part of the standard process. He added that this initiative was implemented in the previous calendar year. 6.4.1 Comment/Question 1: Mr Ernest Tladi then raised a concern regarding the planned nuclear programme involving Small Modular Reactor (SMRs), as announced by the Minister. He emphasised that safety will be a critical component of this programme and highlighted the shortage of adequately trained personnel in nuclear safety. He requested clarity from the NNR on whether there are plans in place to build capacity in this area, particularly in terms of developing skills and training opportunities for young people to support nuclear safety in the country. Mr Zenzile Mashabela acknowledged NNR's efforts in making inspection outcomes publicly available on its website, describing this as a positive step. However, he raised concerns carried over from the previous meeting, noting that NNR presentations at the forum are often brief and lack sufficient detail. He referred to the categorisation of safety matters at Necsa into three sections but emphasised that this level of summary is not adequate for the forum's needs. Mr Mashabela stressed that, while the publicly available reports are useful, there are specific issues that require in-depth explanation, engagement, and clarification during the meeting itself. He appealed to the NNR to attend future meetings better prepared, with more detailed and comprehensive reports, to enable members to accurately communicate safety-related information back to their respective communities. Ms Hlabyago raised a follow-up question to the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR), noting that while inspection results are now publicly available on the NNR website, there may still be a need for clarification on certain issues. She sought clarity on whether stakeholders are required to wait for formal meetings such as the PSIF to raise questions, or whether there are designated channels or contact persons within the NNR that can be engaged outside of these meetings for further explanation and information. 6.4.2 Response: Mr Samuel Thugwane responded that the regulator maintains ongoing engagement with the public and various organisations. He provided an example of a recent meeting with a residential estate that had raised concerns relating to Koeberg waste and Vaalputs.	
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	He acknowledged the concern regarding parallel communication, where announcements such as those made by Parliament or institutional leadership are addressed firstly through the media rather than being communicated through forums like the PSIF. He emphasised that this should be addressed going forward, noting that matters affecting the forum should be reported and discussed within it to allow for early engagement, even prior to formal regulatory processes. He encouraged the forum to raise such issues, including those related to skills development and capacity, to ensure they are properly addressed. He further clarified that questions relating to preparedness for future projects, including SMR and the Multi-Purpose Reactor (MPR), should be directed to Necsa, as the licensed operator. He noted that, in terms of NNR licence conditions, any facility must demonstrate that it has suitably qualified personnel to conduct its operations. Regarding capacity building within the NNR, he stated that the organisation has an existing inspector training programme, which is being continuously developed and scaled up to include additional areas of expertise. On the issue of transparency, he acknowledged ongoing discussions within the NNR about enhancing the level of detail shared publicly, including potentially publishing full inspection reports. However, he highlighted the need to carefully manage the disclosure of security-related information. While safety and security inspections are conducted together, certain security details cannot be made public, as this could expose vulnerabilities. He noted that a reporting approach has been developed, including a template, to balance transparency with security considerations. Mr Gino Moonsamy raised several points regarding the functioning of the forum and engagement processes. Firstly, he emphasised the need to clearly distinguish between PSIF-related issues and those that fall outside the forum's scope. He proposed that, going forward, matters should be appropriately filtered and channelled through the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, ensuring that only relevant PSIF issues are addressed within the meeting, while non-PSIF matters are followed up separately. Secondly, he addressed concerns about access to the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR), noting that contact information is available through the Chairperson and Necsa counterparts. He affirmed that the NNR is accessible for engagement outside of formal meetings. Lastly, he referred to the publication of information on the NNR website, indicating that a more simplified, public-friendly version of reports will be presented at the next PSIF meeting. He added that efforts will be made to ensure that future presentations are clearer and more accessible, particularly in light of recent leadership changes, including the appointment of Mr Thugwane as Acting Programme Manager.	
6.4.3	Comment/Question 2: Mr Tladi asked whether the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) would consider establishing a separate forum to engage the public on matters that may not be addressed in the presence of Necsa.	
6.4.4	Response: In response, Mr Samuel Thugwane stated that safety-related matters should be communicated in the presence of the licence holder, in line with the NNR's regulatory mandate. He emphasised the importance of transparency and accountability, noting that the regulator must be able to communicate openly, particularly in instances where compliance is not being met. He further highlighted that, where significant non-compliances are identified, the NNR has the authority to take enforcement action, including the shutdown of operations. He cited examples where this authority has been exercised, including the suspension of operations at NTP around	

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	2017, as well as the temporary closure of operations at Vaalputs for a period of nine months due to non-conformance related to waste management. Mr Thugwane concluded by stressing that regulatory actions cannot be concealed, as incidents within the nuclear sector ultimately become public, reinforcing the need for openness in engagements such as the PSIF.	
6.4.5	Comment/Question 3: Ms Nolwazi Serero reflected on the issue of non-compliance reporting, noting that she had previously raised similar concerns at the last meeting. She acknowledged Mr Samuel Thugwane from the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) for clearly addressing the matter in the current session. She reiterated the community's ongoing call for more detailed and transparent reporting, emphasising the need for information that provides meaningful oversight without compromising the security of the facility. She indicated that this concern has been raised consistently but felt that it had not been adequately addressed in the past. Ms Serero also acknowledged the importance of balancing transparency with security, particularly in light of risks posed by individuals or groups who may seek to exploit sensitive information. However, she stressed that communities still require clear reporting and access to historical data to ensure accountability. She concluded by expressing concern that, in the absence of such transparency, engagements may appear exclusive between Necsa and the NNR. She welcomed the current discussion as a positive step toward addressing a long-standing issue.	
6.4.6	Comment/Question 4: Mr Ernest Tladi requested that future presentations, NNR include a detailed explanation of the processes involved in the handling of nuclear waste.	
6.4.7	Response: Dr Pradish Rampersadh addressed the concern around unity in safety oversight and emphasised the importance of understanding the distinct roles of the regulator and the operator. He noted that when safety concerns are raised with the NNR, it is important to recognise that the regulator operates independently of Necsa. He highlighted that, in fulfilling its mandate, the NNR has the authority to enter facilities and halt operations where safety is deemed to be compromised. He expressed confidence in the regulator's competence and independence. Dr Rampersadh further contextualised this by referencing the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), noting that South Africa's regulators actively contribute at a high level within international regulatory frameworks, demonstrating their expertise and credibility. He also stressed the importance of inclusive engagement, cautioning against raising safety concerns solely with the regulator while excluding the operator. He explained that such an approach may limit the operator's ability to understand and respond to community concerns effectively. Speaking on behalf of Necsa leadership, he acknowledged the concerns raised by the community and indicated that these are being taken seriously. He affirmed that Necsa representatives present at the meeting are listening and will take the feedback forward, with the aim of improving engagement and building greater confidence with the community.	
6.4.8	Comment/Question 5:	

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	The Chairperson requested that Mr Samuel Thugwane include, in his presentation, a brief overview of the legislative framework that established the forum, specifically referring to the Act that constitutes the PSIF.	
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7. NECSA GROUP UPDATE & NECSA PUBLIC SAFETY FEEDBACK
[Presented by Dr Pradish Rampersadh on behalf of the GCEO]

No.	Minutes	Responsible Person
7.1	Necsa Presentation covered the following key topics: - Legislative requirements for PSIF meetings; - Business update; The Growth Strategy: Five Dimensions - Regulatory update; - Environmental Monitoring; - Public Dose; - Emergency Preparedness; - Services surrounding communities; - MPR geotechnical & seismic survey environmental authorization (EA) process; and - SAFARI-1 Operational Performance	P Rampersadh
7.2	<u>Questions/Discussions:</u> <i>Question/Comment: 1</i> Ms Nolwazi Serero raised an extensive contribution focusing on Necsa's growth strategy, socio-economic impact, and the quality of engagement with communities. She welcomed the inclusion of growth and socio-economic impact in the presentation, noting that it provides a useful framework for more structured and meaningful discussions. She indicated that, historically, engagements have often lacked alignment due to differences in language and strategic framing between Necsa and community stakeholders. She emphasised the importance of actively listening to community inputs and integrating them into Necsa's strategic approach, rather than dismissing them when they do not immediately align with internal frameworks. Ms Serero highlighted that, despite a strong focus on macroeconomic impact, particularly in relation to major projects such as the MPR, these benefits have not sufficiently translated into tangible socio-economic development for local communities, especially in the North West. She argued that science and innovation initiatives have not yet become meaningful drivers of local economic growth in host communities, and that this represents a significant gap. She further raised concerns about what she described as a defensive and, at times, patronising posture in engagements from Necsa representatives. She stressed the need for more respectful, inclusive, and non-defensive dialogue, particularly when community members, especially women, raise concerns. She clarified that community input should not be perceived as attacks, but rather as part of oversight and constructive engagement aimed at improving outcomes. In addition, she called for a shift towards more inclusive participation in science and innovation, emphasising that expertise is not limited to institutional actors. She highlighted the importance of recognising community members as contributors with valuable perspectives, particularly in relation to development, localisation, and economic participation. She cautioned against limiting discussions to academic or technical domains, noting that many opportunities - especially in large projects - relate to vocational, artisanal, and occupational skills that directly impact communities. Ms Serero also raised concerns about spatial inequality, noting that research and innovation activities often benefit areas such as Pretoria, while host communities in the North West do not experience proportional economic gains. She advocated for stronger localisation of science, technology, and innovation activities to support regional development and address historical imbalances. She further called for the establishment of a structured programme of action to address socio-economic development, rather than relying on ad hoc or limited engagement within PSIF meetings.	T Malatsi P Rampersadh

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She expressed concern that the current format does not allow sufficient time or depth to address these issues meaningfully. Finally, she invoked the District Development Model (DDM), highlighting that it provides a framework for integrated planning and collaboration between government, private sector, and communities. She asserted that there is a constitutional obligation to ensure inclusive participation and called for the implementation of the DDM approach in advancing socio-economic development linked to nuclear and science initiatives. She requested a clear response and commitment in this regard. Question/Comment: 2 Mr Zenzile Mashabela raised several questions and concerns requiring clarification from Necsa and relevant stakeholders. He began by emphasising the importance of proper planning and informed decision-making, using an analogy to illustrate that without knowing key details, decisions may be misguided. In this context, he requested clarity on the cost implications of the Multi-Purpose Reactor (MPR), which is intended to replace the SAFARI-1 reactor. He specifically asked what the projected cost of the MPR is, particularly in light of references to engaging with international expertise. Secondly, he referred to a previous announcement by Necsa regarding an investment target of approximately R50 billion in innovation and medical isotope production. He requested an update on the progress made toward achieving this target, noting the strong demand and commercial value of medical isotopes within the health sector. Thirdly, he raised concerns about the integration of advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, in future nuclear projects such as the MPR. He highlighted growing concerns within the labour sector about the potential displacement of jobs due to AI and asked how Necsa plans to balance technological advancement with employment opportunities, particularly given socio-economic pressures in communities. Lastly, he proposed that the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) be included in PSIF engagements. He noted that the department plays a key role in environmental oversight and suggested that its participation would strengthen discussions on environmental matters affecting communities. He added that he has also raised this issue at the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee level, emphasising the need for improved coordination and integration between institutions. Question/Comment: 3 Mr Tladi supported the issues raised by Ms Nolwazi Serero, noting that they are important and relevant to the discussion. He highlighted a concern regarding gaps in the current approach to skills development and capacity building. They pointed out that existing efforts appear to focus primarily on individuals who already possess skills or are within higher education pathways, while neglecting those at foundational levels who have not yet developed such capabilities. Mr Tladi emphasised the need for a more inclusive, end-to-end approach to development, one that builds capacity from the ground up. This includes strengthening early-stage interventions, such as Schools of Specialisation and feeder school programmes, to ensure that individuals are supported from foundational levels through to advanced skills development, thereby closing the existing gaps in the talent pipeline. Response: Dr Pradish Rampersadh responded comprehensively to the questions and concerns raised by participants, addressing skills development, socio-economic impact, strategic direction, and specific project-related queries. He began by acknowledging the concern regarding gaps in skills development, clarifying that while his earlier remarks focused on universities (due to his professional background) Necsa's approach is	
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	broader. He confirmed the existence of a structured skills plan, led in part by the Necsa Learning Academy and internal human resource team, which includes technical, vocational and people-oriented skills. He emphasised that skills development across all levels is recognised and not being neglected. On socio-economic development, Dr Rampersadh outlined Necsa's growth strategy, which is structured around several key pillars: the nuclear fuel cycle, the MPR, SMR development, expansion of the radioisotope sector (including medical and industrial isotopes), fluorochemicals, and skills development. He explained that these pillars collectively form the foundation of Necsa's future growth and are intended to drive both economic and development outcomes. He provided important context by noting that, over the past few years, Necsa's primary focus had been internal stabilisation. The organisation had faced financial and governance challenges, and leadership prioritised restoring financial sustainability, improving audit outcomes, and achieving operational stability. He reported that significant progress has been made, including improved performance and a return to profitability. He indicated that the current financial year marks the transition from consolidation to growth, with new programmes now being implemented. Addressing concerns about local socio-economic impact, he acknowledged the importance of community inclusion and localisation. He committed to escalating these concerns to executive leadership, particularly regarding how communities can be more meaningfully integrated into upcoming growth programmes and benefit from related opportunities. In response to questions about the cost of the MPR, he stated that Necsa is in the process of issuing requests for quotations or proposals to determine accurate cost estimates. While no confirmed figure is available yet, he indicated that the project is expected to cost tens of billions of rand. He explained that the total cost will include multiple components, such as infrastructure and supporting facilities. Regarding the previously mentioned R50 billion investment in medical isotopes, he indicated that he could not confirm the specific figure but suggested that it may be linked to broader expansion plans, including the development of the MPR, which would enhance isotope production capacity. He emphasised that expanded infrastructure is key to unlocking further growth in this sector. On the issue of artificial intelligence, he acknowledged both the opportunities and risks. He explained that, within the nuclear sector, AI is approached cautiously due to safety considerations. The focus is on using AI to support better decision-making rather than replacing human roles. He noted that while some job displacement may occur through automation, new opportunities, particularly in fields such as information technology, are also being created. He stressed the importance of adapting to global technological trends to remain competitive. He concluded by highlighting South Africa's strong position in the global nuclear medicine market, noting that the country supplies medical isotopes to over 50 countries. He emphasised that maintaining this position requires continued innovation and alignment with global developments, reinforcing the need for balanced progress that supports both technological advancement and socio-economic inclusion. Question/Comment: 4 Mr Joel Mphahla raised concerns regarding the gap between commitments made and actual implementation. He noted that, while presentations and responses from Necsa may appear positive, the longstanding challenge has been a lack of follow-through and insufficient consideration of community inputs. He emphasised that both Necsa and the community enter these engagements with their own objectives; however, community priorities are often not carried forward into implementation. He attributed this, in part, to the structure of meetings, which are held quarterly, resulting in limited continuity, weak monitoring, and a lack of accountability between sessions.	
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	Mr Mphahla highlighted the absence of a formal mechanism to track progress on issues raised, noting that discussions often do not translate into tangible outcomes. He also raised concern about inconsistencies in participation, where officials who are expected to provide feedback are sometimes absent, and continuity is lost between meetings. To address these challenges, he proposed the establishment of a dedicated office or coordination mechanism within Necsa to support the PSIF. He suggested that such a structure, working closely with the Chairperson, would be responsible for monitoring implementation, tracking progress on commitments, and ensuring accountability. He noted that this would provide continuity between meetings and ensure that community inputs are not lost over time. He concluded by emphasising that this mechanism would enable structured follow-up, improve transparency, and ensure that issues raised by the community are meaningfully addressed and implemented. Response: Dr Pradish Rampersadh responded to the question on the mining sector by indicating that Necsa is exploring research and development initiatives focused on advanced sensing technologies. He explained that this includes the development of “smart sensors” capable of detecting damage, monitoring conditions, and providing early warning signals in mining environments. He noted that the aim is to add value by enhancing safety, detection capabilities, and operational efficiency within the sector. Addressing the proposal raised by Mr Joel Mphahla regarding the establishment of a dedicated office to monitor implementation, Dr Rampersadh acknowledged the suggestion and indicated that it would be taken back to Necsa for consideration. However, he clarified that PSIF is primarily a safety-focused platform, and such a proposal may fall outside its current scope, particularly where it relates to broader economic and implementation matters. Mr Jackson Selome further responded to the question related to the Mining Indaba, explaining that Necsa operates within a clearly defined mandate centred on nuclear research. He noted that other departments, such as the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, have specific mandates related to mining. As a result, Necsa’s participation in the Mining Indaba was limited, and the organisation attended as a participant rather than in an official capacity. Question/Comment: 5 A participant raised a question regarding research and development (R&D) initiatives, specifically in relation to the mining sector. He sought clarity on which technologies Necsa is currently exploring or planning to develop that could support and add value to the mining industry?	
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8. NNR UPDATE [Mr. Samuel Thugwane, Acting Manager: NTWP]

No.	Minute	Responsible
8.1	Mr Samuel Thugwane opened his remarks by expressing concern about the low attendance at the meeting. He emphasised the importance of broader participation, noting that key stakeholders (including those from Necsa) should be present or actively engaged, as discussions in the forum are critical and should not be learned about through the media after the fact. He then provided context on the legislative basis of the PSIF, explaining that it is established in terms of Section 38 of the relevant Act. He noted that this section requires the license holder to maintain an emergency plan to address nuclear incidents that may impact the public. This plan must include mitigation measures to limit harm. He outlined the three key pillars of safety: prevention (avoiding incidents), detection (identifying when something is wrong), and mitigation (reducing the impact of an incident). He further referenced provisions relating to nuclear liability, which address compensation in cases where communities are affected.	T Malatsi W Damon

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	Mr Thugwane explained that, following the establishment of an emergency plan, there is a requirement to create a public platform such as PSIF where safety-related matters can be discussed transparently with affected communities. He proposed that future meetings may need to better separate safety issues from broader socio-economic concerns, suggesting that socio-economic matters could be addressed in a different forum to allow the PSIF to focus more effectively on safety discussions. He acknowledged, however, that socio-economic development remains important and is aligned with broader principles such as Batho Pele, which emphasise service delivery and community benefit. He stressed the importance of active listening in such engagements, noting that effective safety leadership requires listening without judgement. He illustrated this with a personal example to demonstrate how seemingly minor voices can convey critical information if properly heard. Mr Thugwane affirmed that both the regulator and the operator have a responsibility to listen to community concerns and, where possible, translate them into actionable responses. He acknowledged the request for clearer reporting on non-conformances and confirmed that the NNR is working on improving how such information is presented, including categorisation, which would be reflected in the presentation that followed. The NNR Presentation covered the following key topics: • Inspections for Q3 (2025/2026 FY); • Inspections for Q4 (2025/2026 FY); and • Worker and Public Doses	
8.2	<u>Questions/Discussions:</u> <i>Question/Comment: 1</i> Mr Zenzile Mashabela raised concerns relating to safety culture, particularly in the context of occupational health and safety within working environments. He referred to experiences within surrounding communities, noting that some former Necsa employees are reportedly suffering from long-term health conditions, including suspected chemical-related illnesses. He expressed concern about the impact of such conditions on affected individuals and their families and highlighted the need to ensure that current and future workers are adequately protected. He directed his question to the NNR, seeking clarity on what measures are in place to prevent similar occupational health risks for the current workforce. He specifically asked how the regulator ensures that safety standards are maintained to avoid potential exposure to harmful substances. In addition, he raised a related point regarding organisational priorities, noting that cost management often appears to be a key focus. He questioned whether considerations around workforce capacity such as increasing staffing levels are taken into account as part of safety and operational planning, and whether human resource-related inputs form part of regulatory oversight when evaluating safety outcomes. <i>Question/Comment: 2</i> Ms Karabo Hlabyago raised a question regarding safety culture, particularly in relation to emergency preparedness and community awareness. She acknowledged the importance of internal safety protocols, such as ensuring that employees understand and follow instructions during an incident (e.g., remaining indoors or proceeding to designated assembly points). However, she expressed concern about the level of awareness among surrounding communities.	

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She questioned whether community members (particularly those represented in the PSIF) are sufficiently informed and equipped to respond appropriately in the event of an incident. She asked whether they would be able to guide others in their communities on what actions to take. Ms Karabo further sought clarity on whether Necsa and the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) are extending safety education and awareness programmes beyond the facility to surrounding communities, and at what level such initiatives are being implemented. Response: Mr. Samuel Thugwane responded to the questions on public awareness, safety culture, and occupational health. He explained that the NNR has established public education programmes that are implemented across various platforms, including schools and communities. These programmes are designed to ensure that the public understands how to engage with the regulator, particularly in cases where concerns are not adequately addressed by the operator. He noted that the scope and reach of these programmes are often influenced by stakeholder requests and engagements. Addressing concerns about former workers and alleged health impacts, he clarified that safety oversight at Necsa involves multiple regulatory bodies. While the NNR is responsible for nuclear safety, other aspects such as chemical safety and occupational health fall under additional legislation and authorities, including the Department of Labour. He explained that some incidents may involve overlapping risks, requiring coordinated investigations across regulators. He further indicated that when incidents are reported, formal processes are followed, including independent investigations by the NNR. In cases involving potential health impacts, affected individuals are referred for medical assessments. He noted that some individuals have undergone such assessments and, where applicable, compensation mechanisms have been applied. However, he emphasised the importance of determining the actual source of exposure through thorough investigation, as not all health conditions may be directly attributable to workplace exposure. Mr Thugwane advised that individuals who believe they were affected should approach the appropriate authority; either the NNR for radiation-related concerns or the Department of Labour for chemical or occupational health matters. He also highlighted the role of legal representation in assisting individuals to assert their rights where necessary. On safety culture and community preparedness, he noted that PSIF serves as a platform to engage the public in emergency planning. He indicated that Necsa is expected to communicate emergency procedures to surrounding communities, including guidance on how to respond in the event of an incident. He added that such engagements can be conducted upon request and may need to be revisited, particularly as surrounding communities expand closer to the facility. The Chairperson advised members to review the findings of the Public Protector's report, noting that it contains relevant information that should be studied to better understand the issues under discussion. In response, Mr Samuel Thugwane added that the regulator had previously been summoned by the former Public Protector in relation to the matter. He indicated that the contents of that process and its findings may provide further context and should be considered as part of the broader discussion. Question/Comment: 3 The participant repeatedly emphasised concerns about the level of safety for surrounding communities, particularly questioning how safe residents would be in the event of an incident at the Necsa site. He stressed the need for clear assurance and communication on potential risks, including how incidents could impact nearby areas such as Atteridgeville. His intervention highlighted a strong concern about	
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community safety, preparedness, and the adequacy of information provided to residents on how they would be protected if an emergency were to occur. Question/Comment: 4 Ms. Serero raised several structured proposals and reflections, focusing on community organisation, public education, and institutional coordination. Firstly, she emphasised the need for communities – particularly affected families – to organise themselves more effectively around health-related concerns. She suggested that where there are alleged impacts, affected individuals should consider collective action, including exploring legal avenues such as a potential class action. She encouraged engagement with legal representatives and called on community leaders and councillors to convene discussions to determine a constructive way forward on such matters. Secondly, she reinforced the importance of strengthening public education and awareness. She echoed previous concerns that existing outreach efforts are not always reaching the appropriate stakeholders or communities most affected. She stressed that safety culture should extend beyond the workplace and be embedded within communities, with the same level of seriousness applied to social impacts as is given to labour-related matters. Thirdly, she raised a formal proposal regarding governance and coordination. She called for the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM) within the context of nuclear-related engagements, including the development of a single, integrated plan (“one plan”) that would address broader socio-economic and development issues linked to nuclear activities. She suggested that this approach would allow for a clearer separation between safety-focused discussions within PSIF and broader development matters, which are currently being conflated within the same forum. Ms Serero acknowledged the challenges faced by the Chairperson in managing these overlapping issues and noted that the gap is systemic rather than attributable to individuals. She emphasised that communities have reached a position on this matter and intend to actively pursue the DDM and catalyst project approach through appropriate channels, including advocacy and engagement processes. Response: Mr Samuel Thugwane raised a follow-up regarding the previously requested nuclear safety training. He emphasised the importance of accountability, noting that when commitments are made in meetings, they must be clearly reflected in the minutes, including timelines for implementation. He questioned whether the requested training had been actioned and indicated that, if not, the license holder should provide a clear response on when it will be implemented. He stressed that the forum’s purpose includes public education on safety, and such commitments should not remain unresolved. He further clarified that the NNR’s regulatory scope extends beyond Necsa, as it oversees multiple facilities across the country, including mines and other users of radiation. He explained that the organisation has different divisions responsible for various areas, such as small-scale radiation users and nuclear installations like Koeberg. However, he noted that outreach activities are demand-driven and can be directed to specific communities upon request. He encouraged the forum to formally request that NNR outreach and education programmes be conducted in areas such as Madibeng and Atteridgeville, assuring members that the NNR has both the resources and willingness to facilitate such engagements where there is a clear need. Mr Thugwane clarified that awareness initiatives on the emergency plan, as well as introductory sessions on radiation, have been conducted previously. He indicated that similar programmes can be planned again where necessary. He further emphasised that, for maximum impact, such awareness and training initiatives should be conducted directly within communities rather than limited to the PSIF meeting setting. He noted that	
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	the forum represents only a small group and may not adequately reflect or reach the broader community. He suggested that future engagements be held in community venues such as halls in Atteridgeville or Madibeng, where larger numbers of residents can participate. He added that involving local councillors and using community communication channels, such as local media, would help ensure wider attendance and awareness. Question/Comment: 5 Ms Karabo Hlabyago provided clarification on why the issue of community safety training continues to be raised in the forum. She explained that the request for awareness and training in Atteridgeville is not new, but dates back approximately three to four years, when concerns were first raised due to the expansion of informal settlements closer to the Necsa site. At that time, the community formally requested targeted safety awareness and training. She noted that, although the NNR had indicated that Necsa should take the lead on implementing the training, it was ultimately not carried out. She recalled that a proposal was submitted but was not approved, reportedly due to financial implications. Ms Karabo emphasised that the need for such training still exists and remains unresolved. She further raised concern that while awareness programmes are being conducted in other areas, such as Lotus Gardens, the original request from Atteridgeville (being in closer proximity to the facility) has not been prioritised. She therefore sought clarity on whether this request has been overlooked and asked when similar awareness and training initiatives would be extended to her community. She also expressed willingness for the community to collaborate with the NNR to facilitate the implementation of such programmes. Response: Mr Thugwane advised that the request for community safety training should be formally documented through written communication. He recommended that the forum, through the Chairperson, submit an official letter to Necsa clearly outlining the request. He emphasised that this would create a formal record, which can be used for accountability if the commitment is not fulfilled. He further noted that the issue of financial constraints should not override regulatory obligations, as safety-related requirements are grounded in legislation and must be complied with as a condition of operation. Mr Thugwane suggested that the letter should specify the need for training to be conducted within communities such as Atteridgeville, Hartbeespoort, and Madibeng, and should request clear timelines for implementation. He added that progress on this matter should be reported back at the next PSIF meeting. He also reiterated that, for greater impact, such training should take place within communities rather than at the PSIF venue, ensuring broader public participation and awareness.	
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9. GENERAL DISCUSSION

No.	Minute	Responsible
9.1	Question/Comment: 1 Mr Coert Steynberg, a neighbouring resident, raised ongoing concerns regarding veld fires, which he identified as a significant and recurring safety issue in the area.	T Malatsi

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	He noted that these fires occur annually without exception and often originate from surrounding areas, including near the shooting range, before spreading across into adjacent properties, including those near the Necsa site. He explained that these fires pose serious risks to infrastructure and property. Mr Steynberg further highlighted that there are insufficient preventative measures in place, particularly the lack of adequate firebreaks in certain areas, which contributes to the spread of fires. He described the situation as requiring repeated, reactive efforts each year to contain fires, often under difficult conditions. He requested clarity on what plans or preventative measures are being put in place to better manage and reduce the risk of veld fires in the future. Response: Ms Mologadi Kekana responded to the concern raised by Mr Steynberg regarding veld fires. She confirmed that a firebreak programme is implemented ahead of the fire season as a preventative measure. This programme involves creating buffer zones to limit the spread of fires and reduce the risk of uncontrolled or runaway fires. She indicated that there will also be engagements with members of the public, including local firefighting stakeholders, as part of these preparations. Ms Kekana acknowledged the concern that some fires may be originating from the shooting range and noted that this information would be considered. She added that investigations have been conducted previously, and the fire management programme is informed by findings and reports from such assessments, with the aim of improving prevention and response measures going forward.	
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10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

No.	Minute	Responsible
	Next PSIF Meeting Date: - 20 June 2026	A Rennie-Kroon

11. CLOSURE

No.	Minute	Responsible
	In closing, the Chairperson thanked all attendees for their participation and engagement throughout what he noted was an unusually long meeting. He remarked that, since he began attending PSIF meetings, this was the first time he had experienced such an extended session. He expressed hope that Mr Machaba would extend invitations to all members for the upcoming Supplier Day. The Chairperson further encouraged members to communicate via email should any urgent matters arise before the next scheduled meeting, ensuring that pressing issues can be addressed in a timely manner. The meeting was adjourned at 13:42.	T Malatsi

Chairperson: _____

Second: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____