

WPEC Expert Group on High Priority Request List for Nuclear Data

Chair: Dr. Arjan PLOMPEN (European Commission)

Members: Representatives of the co-operating projects

Date of creation: May 1991

Duration: June 2014

Mandate:

- Agreed at the 16th meeting of the Working Party on International Nuclear Data Evaluation Co-operation [NEA/SEN/NSC/WPEC(2004)2]
- Extended mandate as a part of WPEC activities at the 23rd meeting of the Nuclear Science Committee in June 2012 [NEA/SEN/NSC(2012)3]
- Revised and extended at the meeting of the NEA Nuclear Science Committee in June 2013 [NEA/NSC/DOC(2013)2]

Justification for an expert group

The concept of a data request list has a long history in applied nuclear science. The concept is that if requests from applied users of data are collected in a convenient location it should provide a stimulus to measurers, modellers, and evaluators to undertake work that could lead to certain requests becoming satisfied.

A High Priority Request List (HPRL) for nuclear data needed for applications has been in existence under the auspices of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) for several years. Over time this list has become very large and, in the opinion of many people, its effectiveness in stimulating new measurements and evaluations required to meet the expressed needs has suffered as a consequence of its length. It was therefore decided that the HPRL was in need of an overhaul, not only with respect to the included requests but also concerning the procedures used to solicit and retain requests for the list. An ad-hoc expert group, comprising eight nuclear scientists, including one person representing the NEA, was established to prepare a proposal for a revision of the list and for developing new working methods.

Definition of the project and proposed activities

The main issues are:

1. The existing single list should be replaced by two lists, a general request list and a truly high priority list;
2. The total number of requests would be reduced significantly by establishing more stringent criteria for both lists;
3. In order to be included in the high priority list a request would need to be justified by quantitative sensitivity studies (or the equivalent) and sufficiently documented;
4. An expert group would be established, comprising two representatives from each data project, one from the data user and one from the data producer community;
5. List of technical consultants would be established to offer guidance on the feasibility and value of submitted requests;
6. Both request lists would be subjected to periodic review to determine whether each individual request should continue to be included in these lists.