

Tony Hudson presentation – SRP AGM 2009

Tony Hudson's career in radiation protection, which has spanned some 40 years, began as a graduate health physicist at BNFL Sellafield, though it wasn't called that then! After several years valuable experience in operational radiation protection he moved to the Radiation Protection Service, which in 1971 was incorporated into the newly created National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB). Tony transferred to the new NRPB Northern Centre in Leeds and became Head of Centre in 1977. In this role he developed the Centre from a small unit providing regional radiation protection services to a major centre of expertise, which provided a significant input to standards development as well as providing a diverse range of services. His areas of expertise included the practical application of the optimisation process, regulatory infrastructure, and the formulation of radiation protection programmes through decision tree methodology.

Tony played a leading role in the development of the NRPB RPA service, which was formally launched in 1985 in response to the new requirement in the 1985 Ionising Radiations Regulations for employers to consult an RPA. At the time it was thought that the demand for the service would be relatively low, and would decline to minimal levels after a few years! Despite this view, the demand for the service was such that it rapidly grew to become one of the primary commercial services supplied by NRPB.

The making of the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 introduced the requirement for the RPA to be recognised and this prompted the development of the RPA 2000 certification scheme. Tony spent a large amount of time revising the infrastructure of the NRPB RPA service so that it would be able to act as a formal RPA Body. Although Tony retired in 2001, it is very much to his credit that NRPB was successful in obtaining formal HSE recognition as an RPA Body in 2003, the first such body in the UK to obtain recognition.

Tony joined the Qualifications committee in 1995 in his capacity as an expert in providing RPA advice to small users, and he runs a wine club. When he retired he was able to give even more time to SRP and Wine and agreed to take over from Muir Wasson in 2002. As Secretary of QPSC he also joined the Board of RPA 2000, taking on the role of Secretary.

So what good has Tony been to these Committees? Well he is passionate about language, intolerant of loose words, thorough in his preparation of documents, and enjoys calling a spade a spade, with humour. His minutes are the most comprehensive and accurate I have ever seen of any meetings. He pursues actions to timely completion. Add those qualities to a thorough understanding of the subject of Radiation Protection and you have a tremendous asset to the Society and to its members.

He has played a primary role in developing the RPA 2000 procedures and negotiating with our regulatory friends when they perceived a need to change. Who can forget the email about the HSE aimed at Committee members but inadvertently copied to the HSE.

He also designed and ran the annual RPA 2000 Assessors meetings, turning them from a general chat into a well structured and useful training and exchange session, and brought wine.

In summary, Tony is being recognised today, not only as a Radiation Protection expert with a very successful career behind him, but also as a hugely respected and valued contributor to Qualifications and Professional Standards in Radiation Protection in the UK.

His award of Honorary Fellow is richly deserved.