



July 30, 1999

National Institutes of Health  
National Cancer Institute  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

## Memorandum for the NCI Chernobyl Leukemia Working Group

Subject: Meeting of NCI Working Group, 29 July, 1999, in Rockville

We had a very necessary and useful meeting yesterday attended by 6 members of the Group plus Dr Land (Acting Chief, Radiation Epidemiology Branch), Dr Masnyk (NCI Director of Chernobyl Projects) and Dr Tirmarche (representing IPSN). Mr Fountos (DOE) and Dr Terry Thomas (expected to join NCI in September) also attended. Dr Magrath and Dr Boice had expected to attend but one was ill and the other had a schedule change.

- (1) We agreed that what our Ukrainian counterparts had submitted as draft text for the final report on Phase I epidemiologic and hematologic tasks would have to be extensively revised by the Group. Dr Finch, Dr Howe, and I accepted responsibility for the revision. The report on the dosimetry tasks is already in Dr Bouville's capable hands.
- (2) We agreed that the Group, together with the IPSN, should meet in October to review the final report on Phase I and to formulate our position with respect to Phase II
- (3) We agreed that in October we would need more information than the final report on Phase I in order to reach a consensus with respect to Phase II, and undertook to prepare brief statements on the following topics in advance of the meeting:

- o the dose distribution Dr Howe is using in his power calculations (Geoff Howe)
- o the scientific value of the study should it show no evidence of excess leukemia (Howe)
- o whether there is any satisfactory evidence that there is a real excess (John Boice)
- o whether the ascertainment of retrospective cases would be adequate (Stu Finch)
- o how dose estimates would be made for retrospective cases and their controls (Andre Bouville/Geoff Howe)
- o whether it would be useful/feasible for any Phase II to include lymphoma and the molecular studies envisaged in the 1995 protocol (Stu Finch)

(4) Having reached a consensus regarding Phase II, the NCI Working Group would want to meet promptly with its parallel Ukrainian Working Group in an effort to achieve a joint recommendation regarding Phase II.

(5) Should the recommendation in step (4) above be to proceed with Phase II, both Working Groups would collaborate on the changes to be made in the 1995 protocol for Phase II and prepare a formal proposal to NCI and Ukrainian authorities that Phase II be funded.

(6) Phase II, if recommended, should be undertaken as early as possible in 2000 in order to prevent a significant hiatus in the funding of the Ukrainian scientists.

  
G.W. Beebe, PhD, Chairman

## Distribution

Working Group Members  
Dr Tirmarche  
Dr Masnyk

Dr Zahm  
Dr Ron  
Dr Land  
Mr Fountos

---

REB Chernobyl staff  
Ms Duane

**Attachments**

Ukrainian Phase I draft material on epidemiology and hematology tasks  
Dr Bouville's draft Phase I report on dosimetry tasks  
Dr Howe's 7/26/99 Notes on "Possible Study of Leukemia in Liquidators in Ukraine  
Following the Chernobyl Accident"