

**Memorandum  
of the Third Meeting of the  
Joint Coordinating Committee on Radiation Effects Research (JCCRER)**

**Overview:**

A joint meeting of the Russian and American delegations within the framework of the Intergovernmental Russian-American agreement on "Cooperation in Research on Radiation Effects for the Purpose of Minimizing the Consequences of Radioactive Contamination on Health and the Environment," was held in Bethesda, Maryland, on April 24-25, 1997. During this third meeting of the JCCRER, a number of topics were discussed. Specifically, the Executive Committee (EC) brought before the JCCRER four items for sanction: population studies (Direction 1; Projects 1.1 and 1.3), joint access to data policy, budgetary guidelines, and a statement on public involvement. Additionally, the EC provided information and updates for ongoing and planned work, including data preservation, DOE funding mechanisms, status of Worker Dosimetry (Project 2.4), status of Project on Deterministic Effects of Occupational Exposure (Project 2.3), status of work on Information Technologies in Research on Radiation Effects and Decision-Making Support (Direction 3), and proposed communications upgrade.

**The American side was represented by:**

JCCRER Members:

- \* *Dr. Tara O'Toole* - Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Health, U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Co-Chair;
- \* *Ms. Greta J. Dicus* - Commissioner, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission;
- \* *Dr. Richard J. Jackson* - Director, National Center for Environmental Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- \* *Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar* - Director for Environmental and Life Sciences, U.S. Department of Defense;
- \* *Dr. E. Ramona Trovato* - Director for the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and
- \* *Dr. Walter Schimmerling* - Space Radiation Health and Radiation Biology Programs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Executive Committee Members:

- \* *Mr. Frank Hawkins* - Director of the Office of International Health Programs, U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Co-Chair;

- \* *Dr. Shlomo Yaniv* - Senior Technical Advisor, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission;
- \* *Dr. Peter Henry* - Director, Office of Europe and the NIS, OIRH-OS, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- \* *Dr. E. John Ainsworth* - Scientific Director, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, U.S. Department of Defense;
- \* *Dr. Jerry Puskin* - Team Leader, Center for Risk Modeling and Emergency Response, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and
- \* *Dr. Walter Schimmerling*, Space Radiation Health and Radiation Biology Programs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**The Russian side was represented by:**

*JCCRER Member:*

- \* *Mr. Sergei Khetagurov* - Vice Minister, Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense Affairs, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters, and Russian Co-chair;

*EC Members:*

- \* *Dr. Leonid Alexandrovich Bolshov* - Director, Russian Academy of Sciences Nuclear Safety Institute, and Co-Chair;
- \* *Dr. Lubov Ivanovna Anissimova* - Deputy Director, Department of Investment, Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense Affairs, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters;
- \* *Mr. Mikhail Filippovich Kisselev* - Deputy Director, Federal Department, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation; and
- \* *Dr. Alexandr Pavlovich Panfilov* - Division Head, Ministry of the Russian Federation for Atomic Energy.

**Items Sanctioned by the JCCRER:**

*a) Population Studies (Direction 1; Projects 1.1 and 1.3).*

At the October 1996 meeting, the JCCRER charged the Executive Committee (EC) to hold a workshop to better define scope, priorities, and feasibility of Direction 1 dosimetry projects.

The results of the workshop, which was held in February and attended by Russian and U.S. Scientific Review Group (SRG) members, project scientists, and EC members, were a unanimous conclusion (1) that the long-term dose reconstruction study is warranted for the Techa River population and (2) that the study should be supplemented by a special one-year source term determination project with the goal of providing a stronger basis from which to assess the validity of dose reconstruction data. At this meeting of the JCCRER, endorsement was given to move ahead on Projects 1.1 and 1.3.

*b) Policy on Data Access.*

The JCCRER endorsed, with some modifications, the draft Access to Primary Data Policy originally drafted at the October 1996 JCCRER meeting in Moscow. It was unanimously agreed that this policy would serve as the first step to ensure that all Russian data is properly protected and accessible to the appropriate parties. Refer to Annex 1.

*c) Public Involvement Statement.*

The JCCRER approved a public involvement statement, which sets in place the foundation from which a collaborative public involvement process can be implemented to inform the Russian and American public on JCCRER research projects in the health effects of radiation. Refer to Annex 2.

*d) Budgetary Guidelines.*

The JCCRER endorsed, with some modifications, the Budgetary Guidelines originally drafted at the October 1996 JCCRER meeting in Moscow. It was unanimously agreed that these Guidelines would define the broad operating parameters and general direction for the joint funding of the JCCRER studies. Refer to Annex 3.

**Items for JCCRER Information:**

*a) Plans for Data Preservation.*

A joint U.S./ Russian effort to preserve health-related and dosimetric data at several sites associated with the JCCRER's work, was discussed. Part of this effort includes a commitment on the part of the Department of Energy to provide the necessary equipment, technical assistance, and labor costs for the microfilming work.

*b) Update on DOE Funding Mechanisms.*

The Department of Energy's plans to pursue a stable and predictable funding mechanism for JCCRER work was discussed. Several alternative mechanisms were discussed, including the use of the International Science and Technology Center.

*c) Status of Worker Dosimetry (Project 2.4).*

The project to reconstruct individual doses of exposure to MAYAK workers was discussed. The proposal for a three-year study was received and reviewed in March 1997. Based on the comments of the SRG, the proposal is undergoing revision by a team of Russian and American scientists who plan to provide a more detailed and complete proposal by October 1997.

d) *Status of Project on Deterministic Effects of Occupational Exposure (Project 2.3).*

This project, to determine the practicality of using the dosimetry and clinical data on the MAYAK worker population to study the deterministic effects of radiation exposure, was discussed. The results of the feasibility study, now concluded, were summarized and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's recent publication of a notice of intent to solicit a long-term research proposal was provided to meeting participants.

e) *Status of Work on Information Technologies in Research on Radiation Effects and Decision-Making Support (Direction 3, Project 3.2).*

A joint U.S./ Russian Federation workshop was held in November 1996 to discuss Russian experiences managing the consequences of the Chernobyl and Southern Urals accidents. Specifically, information relating to scientific and technical support for decision makers during radiation accidents and incidents; and emergency medical response to radiation accidents and incidents were discussed.

f) *Communications Upgrade.*

The recent joint EC initiative to upgrade communications between the two countries was discussed. The effort, funded by the Department of Energy, in conjunction with the Russian Nuclear Safety Institute (IBRAE) and other Russian and participating organizations, will benefit and enhance the exchange of scientific and administrative information and strengthen the two countries' working relationships.

**Charges to the Executive Committee:**

The JCCRER concluded that new vision and support for Direction 3 was needed to ensure its viability and success. Work to identify an American lead agency for Direction 3 will be coordinated by the U.S. EC with help from the JCCRER members. An interim report on the status of this initiative will be issued by the EC in December 1997.

Signed on this 25 day of April, 1997, in Bethesda, Maryland.



Dr. Tara O'Toole  
U.S. Co-Chair, JCCRER



Mr. Sergei Khetagurov  
Russian Co-Chair, JCCRER

25.04.97

*ANNEX I*

**ACCESS TO PRIMARY DATA  
REQUIRED FOR THE CONDUCT  
OF SCIENTIFIC STUDIES  
UNDER THE JCCRER AGREEMENT**

To ensure the highest quality of scientific research conducted in an atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation between the scientists of the Russian Federation and the United States, it is agreed that access to primary and original data necessary to conduct the work described under Directions 1, 2 and 3 of the JCCRER Agreement will be granted equally to designated American and Russian researchers involved in the projects. Detailed procedures for access to data for each project will be approved by the responsible U.S. and Russian Federation agencies. Rights to information will be protected according to the intellectual property rights annex to the JCCRER agreement and privacy laws and other legal obligations within the Russian Federation and the U.S. The Russian Federation and U.S. laws governing the access and use of these data and the results obtained from their analyses will be strictly adhered to by all parties.

This agreement to provide access to primary data recognizes that:

1. Privacy statutes in Russia and the United States generally do not permit the disclosure of personal identifier data.
2. No transfer, publications, presentations, press releases or any other form of communication regarding the unpublished data and/or the results of these studies will be made without the expressed knowledge, consent, and participation of the institutions maintaining the data sets and the scientists involved in the research.



Tara O'Toole  
U.S. Co-chair, JCCRER



Sergei V. Khetagurov  
Russian Co-chair, JCCRER

25.04.07

*ANNEX II*

**Public Involvement Statement  
Under the JCCRER Agreement**

- 1) The Russian and U.S. JCCRER will take mutually agreed on steps to make information available to the Russian and U.S. public about the findings of JCCRER-sponsored research projects related to the health effects associated with radiation exposure.
- 2) To begin the process:
  - a) Russian and U.S. JCCRER Executive Committee members, together with six designated public involvement experts (three each from the U.S. and the Russian Federation), will work to develop a consistent and focused message about the JCCRER research projects to share with the Russian and U.S. public.
  - b) Russian and U.S. JCCRER Executive Committee members will charter, based on mutually agreed on selection criteria and characteristics, self-directed working group(s) of independent Russian scientific experts and members of the Russian public. The joint Executive Committee will act in advisory capacity to this working group, which will (1) assess the level of public understanding of the JCCRER research projects, (2) identify steps to overcoming barriers and enhancing public cooperation and trust in these projects, and (3) develop a strategy and implementation plan, for review and approval by the joint Executive Committee, for public participation in the conduct of these projects.
  - c) The activity of the working group(s) will initially focus on the population around Chelyabinsk (excluding MAYAK workers) and, as approved by the JCCRER, later expand to other areas in which JCCRER-related projects are conducted or which are of interest to the JCCRER.



Dr. Tara O'Toole  
U.S. Co-chair, JCCRER



Mr. Sergei V. Khetagurov  
Russian Co-chair, JCCRER

25.04.97

### *ANNEX III*

#### **Budgetary Guidelines under the JCCRER Agreement**

U.S. expenses will be covered by sponsoring U.S. agencies. The sponsoring U.S. agency may also fund a portion of the Russian expenses.

Each U.S. funding agency will work with the Russian institute(s) to ensure Russian institute indirect costs are reasonable. It is expected that Russian institutes will continue efforts to streamline these costs.

Requirements for budget requests submitted by each Russian institute will be specified by each U.S. funding agency and, at a minimum, will include documentation of personnel and other costs, as well as specific milestones and deliverables for the funding period.

Requirements for progress reports submitted by each Russian institute will be specified by each U.S. funding agency and, at a minimum, will include documentation of expenses, as well as person months and accomplishments (milestones and deliverables).



Dr. Tara O'Toole  
U.S. Co-Chair, JCCRER



Mr. Sergei V. Khetagurov  
Russian Co-Chair, JCCRER

25.04.97.