

**Memorandum  
of the Executive Committee Meeting of the  
Joint Coordinating Committee on Radiation Effects Research (JCCRER)  
January 21-22, 1998  
Moscow**

**Overview:**

A joint meeting of the Russian and American Executive Committee (EC) to the JCCRER was held in Moscow, Russia, on January 21-22, 1998. During this meeting of the EC, a number of topics were discussed, including charges to the EC following the Third JCCRER Meeting (April 1997), status of ongoing activities, and new initiatives.

**The Russian side was represented by:**

EC Members:

- \* *Prof. Leonid A. Bolshov* - Director, Russian Academy of Sciences Nuclear Safety Institute, Russian Co-Chair;
- \* *Dr. Mikhail F. Kisselev* - Deputy Director, Federal Department, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation; and
- \* *Dr. Alexandr P. Panfilov* - Division Head, Ministry of the Russian Federation for Atomic Energy.

Other Participants:

- \* *Dr. Alexander V. Akleyev* - Director, Urals Research Center for Radiation Medicine;
- \* *Mr. Sergey A. Romanov* - Director, Branch Number One of the Institute of Biophysics;
- \* *Dr. Evgenii K. Vassillenko* - Project 2.4 Principal Investigator, MAYAK Production Association;
- \* *Mr. Andrey A. Koptelov* - Russian Academy of Sciences Nuclear Safety Institute;
- \* *Dr. Rudolph M. Barkhudarov* - Russian Academy of Sciences Nuclear Safety Institute;
- \* *Dr. Oleg A. Pavlovski* - Russian National Academy of Sciences Nuclear Safety Institute.

**The American side was represented by:**

Executive Committee Members:

- \* *Ms. Elizabeth (Libby) P. White* for Mr. Frank C. Hawkins - Director of the Office of International Health Programs, Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. Co-Chair.
- \* *Dr. Shlomo S. Yaniv* - Senior Technical Advisor, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (U.S. NRC).

Other Participants:

- \* *Ms. Eleanor (Elly) Melamed* - Director of the Office of Records, Research, Data and Access, Department of Energy;
- \* *Dr. John R. Thomas* - Policy Directorate, Department of Defense;
- \* *Dr. Evan Douple* - Director, Board on Radiation Effects Research, National Academy of Sciences; and
- \* *Ms. Premilla Nored* - U.S. Embassy.

**Charges Following the April 1997 JCCRER Meeting:**

*a) Efforts on Direction 3.*

At the Third JCCRER Meeting (April 1997), the EC committed to work together to identify a new American lead agency for Direction 3 and to issue an interim report on the status of this initiative in December 1997. The draft report, detailing efforts of the EC members to match the Nuclear Safety Institute with appropriate U.S. organizations for Direction 3 efforts, was discussed by EC Co-Chairs. Ms. White reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has indicated interest in taking the lead on the American side, and it was decided that the interim report would be finalized within 3 weeks of the close of the EC meeting, after a determination about FEMA's participation had been made, and included as Annex I to this Memorandum.

*b) Data Access, Project-Specific Agreements.*

Following the Third JCCRER Meeting (April 1997), at which the JCCRER Co-Chairs signed an annex to the Memorandum of Meeting entitled, "Access to Primary Data Required for the Conduct of Scientific Studies Under the JCCRER Agreement," EC members were charged to work with principal investigators and institute directors to develop project-specific access to data agreements. The status and content of these agreements were discussed in a pre-meeting to the January 1998 EC Meeting, and all EC members agreed to ensure that the agreements are revised and finalized prior to the JCCRER Meeting in May 1998. Additionally, the joint EC developed general provisions for data access, which shall apply to all project-specific

agreements. These provisions will be finalized prior to the next EC meeting, scheduled March 12, 1998, and will be included as Annex II to this Memorandum.

*c) Public Involvement Activities.*

The EC agreed on a strategy and timeline to implement the public involvement path forward signed by JCCRER Co-Chairs in April 1997. This document will be finalized prior to the next EC meeting, scheduled March 12, 1998, and included as Annex III to this Memorandum. Activities planned for 1998 include a March teleconference of the U.S. and Russian expert group members and a meeting in Chelyabinsk in summer 1998.

**Items for EC Information:**

*a) Update on Ongoing Projects:*

Ms. White, Dr. Kisselev, Dr. Romanov, and Dr. Akleyev reported that four joint DOE-Russian funded long-term projects initiated in April 1997, "Development of an Improved Dosimetry System for Population Dosimetry" (project 1.1), "Physical Preservation of Existing Data" (project 1.2a), "Metabolism and Dosimetry of Plutonium Industrial Compounds" (project 2.1), and "Risk Estimation of Stochastic Effects of Occupational Radiation Exposure" (project 2.2), were progressing smoothly for the most part. They did, however, discuss shared concerns regarding methodology of and funding for one component of project 1.1: the Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) work. It was agreed that representatives from the Russian and American funding agencies and scientific institutions would meet to discuss these concerns (perhaps tied in with the Scientific Review Group Meeting in April 1998) and that a final decision on how to proceed would be made by the end of April, following the Scientific Review Group meeting. EC members committed to make no future plans regarding the EPR component of the project in the interim.

Regarding other ongoing work, Ms. White stated that DOE-funded project 1.2b, "Stochastic Effects of Environmental Radiation Exposure in Populations Living Near the Mayak Industrial Association," initiated in April 1997, has also made progress and will be reviewed in April 1998 for consideration of continued funding.

Ms. Melamed and the Institute Directors reported on the progress of the joint U.S.-Russian effort to preserve health-related and dosimetric data at several sites that participate in JCCRER studies. The DOE is providing equipment, technical assistance, and labor costs for the microfilming work.

*b) Update on Newly Initiated Projects:*

Ms. White and Drs. Panfilov and Vassilenko reported that "Source Term Determination" (project 1.3), supporting "Population Dosimetry" (project 1.1) has been approved and that work was progressing smoothly.

Dr. Yaniv reported that "Deterministic Effects of Occupational Exposure" (project 2.3) has also been approved, a contract between the U.S. NRC and the University of Pittsburgh

signed, and work initiated. He informed the EC of the possibility of participation of French scientists from IPSN in the project and requested that the joint EC approve in principle this participation. Other forms of cooperation were also discussed and it was agreed that these discussions should be continued

c) *Status of and Plans for "Development of An Improved Dosimetry System for Workers of the MAYAK Production Association" (Project 2.4):* Ms. White reported that the peer review process had identified a number of remaining questions (including those on methodology, roles and responsibilities, and budget) that need clarification before Department of Energy's formal endorsement of the project. She emphasized that the Russian side has provided necessary information and that, in view of the urgency of dosimetry data input for projects 2.2 and 2.3, the American side will move quickly in its efforts to resolve these issues.

d) *Summary of New DOE Initiative:*

Ms. White reported that the Office of International Health Programs received 31 proposals from American institutions in response to its request for proposals issued in summer 1997 for new U.S.-Russian collaborative studies related to molecular epidemiology, biomarkers, biodosimetry, biological tissue banks, and epidemiology. These proposals, she stated, were reviewed in November 1997 by an external peer review panel (with Russian representation). She reported that DOE is currently more closely reviewing the top-ranked proposals for relevance to its mission and funding appropriateness. The meeting participants discussed the need for DOE's coordination with the Russian and U.S. ECs prior to making final funding decisions, expected in April 1998. The intent of this coordination will be to integrate DOE's competitive process for initiating new work with the JCCRER directions and processes for review and conduct of such work.

e) *Funding Issues:*

The group discussed taxation of U.S. funds sent to Russia and ways to prevent such taxation. Additionally, anticipated American and Russian funding levels for the remainder of fiscal year 1998 were discussed, revealing that both sides had made sizable contributions in 1997 and that they intend to make similar contributions in 1998. Funding mechanisms used by the DOE and the U.S. NRC were also discussed.

f) *Progress of Communications Upgrade.*

Professor Bolshov reported on the status of the communications upgrade, funded by the Department of Energy and managed by the Nuclear Safety Institute, stating that all Russian EC members will have necessary new computer equipment and working fax machines, as well as e-mail by mid-February 1998. Prior to this EC meeting, Institute Directors had informed EC members that they (the Institutes) have purchased, or will have soon purchased, all necessary new computer equipment and that they are moving forward with attaining internet access for principal investigators.

g) *Equipment.*

Ms. White reported that DOE will provide to Branch Number 1 of the Institute of Biophysics

a whole body counter from the Department of Energy Rocky Flats plant in Colorado.

Ms. Melamed reported that Department of Energy has access to surplus computer equipment from its Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and that it will be sending, via the International Science and Technology Center, this equipment to MAYAK. She explained that, due to the fact that this equipment has been used in radiologically controlled areas, DOE will assure all paperwork necessary to document the safety and appropriateness of this transfer is provided to MAYAK. She also stated that she expects additional equipment to be available to the Russian scientific institutes in the future.

**Items for EC Discussion:**

*a) Agenda for Joint Scientific Review Group Meeting in Chelyabinsk.*

Ms. Melamed shared the tentative agenda for the April Scientific Review Group (SRG) Meeting, which will be a two-day scientific meeting to include JCCRER scientists as well as both the Department of Energy SRG and the Russian SRG. The group discussed the possibility of inviting scientists from other international organizations who are conducting joint work with the Russians in the Southern Urals, but decided it was premature to include other parties at this point.

*b) Agenda for JCCRER Meeting:*

EC members discussed the tentative agenda for the next JCCRER meeting, scheduled for May 19-21, 1998 in Moscow.

*c) Organization of International Research in the Southern Urals:*

EC members and other participants discussed the recommendation by Drs. Ilyin, Kisselev, Romanov, Gilbert, Hall, Mabuchi, and Preston that the Radiation Effects Research Foundation be used as a model for organization of research in the Southern Urals. All participants agreed that better coordination of international collaborative work in the Southern Urals was necessary and that the document drafted by the group who met at the Radiation Effects Research Foundation raised a number of important points regarding this coordination. American EC members expressed concern, however, about using the Radiation Effects Research Foundation as a model for collaborative work in the Southern Urals, stating that the original premises upon which the 2 organizations (Radiation Effects Research Foundation and JCCRER) were built were different. They expressed further concern about setting up an infrastructure that would increase the bureaucracy and reduce the percentage of funding going to science versus administration.

*d) Discussion of Plans for International Meeting:*

EC members and other participants agreed to consider planning an international meeting with wide participation, for the purpose of: 1) identifying goals of collaboration and improved coordination with representatives from other countries conducting research in the Southern Urals, and 2) making recommendations as to how to meet these goals.

e) *Executive Committee Meeting:*

The next EC meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., March 12, 1998. Among items to be discussed at this meeting are 1) methods of integration of new DOE-funded work, and 2) coordination of JCCRER work with other bi-national or multi-national efforts in the Southern Urals (including planning of an international meeting to define goals for international collaboration).

**Action Items:**

Russian and EC members agreed that:

- a) The EC Co-Chairs shall finalize the interim report on Direction 3 within 3 weeks of the close of the EC meeting, after FEMA's role has been determined;
- b) Project-specific data access agreements shall be finalized by the May 1998 JCCRER meeting;
- c) The Russian and American EC shall finalize the written strategy and timeline for public involvement prior to the March 12, 1998 EC meeting in Washington, D.C.;
- d) An EPR meeting shall be held by late April 1998 to determine a path forward for the project 1.1 EPR work;
- e) DOE shall make a determination about continuation of funding for project 1.2b by May 1998;
- f) Drs. Kisselev and Yaniv shall explore the possibility of IPSN participation in project 2.3 and shall report on progress at the next EC meeting, for further review and recommendations by the JCCRER, and that other forms of cooperation should also be considered;
- g) Mr. Hawkins and his staff shall report at the March 12, 1998 Joint EC meeting on status of the DOE review of new proposals and plans for coordination with the Russian and American EC members prior to initiating new JCCRER projects;
- h) The Russian and American EC shall recommend to the JCCRER that the JCCRER attempt to place the taxation problem on the agenda of the Gore-Chernomyrdin Committee, and that, until the taxation issue is fully resolved, the range of available funds transfer mechanisms allowing for tax exemption (ISTC, wire transfer with authorization from local authorities for tax exemption, etc.) will continue to be used;
- i) DOE shall ensure shipment of American computer equipment from Los Alamos National Laboratory to the Russian Federation is in compliance with all applicable national and international rules and regulations;
- j) The Joint EC shall hold an additional EC meeting in Washington, D.C., on March 12, 1998. The Co-Chairs shall clarify agenda and location of the March meeting within two weeks of the

close of the January EC meeting.

- k) During and following the Joint EC Meeting in March 1998, the Russian and American EC shall discuss and plan a path forward for ways of resolving the issue of how best to coordinate JCCRER work with other bi-national or multi-national efforts in the Southern Urals.

Elizabeth P. White for  
Mr. Frank Hawkins, U.S. Co-Chair

Date: January 22, 1998

  
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Prof. Leonid Bolshov, Russian  
Co-Chair  
Date: 22 01 98