

Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards

*MINUTES*

October 30, 2007

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**Introduction/Opening Remarks:** 1) NCRP Medical Exposures removed from the agenda. 2) Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.

**MARISSIM Quarterly Update:** The MARSAME supplement to MARSSIM is being review by EPA's Science Advisory Board Radiation Advisory Committee (SAB RAC) 10/29-10/31. All the agenda leads of the Work Group (WG) who normally provide briefings to ISCORS are participating in this long awaited peer review. The WG will provide an update of the RAC's review at the next ISCORS meeting.

**Tritium EXIT Signs (Landfills, Leachate, Life Safety Issues)**

Dave Allard, State of PA

(reference Landfill Radiation Monitoring, Leachate Study, and Update of Tritium EXIT Signs in Solid Waste presentation)

- Purpose of study is to monitor radio activity in landfills, focus on tritium
- Working to raise awareness of the source of solid waste
- Radiation monitoring devices (p.3) → alarms sound/go off
- Largest source of waste is medical waste (p.4)
- Intentions to train employees how to respond to the alarm
- Pottstown (p.5) similar to a study done in California on leaching, both resulting in concluding a tritium problem
- See conclusions (p.6)
- Sources of tritium (p.7 & 8)
- 2 million exit signs in public landfills (60,000 in PA) → landfills have a problem with expired signs, plus they don't illuminate in an emergency
- If there is tritium in landfills, stays consistent minus variables (rain, new EXIT signs)
- Solutions (p.16-18)
- EPA Training CD (p.20)

*Questions/Comments:* Are these slides available?

*Answer:* They will be on the ISCORS and PA websites.

**Tritium EXIT Signs Training**

Deborah Kopsick, EPA

- Looked at gauges & devices, plus tritium EXIT signs with the State and Federal Governments
- In the case of tritium contamination, Poison Control Hotline is usually first call → multiple agencies involved in giving them correct protocol
- Legally bound to dispose of tritium properly

- Recognize tritium EXIT signs by colorful background, white letters with tubes inside, expiration tag

*Questions/Comments:* Dave Allard: 1) There has been an outreach to the local fire officials and demolitions crews to be trained  
2) Similar results (#s) in NJ

### **Safety Light Superfund Site *Virtual Site Tour* and Project Overview**

Jeff Whitehead, State of PA

(reference Safety Light Superfund Site *Virtual Site Tour* and Project Overview presentation)

- 1950's Bloomsburg radium watch painting manufactured deck markers - 500,000 for Navy neutron sources on site
- Silos for "permanent" disposal
- Tritium and radium uses (i.e. exit signs)
- Abandoned unused buildings, left to decay. Divided Safety Light superfund sight to safe and contaminated
- 80's and 90's studies were done but little solutions. 1999 waste removed from solos → EPA took over. April 2004 designated cleanup site, emergency removal of 7 buildings decided.
- Safety Light tried to renew NRC licenses
- Expect Safety Light to abandon site
- Main Building: Etching Building (1940's), largest, radium and tritium dials, chemical storage, slated for demo Spring 2008
- Silo Waste: waste not sorted, 2003 sorted and repackaged waste (i.e. glassware, radioactive foils), didn't meet waste acceptance → February '07 waste secured in Texas
- West Dump/Lagoon: remediated in 70's, bumps up against person property line, soil contamination, canal ran through site
- Old House: 1<sup>st</sup> floor contaminated waste, supplies 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Hurricane Isabel dropped tree on roof, led to fire → EPA emergency removal action → Pipe Shop: airborne radioactivity from crack in the floor
- Radium Vault, Old Nurse Station, Well House ALL apart of EPA's emergency removal action
- GOAL: end of 2008 have all 7 buildings removed
- Long term goal is to have a field and trees where the factory sits now

BREAK 3:25 – 3:35

### **Radon Activities Update**

Philip Jalbert, EPA

(reference Radon Update presentation)

- Canada now has radon levels comparable to other nations

- Levels as low as 1.3 pCi/L still very dangerous
- Radon is the leading cause of (lung) cancer
- 10x risk for smokers v. nonsmokers (p.8)
- Las Vegas lab is the only EPA research group
- Goal to double lives saved in 2012
- There is a listserv for the cause
- January is Radon Awareness Month
- New public service campaign using Surgeon General Warning
- National Association of Home Builders + EPA have agreements

*Questions/Comments* Of the \$8 million grant, what fraction goes towards the radon program?

*Answer:* 90%. \$8 million to state, get \$12 mil benefits in the program

### **IAEA Basic Safety Standards**

Don Cool, NRC

(presentation on ISCORS website hopefully)

- Update ICRP Standards coming “soon”
- IAE revising process
- Key Issues (p.7)
- Developing countries having pressure put on them to control medical exposure
- Since 9/11 there is a balance between safety and security (p.8)
- ICRP looked at DHS protection action guidelines
- FAO and WHO Guidelines

### **Subcommittees**

*Federal Guidance*

Mike Boyd, EPA

- Did not meet
- Diagnostic x-ray group met last week. Revision of Federal Guidelines reported from 1979
- Meeting on personal security
- Announcements: Yuka Mountain hearing that senate has called by request of Sen. Clinton on October 31 at 10 AM.

*Risk Harmonization*

Edward Regnier, DOE (not present)

*NORM* (reference attachment #5)

Loren Setlow, EPA

- No meeting this quarter
- Invited to review/comment on EPA Uranium Mining (presentation on ISCORS website hopefully)

*Cleanup*

NRC

- Had meeting last week
- Discussed future project options
- *Question:* RDD Event clean up?

*Protection of the Environment*

EPA

- One phone call since last meeting
- More active since ICRP said plans and animals were added to the report

**Admin, Action Items, Wrap-Up**

*Action:* Signed MOU. Tony, Gus, Mike to decide necessary signatures

Adjourned at 4:55PM