

Highlights on RP Activities at OECD NEA

Presentation to ISOE

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CRPPH-82

82nd Annual Meeting of the Committee on Radiological Protection and Public Health



28-29 March 2024

**OECD Conference Centre, Paris,
France**

The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format, bringing together approximately 70 delegates from 23 countries and 10 international organisations and associations

Key Discussions:

- INEX 6 post exercise evaluation
- HLG-LDR on low dose research
- EGFSF on a post-accident food safety framework
- Future work on RP challenges related to SMRs
- Contribution to ICRP's review and revision of the current RP system
- CRPPH's support for RP-related issues during and after armed conflict

(A call for volunteers is currently underway for the establishment of a Task Group on radiological protection during armed conflict)

Working Party on Nuclear Emergency Matters (WPNEM)

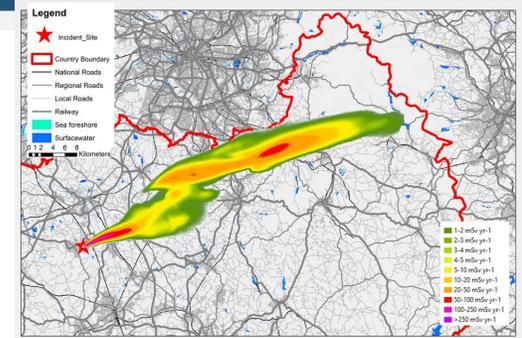
WPNEM has nearly completed its post INEX-5 programme of work.

- Forthcoming publications in 2024:
 - **Practical Guide for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies.** Publication N°7665, OECD Publishing Paris, forthcoming.
 - **Understanding dose prognosis in nuclear and radiological emergencies:** comparison of national assessment chains and practical guidance for better information exchange and coordination of protective actions. NEA/CRPPH/R(2024)1, OECD Publishing Paris, forthcoming.
 - **Real-time platforms for nuclear and radiological emergencies preparedness and response within countries:** national guidance to enhance cross-border information exchange and coordination of protective actions. NEA/CRPPH/R(2024)2, OECD Publishing Paris, forthcoming.
 - **Updated NEA Protective Measures Handbook,** a preparedness tool enhancing understanding of potential protective actions in nuclear and radiological emergencies; Post-survey drafting is currently in progress.

International Nuclear Emergency Exercises (INEX 6)

INEX-6 concentrates on the long-term recovery phase after a nuclear emergency, addressing complex issues not previously tested at the international level.

Modules were delivered from January to March 2024, with 26 participating countries



1. Health Aspects

(covering issues such as Mental Health and Psychosocial (MHPSS) issues, medical follow-up, medical surveillance)



2. Food Safety

(covering issues such as food monitoring, food restrictions, international and domestic food trade)



3. Remediation and Decontamination

(covering issues such as remediation of natural and built environment, contaminated land, access control)



4. Waste Management

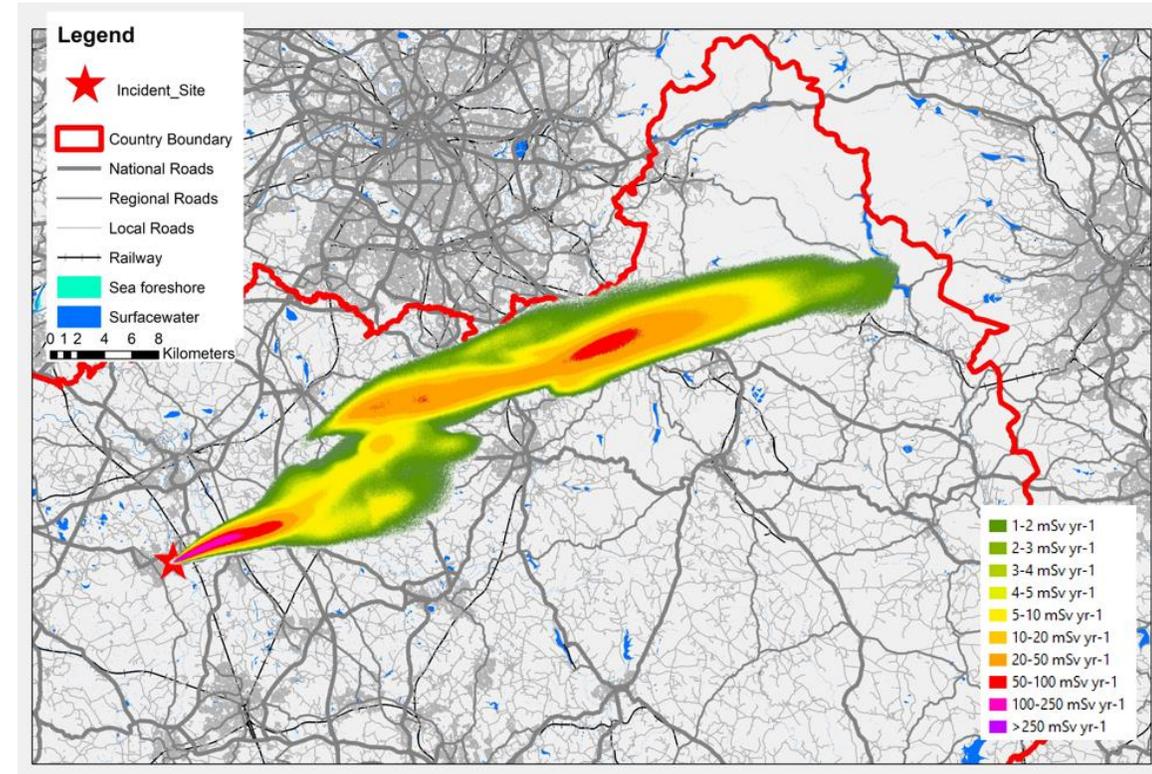
(covering issues such as storage, treatment, characterisation, transport, disposal)

Cross-Cutting Issues: Stakeholder Engagement, Communications, International Cooperation, Socio-Economics.

Images: freevector.com

Approach of INEX-6:

- Table-Top modular exercises conducted individually by participating countries and territories, using a common scenario for comparability.
- Designed as a "question-driven" exercise, challenging participants to apply existing policies and plans.
- Scenario begins 12 months after a radiological or nuclear emergency
- Directly linked with NEA publications:
"Building a Framework for Post-Nuclear Accident Recovery Preparedness";
"Practical guidance for MHPSS in radiological and nuclear emergencies"
- Aims to examine recovery management strategies' similarities and differences, including transboundary issues where possible.



INEX-6 Exercise Evaluation

- Participating countries are required to fill out an evaluation questionnaire, documenting their observations and outcomes. The deadline for submitting the survey is May 31, 2024
- An **INEX-6 Country feedback Session** will be held alongside the WPNEM annual meeting from **October 15th to 17th, 2024**, hosted by the UK. The main objective will be discussing preliminary results and provide participating countries with the opportunity to exchange experiences regarding conducting the exercise
- A final **INEX6 Evaluation Workshop** will be held in 2025 to summarize the comprehensive evaluation of the questionnaire and the outcomes from the October evaluation session. It will aim to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement based on country-specific feedback
- A **summary report**, capturing discussions and recommendations, will be published by late 2025, shaping future CRPPH/WPNEM Programme of Work



The High-Level Group on Low-Dose Research(HLG-LDR)

To better coordinate research initiatives worldwide

Provide tools/approaches for the research-related community (researchers, funders, policy makers) to enhance visibility and facilitate collaboration in the area of low dose risk for human and ecological health, such as:

- the [Global Register](#), an open online searchable library for all ongoing or planned research projects (including epidemiology, radiobiology, dosimetry, ecotoxicology, social sciences and humanities...).
 - To enhance visibility
 - To promote networking and collaboration
 - To enhance decision making
 - To keep stakeholders up-to-date
- the [OECD Adverse Outcome Pathway \(AOP\)](#) development for radiation-related health effects to compile and structure knowledge and understanding of effects of radiation exposure.
- mechanisms to transpose complex science into [effective risk communication for stakeholders](#).



[7th plenary meeting of the HLG-LDR, 27-28 June 2023, NEA HQ Nuclear Energy Agency \(NEA\) - Discussing progress in low-dose research projects \(oecd-nea.org\)](#)

NEA-EPRI Workshop on Low Dose Research



 **NEA**
NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY

**Joint workshop
on initiatives of
low-dose research
co-ordination**

25-26 June, NEA headquarters, Paris
REGISTER BEFORE 15 MAY

NEA, 2024

- The Program Committee for the NEA-EPRI Joint Workshop on Low-Dose Research has worked on finalising the workshop program.
- **The workshop is scheduled to be held at NEA Headquarters on June 25-26, 2024**

The Program Committee comprises participants from various organisations and platforms, including:

- EPRI and its IDEA network
- NEA's CRPPH and its HLG-LDR
- European research platforms such as MELODI and ALLIANCE
- The Japanese network PLANET
- The Canadian network COHERE

Expert Group on a Post-Accident Food Safety Framework (EGFSF)

Recommendations on Food Safety for long-term trade in food and trust in the food supply chain after a nuclear or radiological accident

20 members from 13 countries (ARG; AUT; BGR; CAN; FRA; HUN; IRL; JPN; KOR; NOR; SVK; GBR; USA)
IAEA, OECD Trade & Agriculture Directorate, WTO

- The Group has finalised [a strategic outline document](#) and is now drafting its recommendations and operational guidance

1

Preamble & General Recommendation

The existing guidance from international bodies concerning the long-term domestic and international trade in food following a nuclear or radiological accident should be supported by operational recommendations with the aim of assisting authorities to build trust in the food supply chain.

2

'Terms of Reference' for Scientific Review Mechanism

An international, scientifically based mechanism should be established and adopted by governments for the independent validation of the approach taken to food monitoring and control by the accident and importing countries with the aim of providing assurance on food safety.

3

Identification of potential legal tools for implementation

Governments should formally adopt the scientific validation mechanism and implement it through an international legal mechanism, e.g. on the OECD level.



Expert Group on a Post-Accident Food Safety Framework (EGFSF)

- Provide recommendations to promote consumer trust and confidence in food, and to facilitate national and international trade over the long-term following an accident.
- Building upon existing international guidance, address how effectiveness of measures taken to prevent “unsafe” food reaching consumers can be demonstrated in practice, e.g. through monitoring and peer review processes consistent with accepted public health approaches.
- Results from the INEX-6 food module expected by fall 2024.
- EGFSF approach should align with existing all-hazards food safety systems.
- **Mandate extended for two years with reorganization into two sub-groups:**
 - Formulation of a scientific validation process for food monitoring and control.
 - Implementation of a legal instrument at the OECD level.
- **Call for experts to expand group’s expertise coming soon.**

Task Force on SMR's RP Challenges

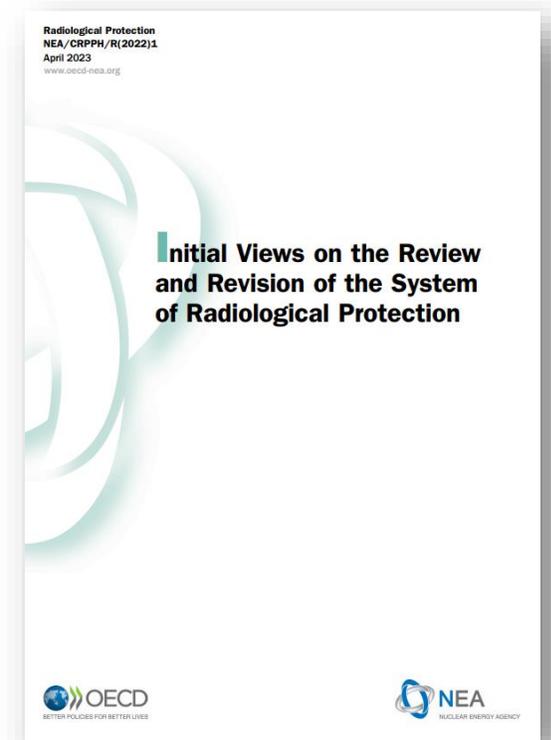
- The Task Force (TF) completed 1.5 years of activity by identifying radiological protection (RP) challenges related to the deployment of SMRs and compiling the results as a high-level analysis report.
- The high-level analysis reflected on the TF members' individual experiences actually regulating some SMRs in their countries.
- The TF surveyed international SMR projects conducted and ongoing, including EGSMR, to identify where the RP challenges can be integrated into existing projects and where they are specific to the CRPPH.
- Based on the TF recommendation at the CRPPH-82, the CRPPH approved creating a new expert group under the WPNEM to address graded approaches for emergency preparedness (EP) and protective strategies for SMRs, to be launched by the end of 2024 to early 2025.
- The CRPPH also recommended 1) continuing to monitor the situations surrounding SMRs through exchanges with other NEA divisions/committees and international organisations, and 2) preparing the creation of two other potential working groups on occupational exposure and public communication for 2025-2026 PoW.

Contribution to ICRP's review and revision of the current RP system

Achievements and Plan for 2024 and beyond:

- ICRP initiated a project to review and revise the System of Radiological Protection (SRP, due for completion ~2030); among all stakeholders (ICRP SLOs), NEA is key to express the views of its member countries on this issue.
- CRPPH re-established the Expert Group on International Recommendations (EGIR) to coordinate NEA's input. EGIR published its **initial findings** in May 2023 and shared them with ICRP (**Phase 1**).
- EGIR mandate has been extended to 30 April 2025.
- EGIR identified specific areas for further in-depth review in the next phase of its Programme of Work (**Phase 2**), notably:

1. **Integration of Radiological Protection of the Environment**
2. **The Principle of Optimisation of Protection**
3. **Forward Look: Future Suitability of the Primary Aim**



CRPPH's support for RP-related issues during and after armed conflict

Programme overview

- topical sessions focusing on various topics

Session 1: Resilience practices from a human and organisational factor perspective – Focus on occupational radiological protection

Session 2: Characterisation of the radiological situation and environmental monitoring systems

Session 3: Adapting emergency preparedness and response and recovery in armed conflict situations

Session 4: Adapting national strategies and international support for medical response

Session 5: Identifying key lessons learnt on managing RP during armed conflict: Improving regulatory resilience

Session 6: “What if” conversation: Lessons from experience for a more resilient regulation and application of radiological protection in armed conflicts

Session 7: Keynotes: Safety, security and emergency preparedness interfaces

- Closing session: Strengthening international collaboration and potential actions to help regulators reduce radiological risks

PROGRAMME



Radiological Protection During Armed Conflict

Improving Regulatory
and Operational Resilience

22-24 November 2023
Hotel Bristol, Oslo, Norway



 **DSA** Norwegian Radiation
and Nuclear Safety Authority

 **NEA**
NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY

https://www.oecd-nea.org/jcms/pl_89049/ensuring-radiological-protection-during-armed-conflict

Training Courses

- **3rd edition of Nuclear Risk Communication Training Course, 2024** in Ottawa, Canada
- Hosted by **CNSC, Canada 28-31 Oct. 2024 – Registration is open now until August 23, 2024**
- Foundational learning and development in risk communications for communication professionals and technical specialists
- The **6th edition of the International Radiological Protection School (IRPS)** will be held in person at Stockholm University, Sweden, from **12-16 August 2024**, in co-operation with the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM) and the Centre for Radiation Protection Research (CRPR) of Stockholm University.
- Intended for early to mid-career RP professionals
- Highly valued professional development course with ca. 50 students each year





**Thank you for
your attention.**

Questions?

www.oecd-nea.org