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UNITED STATES

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Organization of Agreement States Meeting

October 4, 2000

Double Tree Suites

181 Church Street

Charleston, SC 29401

## P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHIP CAMERON: All right. We are going to start off this morning. We are going to talk right off with Frank Congel, from the NRC. Frank is going to talk about dealing with terrorists. Frank is the Director of Incident Response Operations. He reports directly to our Executive Director for Operation. His group coordinates agency wide capability to respond to incidents and accidents at NRC licensed facilities. I am going to turn it over to Frank.

FRANK CONGEL: Good morning. I have addressed this group in the past on various topics. I am happy to be here this morning again. This morning's topic is a reflection of an evolving program, one that has taken on higher and higher significance nationally as well as locally. My group is just one of the components of the agency that is responding to nationwide initiatives. These are initiatives to increase our capabilities to respond to a wider range of potential terrorist threats to our society.

Since the -- the basis of the response of the agency is the -- we are just the preparedness infrastructure. The key component for my group is to implement it. I have to say that in the past we have had various components in the agency that

1 we interact with, the FBI, other law enforcement groups,  
2 National Security Council. The efforts, that I will describe  
3 to you in a few minutes, are now being integrated in a  
4 different way and hopefully will improve our effectiveness in a  
5 world that is responding in a more determined way to a wider  
6 range of threats.

7           Let's give -- a quicky overview is what I hope to  
8 accomplish this morning and I will go through it. Like I said,  
9 I have been here before. We know each other very well and our  
10 state programs. We are sort of an extended family and I will  
11 certainly except questions, comments, or anything from time to  
12 time.

13           What I will do is give you a background and a  
14 chronology of the recent, as well as the historicals. I  
15 believe that it places it in context of how we got where we are  
16 and where we are right now. I will tell you where we are  
17 headed, what we have accomplished this past year and what is on  
18 the planning horizon.

19           Next slide, please. The key of the actual written  
20 direction that we have had as an agency and across the federal  
21 government are summarized by these PDD. These are Presidential  
22 Decision Directives. Presidential Directives of this type

1 legally apply to agencies with in the executive context. We as  
2 an independent agency aren't legally obligated to follow these,  
3 but of course NRC is part of the federal family, associated  
4 with legislature following these, we are swept up. Just on the  
5 basis of knowing what is necessary for us as a country to  
6 withstand any kind of or as many or wide of range of potential  
7 things that can happen to us. We have an important role. The  
8 fact that we have that role is one that has been a driving  
9 force for us throughout.

10           Just as an aside, although we interact in this  
11 context a lot, we are really not as an agency at large. We  
12 have about three thousand people totally. We have a budget  
13 that is literally within the round- off of the bigger budgets,  
14 such as DOE and FBI. We have to make sure that the other  
15 bigger agencies that have principal and prior responsibilities  
16 are particularly aware of our existence. We -- we have had a  
17 real basic challenge just to begin with.

18           If you will bear with me a few minutes, a story. In  
19 meeting with the various agencies and in particular the FBI, I  
20 was meeting with one group, the Richmond, Virginia office. I  
21 meet with the person in charge of the office. I introduced  
22 myself and a said one of the purposes that I am here is to

1 introduce us, tell you what our agency is, what it does. Some  
2 people think that we are just a part of DOE. He said, your  
3 not? So, I had just accomplished something in terms of  
4 spending the time to go down there. It really is the way  
5 things are.

6           These Presidential Decision Directives, you can see,  
7 are all within the past five years or so. There is a history  
8 associated with them. In fact, the history begins with things  
9 that most all of you here are familiar with, some of almost  
10 originally with.

11           Beginning with the Civil Defense Concept following  
12 World War II and the Cold War. The original one, in terms of  
13 Executive Orders, that initiated this whole process, was back  
14 in 1952. Back when Truman was still President. He issued  
15 Executive Order 10346, that one simply made all the agencies  
16 responsible for insuring the capability to continue in light of  
17 a major attack on our infrastructure, basics of civil defense.

18           That stayed in place for many years until the early  
19 '80's, when we had the unfortunate incidents of the bombing of  
20 the Marine barracks in Beirut, the hijacking of TWA 47. It  
21 lead President Reagan at the time to form a group called the  
22 Vice-President's task force on combating terrorism. That lead

1 to another -- what is called a National Security Decision  
2 Directive. It was called the U.S. Program for Combating  
3 Terrorism.

4 That led ultimately to the issuance of an Executive  
5 Order by President Reagan 12656, in November of '88. It  
6 assigned the National Security of Emergency Preparedness  
7 Responsibilities. In that, all the federal agencies were  
8 directed to look into the programs for dealing with issues of  
9 National Security Preparedness. It excluded natural disasters  
10 and specifically focused to what they saw as a worldwide  
11 evolution, principally a new way to waging war. Now, it was  
12 everywhere. It could be in our homes and in our institutions.

13 All the agencies, including the NRC, responded to it  
14 and began to identify central functions that would be continued  
15 or be restored as quickly as possible given a severely  
16 disruptive event. We had to interact with DOE, for example,  
17 because there is so much overlap with the agency in terms of  
18 dealing with strategic materials. I won't go into too much  
19 detail about it, but we did issue our own internal manual  
20 chapter that implemented it. It principally was associated  
21 with what we called the Continuity Federal Program or  
22 Continuity of Operations. It was revised the last time about

1 eleven years ago. It essentially implements that Executive  
2 Order 12656.

3 Of course, in the '90's we had some other tragedies  
4 occur, our World Trade Center bombing, and the Tokyo subway gas  
5 attack, and then culminating by the true disaster in Oklahoma  
6 City. It was just a few months after the Oklahoma City bombing  
7 that PDD 39 was issued.

8 PDD 39 basically upped the ante from that National  
9 Security Directive. It officially defined National Security as  
10 being threatened by these kinds of acts. So, we as a nation  
11 again had to jack up and put together a manner in which we  
12 could plan to deal with these types of things. The highest  
13 priority was assigned to another series of initials, WMD,  
14 Weapons of Mass Destruction. It was another, NBC, Nuclear,  
15 Biological, and Chemical Forms of these terrorists.

16 The State Department was assigned to lead anything  
17 associated with International terrorism and response. The FBI  
18 was to lead on the domestic. FEMA was to manage the  
19 consequences of anything that may happen. It also directed all  
20 of the agencies to reduce the vulnerabilities for the  
21 facilities. It came up with a plan that determined the speed  
22 with which we would recover and be handling our essential

1 functions again. As a part of this, we have an internal plan  
2 and a back up capability for a whole series of horrors that can  
3 happen to our headquarters office, how the regents could take  
4 over. Some of that is classified. At this point, it is enough  
5 to say that we spent a lot of time in handling this.

6 Also following the PDD 39, late that year, late 1995,  
7 early 1996, there was a study organized and sponsored under  
8 FEMA to determine just what capabilities we had in place at  
9 that time to respond to a series of events. The report  
10 hypothesized a nuclear, biological, and a chemical event.

11 Then they looked at how we as an agency responded to  
12 it. A report was prepared. It was to be delivered to the  
13 President. There was a lot of time and effort spent on it. It  
14 provided a basis for us to see just where our weaknesses were.

15 It never, to my knowledge, were made public, partly  
16 because of its content, partly to what I call political. 1996  
17 was an election year. No one wanted to hear any bad news at  
18 that time. Nevertheless, it provided insights to all the  
19 agencies when they were following up on the plans to implement  
20 such as to help themselves preserve the integrity of our  
21 society as we know it.

22 Rapidly after that, as you can see, PPD 62, 63, and



1 67 came quickly. The headings provide some explanation of the  
2 context. The key is that each one built on the other. Each  
3 added another twist.

4 62 is the first time that cyberterrorism was actually  
5 mentioned as another potential in road for us to experience a  
6 major disruption in our society, the manner in which we do  
7 business.

8 63 specifically brought out aspects of cyberterrorism  
9 and what requirements were on our part to respond as an agency  
10 with systems that we had internally, electronic systems that we  
11 base our everyday operations on. How they were to be  
12 protected. How they were to isolated. How were they to be  
13 upgraded, enhanced. That is on the way. Some of our systems  
14 are already have reached the level that we feel meet the  
15 requirements of the intent. We are not there yet.

16 The PDD 67, the grand daddy of them all, was also  
17 issued in that same year, 1998. It put a big wrapper around  
18 all the PDD's. It has a long list of both classified and  
19 non-classified aspects of what levels of protection are  
20 required out of all the agencies, to be prepared to the widest  
21 possible range that the government could think of, even given  
22 that they occur, a very rapid recovery time to minimize the

1 long term consequences. We as an agency are in the process of  
2 completing some aspects of 67 and in the process of just  
3 beginning.

4           There are unclassified versions of summaries of this  
5 available. As documents themselves, they are classified,  
6 because of the thing that are said in them. I am trying to be  
7 very careful because it is easy to slip on one side. It is  
8 very important, in terms of our continuation as a society when  
9 you see, think, and plan for the types of things that can  
10 happen out there.

11           In a fashion, I don't want to play on my own  
12 cynacisms when it comes to federal programs, but these PDD's  
13 were issued without a regard and probably even an understanding  
14 of the infrastructure that exists already. Clearly the NRC has  
15 had a relationship with the FBI and other law enforcement  
16 agencies for many many years.

17           We do know from the old ADC days even that the FBI is  
18 in charge of handling any crimes associated with any nuclear  
19 materials. With the influences of these PDD's there are other  
20 aspects that are brought into bear. As I told you, the very  
21 first PDD up here made the FBI the lead federal agency for  
22 crisis management. How does that fit in with the existing

1 federal response plan, the existing FRERP, Federal Radiological  
2 Emergency Response Plan? Well, that wasn't recognized or  
3 understood. Now we have this interlacing thing. How do we  
4 make this all work?

5           The second thing that happened is that there is a  
6 very heavy emphasis on agencies with very large capabilities.  
7 That is natural. One of the PDD's specifically mentions six  
8 key agencies to handle these kind of responses and  
9 determinations. We weren't one of them. We are not listed.

10           The story with the FBI is one that I can extrapolate  
11 to. I have find out that a lot of the federal, and the state  
12 bretheron that we have out there, just don't know a lot about  
13 us.

14           Even though we are not specifically pointed out, the  
15 second thing that happens, when you are not recognized, is the  
16 key to everything, that is a budget item, money to deal with  
17 all of these requirements. The kinds of funds that were given  
18 to the key agencies are rather enormous and we have had to  
19 carve out our efforts in this area from our existing  
20 infrastructure and ensure that we have our place within all the  
21 structure here with all these other agencies. We do that so  
22 that we can effectively carry out these requirements just as

1 well as anybody else. That has been the challenge. That is  
2 what we are in the middle of.

3           Read the definition of lead federal agency and you  
4 look at what we have had as our basis of operation and  
5 response. We have to make sure that these don't collide,  
6 because the school is intergration. FLA, defined in the FRERP,  
7 very clearly. FLA which is defined here, same term, but  
8 slightly different use and no clue in the writing as how they  
9 are suppose to mesh. What is crisis management? What is  
10 consequence management? How does it fit into the exercises  
11 that we have at plants every other year? It is very -- it has  
12 been challenged.

13           What we are doing is looking with our existing  
14 documents and modifying them, enhancing them, and looking for  
15 opportunities as soon as possible to implement them. We have  
16 had over a -- beginning with March of last year the FBI reached  
17 the commission in closed session discussing some of their  
18 activities in this area. It became apparent at that meeting to  
19 both parties that things were not tied together between the two  
20 agencies as well as they should. We briefed the commission on  
21 what we know, what our plans are, and what we have already  
22 accomplished, that was done July of last year. It was followed

1 by a commission directive to jack up the effort, get in a  
2 circumstance where we can actually drill with these other  
3 agencies as soon as possible. That is the basis on which we  
4 have been operating since the departments memorandum came out  
5 last August.

6           The staff responded back with a schedule that was  
7 probably realistic. I can say that in terms of the wonderful  
8 cooperation that we have gotten from our federal agencies, also  
9 the state and local law enforcement, we have been able to  
10 accomplish more and more quickly than we even promised. That  
11 is not a very common occurrence, so when it comes to writing  
12 schedules -- I would say we are doing that.

13           What we are doing is enhancing our own concept of  
14 operation in responding to terrorism. The component that we  
15 have for our internal protection, the continuity of operation  
16 is part of this, that is complete. The part where we are  
17 dealing with other agencies to handle these kinds of things  
18 with our licensees is ongoing.

19           We had, May of this year, our first intergrated  
20 exercise. It involved law enforcement, our licensee, and other  
21 state and local departments. It was held in Lynchburg,  
22 Virginia. We had a tabletop, an arrangement very similar to

1 this. We talked about how we may go about dealing with an  
2 incident at a licensee site like that one that we used for our  
3 example plan. We talked about the written procedures and  
4 processes that each of the table brought to it and we talked  
5 about how they worked. From that we had some very good  
6 experience in getting to know our counterparts.

7           It lead to an actual field exercise that was held in  
8 Erwin, Tennessee, just a little over a month ago. That was one  
9 where we had a -- basically a criminal activity on a licensed  
10 site with the potential for radiological consequences. It  
11 should have fit under our MOU with the FBI a decade ago, it had  
12 aspects in it that were expanded from what we did a decade ago.  
13 There were lessons learned. It was very strongly participated  
14 in by the NRC, as well as the other agencies. We went all out  
15 and that was also true with our counterparts.

16           We are just in the early stages of planning another  
17 similar event at a power plant, Palo Verde plant. Our intents  
18 there are still under discussion, but this one -- by virtue of  
19 the fact that our counterparts at the FBI intend to have the  
20 full deployment of their capabilities at this practice, it  
21 includes well over two hundred agents participating. It is a  
22 rather substancial effort on their part. It is going to take

1 -- we have six, seven months to prepare for this, but this will  
2 be the first time that we have ever responded with law  
3 enforcement at that scale. It should prove to be interesting  
4 and illuminating.

5           We want to build on as much of the existing  
6 infrastructure as possible. We don't want to reinvent the  
7 wheel. We want to make sure that all the ties that you people  
8 have in place are maximized and used as much as possible. We  
9 know them. We know that they work. People know each other  
10 very well. We know how to interact. The real key is now  
11 adding this other component in the most effective and efficient  
12 way possible.

13           The term of Crisis Management is something new. We  
14 never had that term before. We also have the definition that  
15 SDFBI show. How does that fit in with the federal agency  
16 concept under the FRERP when one of our licensee has a problem?  
17 That is a key issue that we have to work out. How do we  
18 coordinate? We still have a joint operations center. We still  
19 have a joint information center, but the parties in those  
20 centers are now going to be expanding.

21           The management structure in my picturing of this  
22 would be no different, except for the addition of another

1 principal party with another perspective to bring to the  
2 management team that will determine the matter in which that  
3 response to that event takes place. Both parties come to the  
4 table with the LFA across their forehead.

5 I don't believe that the consequence management term  
6 with FEMA as the designated lead is quite as difficult to  
7 impliment. I don't picture it as very different than what we  
8 do now. It is already well coordinated with FEMA and EPA  
9 handling issues like reentry and so on.

10 In any case, let me just point out that we intend to  
11 make use, as much as we can, the existing structure. The  
12 biggest challenges is in the initial phases. We are  
13 concentrating on the first part. We have interaction with the  
14 FBI with small events. It is the big scale things that I am  
15 more interested in. Let's -- let's skip some slides and go to  
16 the last one.

17 We all will be effected ultimately by this. We are  
18 continuing our program with the FBI. We are learning the FBI  
19 functions. They have fifty-six field offices that are very  
20 autonomous. We are trying to link in with headquarters and  
21 trying to train as many of them as possible. That takes some  
22 time and effort, but it is working very well. I apologize for



1 going a little bit longer than I intended. Thank you.

2 CHIP CAMERON: That is okay. Thank you for that  
3 overview, Frank. I think that the states are going to be  
4 interested in some of the implementation and how it effects  
5 them. We will go to Aubrey Godwin for first comment.

6 AUBREY GODWIN: From a state perspective you need to  
7 recognize that your local special agent in charge determines  
8 largely how you are going to interact with the FBI. We have  
9 had two since they started this program. One was very very pro  
10 state and local set up. The one that we have currently is not  
11 so pro. It is very difficult to understand how they are going  
12 to operate. They prefer to have their joint information center  
13 from the one that is called for in the plan for the response  
14 for other emergencies. It is not clear whether there is going  
15 to be a joint operation between the state and the FBI or  
16 whether it is going to just be the NRC and the FBI. So there  
17 are somethings that you need to be aware of when you get into  
18 these things. There are some rough edges that we sort of  
19 smoothed over.

20 FRANK CONGEL: There definitely are some. One thing  
21 that I wanted to mention, the FBI like the NRC recognizes one  
22 very very important fact. The initial response and in the mass

1 majority of the circumstances that I can imagine the initial  
2 response is done by the state, locals, and the licensee. If  
3 that is all done well and effectively, we, as the federal guys,  
4 come in and help with the aftermath. Lots of times we will  
5 push the event to get a more active involvement, but the  
6 reality is that the initial response is the most important and  
7 the most likely time that true lifesaving takes place. That  
8 has not changed.

9 CHIP CAMERON: Bill Kirk, Pennsylvania.

10 BILL KIRK: A couple of years ago we had a three day  
11 terrorist exercise called Vigilant Lion. It was planned by the  
12 Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. It included EPA,  
13 DOE, and I believe the Region One NRC was there. This was the  
14 first time that I have run into the FBI. It was one of these  
15 things where skin canes or curies of stridium were used for terrorist  
16 purposes, contaminated a bunch of people. They were  
17 threatening to contaminate and blow up a bunch of other things.

18 One problem that we had, the minute that the FBI came  
19 in and became lead federal agency, the emphasis shifted from  
20 radiation protection to preserving a crime scene. They were  
21 far more interested in preserving a crime scene than preventing  
22 further radiological efforts.

1           FRANK CONGEL: They are different agency  
2 perspectives. They need to be intergrated. It is another  
3 challenge.

4           CHIP CAMERON: Bill, maybe you could elaborate on  
5 what the implications are that you saw for public health and  
6 safety from changing that perspective. Does anybody have any  
7 comments on that? You think about that and we will go to Stan.  
8 I think that he does have something to say about it.

9           STAN MARSHALL: I have been quite for a couple of  
10 days, but I will speak now. Not at the CRCPD representative,  
11 nor as a OAS officer or representative, but just as a state, I  
12 have had the burden as well as the privelege to participate for  
13 the last three years -- two to four times a year for three  
14 years now at an activity in southern Nevada where a number of  
15 agencies come together. I think that I can call it nuclear  
16 training that the DOE sponsors. It is an activity where  
17 sixty-five to seventy-five people come together to talk about  
18 terrorism involving radioactive materials.

19           DOE and the contractors are there, the Department of  
20 Justice, FBI, the Department of State, there is everybody  
21 imaginable. The purpose for my involvement has been invitation  
22 to participate on a local and state panel to help portray to

1 these federal agencies the local and state impact of a federal  
2 response. If under the federal plan the EPA is the lead -- it  
3 might change where NRC becomes the lead, it might change to  
4 where the FBI becomes the lead. The intent of this local panel  
5 is to help the federal family understand the instant command  
6 system that kicks in at the local level, where state response,  
7 maybe even you as a public health agency are involved, and the  
8 intent is to help educate them that they need to understand and  
9 honor a governor's intent, a public health agency's intent, a  
10 radiation control intent. As things swing away from a public  
11 health agency, from a health inspection perspective, it can  
12 role into a crime scene protection scenerio.

13 To me it has been a rude awakening for me. I hope an  
14 honest learning curve for them, that there is a lot to be  
15 understood. There is a lot to be organized among the federal  
16 family. They originally had this local panel on the third day  
17 of the three day class. They now have moved it to the first  
18 day, because these folks don't understand the local and state  
19 impacts that you and I are involved with.

20 Many of you with reactors are ahead of us, without  
21 reactors because you have your annual exercises. To me it is  
22 still -- I am hopeful that we are all in the growth curve. It

1 will be interesting to watch the continuing participation. I  
2 would ask any of you that if you have the chance to attend the  
3 class.

4 CHIP CAMERON: Let's go to Bob, who has had his card  
5 up for a while and then we will go to Ed.

6 BOB LEOPOLD: Bob Leopold, Nebraska. I think that  
7 this is a case where the state are in a different circumstance  
8 than the NRC. The Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Weapons of  
9 Mass Destruction Act provides a lot of funding. It funds a  
10 hundred and twenty communities in the state, in each state. In  
11 each of these events you have to put together a plan. It is  
12 going to take our state about eighteen months and we are in the  
13 middle now of putting together the plan, so that we will be  
14 eligible to spend the money.

15 The plans have to be done by your emergency  
16 management agencies. So, if you are not involved in this, you  
17 have to get involved. That is the only way to make sure that  
18 you are included. That is the only way that your resources are  
19 identified as either being available or that you need some  
20 more.

21 The FBI is indeed in charge of the crime scene, but  
22 one of the things that you have to do in advance is sit down

1 with them and help them understand the difference between the  
2 crime scene and providing emergency care and radiation safety.  
3 If you wait until these events, you will get chaos. So, if you  
4 are not in contact with your emergency management agencies, you  
5 need to do that immediately.

6 CHIP CAMERON: Great. Ed?

7 EDWARD BAILEY: I am glad that you reminded me of  
8 that. We got a request the other day for a list of all the  
9 facilities. The way the words are written, nuclear materials  
10 facility. So, do they want a copy of the two thousand  
11 something licenses that we have? We have gone back for  
12 clarification. Somebody -- the words that they call for in the  
13 plans are not defined and open to a lot of interpretation.

14 BOB LEOPOLD: They have very little time. They are  
15 under a very tight time constraint. They want to get the money  
16 and spend it.

17 EDWARD BAILEY: It has boiled down to now that if you  
18 have plutonium on your license, even if it is a 5 micro curie  
19 source, they want that identified as a nuclear facility. We  
20 have had some experiences with the FBI. I think that I told  
21 you a few years ago about the weapon of mass destruction that  
22 occurred in California. The FBI came in and arrested a college

1 researcher.

2           We also had one where an object was found at these  
3 meetings that they have between the FBI and the HAZMAT or  
4 emergency response people. The emergency people said we found  
5 this thing and described it. The FBI came running into one of  
6 our offices and virtually held that office under lock and key  
7 for three days. We assured them that there was no radiation  
8 hazard from this device. They could not take it from us. It  
9 was like four days before they finally got somebody to come and  
10 pick it up. They kept the office guarded around the clock.

11           CHIP CAMERON: Thanks, Ed. I think that Don Cool  
12 wants to add something.

13           DON COOL: I just wanted to follow up on the question  
14 that actually got started by Bill Kirk, which is the ease in  
15 which you can be distracted from radiation safety, radiological  
16 controls, and contamination controls. In the event, exercise  
17 that we did at NFS Erwin, that really came to like because it  
18 was extremely difficult as we went through that exercise, for  
19 those of us who were doing the protective measures part of it,  
20 to attempt to try and get data, and get that data to get the  
21 same degree of resignation.

22           The focus of bad guys, guns, terrorism, in fact

1 played out in sort of a frustrating way as we found out after  
2 the fact. When they constructed the scenario, they had the bad  
3 guys have a criticality, but they forgot to consider the fact  
4 that the criticality would result in some contamination at  
5 off-site exposures. So, when we went looking for it we were  
6 never able to find anything, much to everybody's chagrin. Just  
7 another reminder that while maintaining safety has other pieces  
8 of aspects, it is very very easy to get distracted from the  
9 issues of contamination in individuals and radiation.

10 CHIP CAMERON: Good. Thanks for adding that, Don.  
11 Frank do you have anything to add onto what Don said.

12 FRANK CONGEL: There is a lot going on. What I am  
13 listening to actually is that there is more than one other  
14 effort parallel with this with law enforcement agencies to  
15 develop what we call a medical strike team. There are a number  
16 of areas that are involved here. All I wanted, and had time  
17 for this morning, was to talk about how we are trying to  
18 intergrate the existing infrastructure for emergency response.

19 EDWARD BAILEY: Can I add one thing? These -- they  
20 are spending a lot of money on equipment. My take on it is  
21 that they are creating a new set of civil defense people out  
22 there with meters that are harder to operate and they



1 understand less. There is no way that the people that they are  
2 training are ever going to see enough material to keep current.  
3 I mean, if the meter does anything they panic.

4 CHIP CAMERON: Let's go to Stan and then we will go  
5 to Ray.

6 STAN MARSHALL: Mine is a quick commercial. Some of  
7 you attended the tenth annual National Radiological Emergency  
8 Preparedness Conference that was in Reno in April of this year.  
9 I believe that the next conference is in the year 2001. It is  
10 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. It is a good opportunity. I  
11 think that NRC will be there, as they were in April. There is  
12 -- the attendance last year was about three hundred and fifty.  
13 It was comprised of radiological control types and emergency  
14 preparedness people from the states.

15 It is a specialty conference, kind of like this one.  
16 The topic is just emergency preparedness. A lot of discussion  
17 about reactor response, but they are trying to get off the  
18 reactor response theme to deal with other stuff.

19 CHIP CAMERON: Okay. Thanks, Stan. We are going to  
20 go to Ray and then Aubrey.

21 RAY MANLY: Ray Manly, Maryland. I am curious. Most  
22 of your examples up there you indicated were all licensed

1 facilities. In Maryland, earlier this spring, we had a  
2 terrorist drill dealing with an explosive device spreading  
3 material all over the local terrain. Does the NRC -- it  
4 appeared to be absent from that particular drill in their own  
5 backyard. Does the NRC have plans for participating in  
6 non-license facility events?

7 FRANK CONGEL: It depends on how things evolve. That  
8 is a good example of a lack of coordination quite frankly. In  
9 fact, this event that is unfolding was originally an FBI idea.  
10 We were casually invited. We have a long way to go at this  
11 intergration.

12 CHIP CAMERON: Let's go to Aubrey. Then we will  
13 finish up with Bill.

14 AUBREY GODWIN: You should be aware of a few things  
15 that the FBI may or may not bring. They will not have film  
16 badges. They will not have potassium iodine. None of their  
17 people will be instructed in the hazards of radiation. They  
18 may or may not be HAZMAT qualified to enter a hot zone. And,  
19 they are going to be in charge.

20 Ed is quite right they are buying instrumentation.  
21 They are buying expensive instrumentation, possibly better than  
22 you have. They are not buying calibration services. They are

1 not buying any training, because they have money for  
2 instruments and equipment. They go and get it. Later they try  
3 to figure out how to use it.

4 FRANK CONGEL: Aubrey, before you make any  
5 conclusions about what they are going to do and what they are  
6 not going to do, I think you better wait. The reason that I  
7 say that is that right now some NRC guys are meeting with the  
8 FBI guys in Quantico about putting the scenario together. The  
9 kind of conclusions or at least the statements that you are  
10 making may not come to pass.

11 BOB LEOPOLD: But over half of a hundred and twenty  
12 communities have already spent their money.

13 FRANK CONGEL: I understand that. We are mixing a  
14 couple of concepts here. The money that you are talking about  
15 is not part of the FBI.

16 CHIP CAMERON: Okay. When we do break, if there is  
17 further comments about that you guys can talk about that. I  
18 want to get Bill on and then we do have a final comment from  
19 Commissioner Dicus.

20 BILL KIRK: I didn't get too deeply involved in what  
21 went on with that exercise, but it involved something along the  
22 order of three or four hundred people, starting out at the very

1 lowest local level, in the hospitals, fire departments, county  
2 sheriff's, Pennsylvania State Police, and so on. In all told  
3 there were probably a dozen and a half agencies involved by the  
4 time that we got done. I think that the biggest lesson of it  
5 is planning for communication is absolutely essential.

6           It was a Chinese fire drill for a while. I have  
7 rarely seen anything so screwed up. People had a hard time  
8 knowing who was suppose to get what and it was hard to get the  
9 information there. It demonstrated how confused things can get.

10           CHIP CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Greta?

11           GRETA DICUS: I just want to underscore many of the  
12 things that I heard today. As Frank mentioned, our meetings  
13 with the FBI were illuminating. The FBI was clueless about who  
14 we were and what we did. They were also clueless on what kinds  
15 of issues they might encounter when they went into the  
16 radiological scene. What I would like to underscore is that to  
17 the extent that you can get through your buracracies to make  
18 your field office aware of situations.

19           In Region Four there are twenty-seven field offices.  
20 We are dealing with headquarters. I think that we have them  
21 trained, part of them. But, what about your field offices?  
22 They are really autonomous. So, to the extent that you have

1 the ability -- Aubrey is shaking his head yes, and it's true.  
2 You can make them aware of who you are and what you do. In all  
3 probability they are going to go rushing into the scene to  
4 preserve the crime scene with total disregard for the  
5 radiological consequences to what they are doing. At the  
6 commission level, this does have a very high priority and we  
7 are dealing with it very much.

8 CHIP CAMERON: Thank you, Greta. Roland?

9 ROLAND FLETCHER: I just have a comment. This is an  
10 example of why a national radiation alliance, that is well  
11 publised and known, is so needed. I am just finding out that  
12 there are a hundred and twenty communities that need my help.  
13 We aren't in a position to give it, because many of us are just  
14 finding out what they are doing. We need to do something to  
15 make sure that people know who to go to when they have  
16 situations like this.

17 CHIP CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Frank, for  
18 stimulated that discussion.

19 (Recess.)

20 CHIP CAMERON: Joe Klinger, the Chief of the Division  
21 of Radioactive Materials with the Illinios Department of  
22 Nuclear Safety. I am going to turn it over to Joe to talk

1 about the Tritium Guy.

2           JOE KLINGER: Thank you. Can everybody Hear me? All  
3 right. Thanks. I hope you all in the back can see my slides.  
4 I have been sitting back there a couple of days and either my  
5 eyes are going bad or it is just not good back there.

6           What I would like to do before I get going on the  
7 Tritium Guy, facinating guy, I have something else on my mind  
8 that I have to share with you. We have been talking about the  
9 warm fuzzy alliance and everything. It is really important to  
10 me and I totally believe in it, but I had a situation just the  
11 other day that kind of bothered me.

12           I received some e-mails and some phone calls recently  
13 that said have you looked at the recent publication of Inside  
14 NRC. Now, keep in mind, I am the Chairman of the E-34  
15 Committee. Greta Dicus mentioned how important that it is to  
16 her. I said no, I haven't. What is going on? They said,  
17 well, there is an article in there and you need to take a look  
18 at it.

19           I looked at it and it said, "NRC staff unhappy with  
20 progress on National Ergon Source Program". It didn't help  
21 that warm fuzzy feeling with the alliance right there. The  
22 first thought that came to mind was, my God, the NRC is

1 criticizing for some organization for being slow? That would  
2 be like Ed Bailey criticizing someone for having bad slides.  
3 Come on.

4           Then I read the article. After that I thought well  
5 it is not that bad, except that the reporter keyed on a couple  
6 of ambiguous phrases in an Executive Report that was released  
7 recently. Really he miss characterized and kind of maligned  
8 our efforts on the E-34. It really bothered me. I am kind of  
9 seething of it, but it is really at the reporter, not so much  
10 anybody else.

11           I just kind of wanted to set the records straight  
12 before I talk about the Tritium Guy and just highlight what is  
13 going on with the Ergon Source Group. We haven't been sitting  
14 on our thumbs, which is really what is implied in this article.  
15 Most of you have probably recieved this brochure, which is of  
16 the little guy in the yellow thing on the picture. We have  
17 been working on the pilot program. We went out to Colorado --  
18 I would like to take this opportunity to commend Jake Jacobi.  
19 Jake Jacobi hosted our group in March. It was a great meeting.  
20 He had Tim Bonzer from his staff meet with us.

21           We nailed down all the specifics on the pilot  
22 program. That is really the key program right now. We have

1 taken care of almost everything else, but the pilot program is  
2 essential. We have got to demonstrate that we can actually  
3 handle all of the ergon sources, not just give people  
4 directions on what they can do and then make them pay for it,  
5 but actually disposition sources. That is what we need to  
6 demonstrate. If we can do that, NRC has got some money  
7 budgeted for next year. If they buy into our program, we can  
8 take it nation wide. That is essentially where we are.

9 Right now, for the past few months, we have been  
10 bogged down in contractual issues between CRCPD and the State  
11 of Colorado. Which at first I was real frustrated with, but I  
12 realized that that is part of the pilot. We have to work out  
13 that kind of liability, legal, contractual issues before we  
14 can go nation wide. It is an essential part. You can not go  
15 national with out resolving these problems. So, it is  
16 frustrating. It is being delayed, but there is progress. It  
17 is our highest priority. I just wanted to set the record  
18 straight on that.

19 Okay. The Tritium Guy. Okay. Tritium. Who cares  
20 about tritium, right? Most people would think it's no big  
21 deal. Well, this came about from a generally licensed exit  
22 sign. We have all seen generally licensed exit signs. They



1 are safe. They are important. In case of fire, they  
2 illuminate the egress routes. They are inexpensive. They need  
3 very little maintainance. They are everywhere. In Illinois  
4 alone we estimate that there are twelve thousand of these.  
5 Throughout the country, an estimated three hundred and fifty  
6 thousand.

7           They are manufactured and distributed under a  
8 specific license. These are generally licensed devices. They  
9 are glass tubes, gaseous tritium. A pure beta emittor. 18.6  
10 KEV. Half life, 12.3 years. Biological half life, ten days.  
11 That is real important. Phosphurous zincsulfite. It glows due  
12 to the beta interactions with the phosphur. So, it is a very  
13 simple thing, but it serves a purpose.

14           That is what it looks like. It is just like any  
15 other exit sign that you see. There are no wires going into  
16 it. It is low maintainance and that is why we sell quite a  
17 few. Those are the tubes. There are four tubes in this  
18 particular sign. This is a broken tube. I will get into the  
19 details of what happened. In that particular sign, there are  
20 four tubes. 5 curies -- 5 curies of tritium in each tube.

21           Problems: multi curie quantities of tritium. The  
22 GL's are not required to be specifically licensed or to be

1 registered with us in any way. That is in our state. I don't  
2 know how your state is, but I suspect that it is the same way.  
3 The people that have these are not aware that they are in  
4 possession of any radioactive materials. They are not aware  
5 that they are regulated. They are not aware of the proper  
6 disposal. They labeling could be much improved.

7           Okay. On these signs, what I know is -- they have  
8 all this other stuff on here. Everything, plus talking about  
9 anything that is radioactive. So, if anybody is not familiar  
10 with these signs look at it they would say that thing is not  
11 radioactive, because the labeling for the sign that we got  
12 involved in are on the back of the frame. You have to take the  
13 whole mount of and that is where the label is. So, that became  
14 a problem. If you look on the back there is some labeling  
15 there. It says that it is tritium and it has some of the basic  
16 information. You have to look very carefully to see that.

17           Now, on the tube itself, and this became part of the  
18 argument with the general licensee later, they said this  
19 things weren't labeled at all. I wasn't sure if they were  
20 labeled, the tubes. But later on, we looked and each of the  
21 tubes, at the end, are actually labeled. But you have to look  
22 very carefully. Okay?

1           Next slide. Okay. Problems: they are safe and  
2 effective unless you have the inquisitive, the intelligent, and  
3 the most dreaded of all, tritium guys. We had a tritium guy in  
4 New Jersey.

5           I remember being up in New Hampshire and John Fenney  
6 was giving a presentation about these tritium signs. I didn't  
7 pay much attention. In fact, I left the room and fiddled  
8 around. Who cares? I am not going to have anybody stupid  
9 enough in my state to do that. I am serious. I remember he  
10 said that there were twenty-three agencies -- his paper was  
11 about how many agencies does it take to respond to an exit  
12 sign. In his case, it was twenty-three agencies, \$100,000 in  
13 contractual costs, and all kinds of problems. It was a litany  
14 of errors and it was just a horrible mess.

15           Well, not only did they have one, and that particular  
16 one was kind of amusing. It was a teenage kid who came across  
17 one of these signs. While he was eating some sesame seeds, or  
18 something, sunflower seeds and he is putting this tritium, the  
19 phosphur on a swimsuit poster in his bedroom, thinking this is  
20 going to be neat. I am going to have this gal showing up in  
21 the dark. He is eating these sunflower seeds and he is going  
22 -- hey, maybe this isn't good. Somehow he realized that this

1 could be a problem.

2           They had another one where it was a child at a  
3 treatment center. The kid threw a tantrum. He broke a tritium  
4 sign, contaminated the area. That one cost \$200,000 to clean  
5 up. It also had all kinds of agencies involved too.

6           So, what happened in Illinois? Our experience wasn't  
7 that dramatic. Our tritium guy was a very interesting person.  
8 He works at MINWAX in Flora, Illinois. I didn't even know  
9 where Flora was. It is in central Illinois. He is a scavenger  
10 there.

11           It's a Sherman-William's Paint place. Whenever they  
12 have anything left over there and they are about to take it to  
13 the trash, they call the tritium guy over and say is there  
14 anything here that you would like. He is a tinkerer. He is a  
15 scavenger. He takes everything. Well, they asked him and they  
16 had these tubes and he thought, oh my God, what can I do with  
17 these. I bet that would be something neat. If this thing  
18 glows here, I'll bet that I can put this in my gun.

19           So, he takes it to this garage. Usually there are  
20 like six kids running all around and everything. He takes it  
21 into the garage. It is a nice garage. Luckily no one is living  
22 upstairs yet. He was going to put his son and wife up there

1 pretty soon, but luckily they weren't up there now. This  
2 happened in November of last year. So, he takes this thing in.

3           Next slide. It doesn't look too bad. Next slide.  
4 Not too bad. Now the next slide. Now, inside it was a  
5 disaster. So, he takes it in there and he decides -- how am I  
6 going to get this stuff out. Well, he decides that he will  
7 take a big hammer, and take a tube, and -- POW. And, he kept  
8 hitting it and he kept hitting it. He said, you know, that  
9 wasn't easy either.

10           It wasn't easy, but he did it and he broke it open.  
11 All of a sudden -- sniff -- what is that smell? The zinc  
12 sulfide with the tritium got this odor and he goes this is  
13 awful. Maybe I ought to look into this?

14           What he did then after the tritium and everything is  
15 all over the place, he took a look at the tube apparently and  
16 saw the labeling on it. It said tritium. He didn't know what  
17 tritium is. It didn't say that it was radioactive. Luckily he  
18 did contact the poison control center. The poison control  
19 center contacted RACS. They told him -- you know, take a  
20 shower, bag up all your clothes, do this and that. Then when  
21 we finally heard about this we wondered -- you know, this guy  
22 isn't too dumb. He knew to bag up his clothes and do all that,

1 but that was because, I found out later what had happened.

2 He did it right there at that drawer. That is where  
3 he broke it open. So, that whole area was contaminated. So,  
4 he had tritium contamination throughout that whole area.

5 Next slide. Again, this is more of the same. There  
6 are just parts everywhere. It was a mess to clean up.

7 Next slide. So, we went out there -- we sent some  
8 people out. Luckily, inside the house, where people were  
9 living, the only contamination was around the phone books and  
10 the phone. It wasn't too bad though. But inside the garage  
11 here it was like 300,000 pCi. So, it was a bit high. So, we  
12 had to take some action.

13 Now, the contamination assessment was -- wipe samples  
14 are the only effective means with tritium. We really don't  
15 have any really good portable monitors for it. So, then  
16 urinalises. So, right away we took urines from the guy, from  
17 the family, and everything. We had to take the urine down to  
18 our lab in Springfield.

19 So, contamination methods: 340 Appendix A, that is  
20 similar to 1.86 -- 1,000 pCi/100 cm<sup>2</sup> that is an average. 5,000  
21 maximum. 150mrem. Those are the standards. Those are in our  
22 rules. That is what we have to live by right now.

1           We did surveys all the time and over a period of time  
2 -- now we had the benefit of just letting the stuff disapeate  
3 over time just by ventilating. So, we took surveys and we have  
4 the measurements here. We are trying to get everything to be  
5 green, that is all that tells you. We are trying to get  
6 everything to be green or yellow, 'cause that means that it is  
7 clean. The red areas up there around the workbench -- that is  
8 really where the workbench is, right there. That is where the  
9 contamination, the heaviest contamination was and that was no  
10 surprise.

11           So, over a period of about five months or so we kept  
12 taking samples. We finally got down to the point where we had  
13 to do something, because it wasn't going to take care of  
14 itself. Next slide. This shows the spread sheet. Next slide.  
15 Again, some of the -- let's just pick one, the one there is a  
16 110,000 pCi in November and then 57,000 -- went down to 6,000.  
17 Then we cleaned it and well -- we got it down to 6,000 and it  
18 kept dropping after that. Okay?

19           Okay. So, like I said, we had the benefit of the  
20 garage. No one was living there. We had time. Most of the  
21 source was initially removed. When we sent our people in --  
22 they had the broken tube and they removed that. It acted kind

1 of like a particular. We were very lucky there. We had the  
2 equipment, supplies, and the man power.

3 In New Jersey, they pay contracts. We thought, you  
4 know, we have the training. We have the expertise. Let us  
5 have a shot at this one. We wanted to do it. So, we did.

6 Next. So, how did we do it? Basic methods -- HB  
7 contamination, rotated duties, a non-phosphate detergent. We  
8 used that so that it wouldn't have any interference with  
9 detectors. Lots of Iso-propyl alcohol. We thought that it  
10 would bind with the tritium. It did. That worked really well.  
11 We washed it down, and air dried, ventilated, and heated. We  
12 heated it to help viotilized it and ventalate.

13 Then for the small items we came up with this neat  
14 thing. We had all these parts, bolts, screws and thing. If  
15 they are contaminated and we throw it all up, you are just  
16 adding bulk to your waste. There has to be a better way. We  
17 came up with a vegetable collander. We simply put the bolts in  
18 there and put in the iso-propyl alcohol mixture. We shook it.  
19 We did all that and then we collected the fluid. We wipe  
20 tested those parts and if they were clean we were satisfied.  
21 That worked out really well. It was a good little trick that  
22 we came up with.



1           So, that is what we did. We suited up, laid out the  
2 area there, and started scrubbing. We started wiping the  
3 areas, we started decontaminating the areas that we knew were  
4 the -- were above our limits, those red dots on our spread.

5           Next. Again, that is our -- coming out of the door  
6 there is some of our equipment, our clean line outside and all  
7 that. This is what it looked like afterwards. It was really  
8 grunt work. It was just cleaning. Then these are some heaters  
9 that we used. We cleaned all the area out. We thought we  
10 would just have to throw that wooden bench out, but it turned  
11 out that we did not. We had all -- the equipment on the  
12 shelves over here, all these bolts and stuff, we went through  
13 every one of them. We dumped them out, used the collanders,  
14 cleaned them, and put them back. More of the same.

15           Okay. Now, afterwards, after we did our wipe test,  
16 that is our results. Everything is green and yellow. Green  
17 and yellow is releasible. It meets our guidance and so -- so  
18 it all worked. It took us really two days, two days and there  
19 were three of us that did it. Okay? Again, that is just more  
20 details on the spreadsheet.

21           Next. Oh, here is -- it went from 110,000 on  
22 November 1999 and we got it down to thirty-four, 34 pCi. So,

1 we are pretty happy. Final dose estimates -- you would say,  
2 tritium guy, he inhaled some of this. Our initial estimates  
3 were 250mrem, using NCRP 65. But using a plasma physics lad, a  
4 guy named George Asyon there, has a -- it is called the REMedy  
5 program. If you have a problem with tritium, that is a good  
6 program to use. It is specific to tritium. Next one. It  
7 integrates ICRP-30 biokinetics models and the TEDE is based on  
8 average years for 24 hour periods. The spouse and the daughter  
9 were very very low, using that model again. They were much  
10 higher using -- 65.

11           Next. Okay. Costs: we did it ourselves. Staff  
12 time, including decontamination, meetings and travel. \$31,000.  
13 We bill at \$110 an hour to give you an idea. So, bioassay  
14 analyses -- wipe tests, those -- for every little dot that you  
15 saw that spread sheet and every time that we took at sample  
16 that is \$90. That is what we charged. That really added up.  
17 Every time that we take these wipes, you know, that is sixty  
18 wipes -- that is a lot of money. Someone is going to pay for  
19 it, hopefully not us. Okay. So, in total we generated four  
20 drums of waste and it came to \$4,000 for disposal costs. So,  
21 \$64,000. That is the total. Keeping in mind that New Jersey  
22 was \$100,000. \$200,000 -- that was with contractors and they

1 didn't count their staff time in those costs.

2           Okay. So, what are some recommendations? New Jersey  
3 came out with recommendations when Tim gave that paper. I just  
4 resurrected some of the same ones and agree totally. I should  
5 have been listening, because that paper really helped us out  
6 with some of the decontamination methods.

7           Labeling Improvements: I think that they can do a  
8 better job. So, if you are responsible for the licensing of  
9 the specific licensees, these manufacturers and distributors --  
10 if you would take a better, closer look at the labeling  
11 requirements and improve those that would be very helpful.  
12 Instead of having it on the back of the frame -- when they are  
13 damaged sometimes they don't -- those come out seperately. So,  
14 maintanance people look at it -- they don't know anything is  
15 radioactive, it goes out with the trash.

16           Okay. Sales Literature: if you look at the sales  
17 literature, which I did, and the catalogs there is no  
18 indication whatsoever that there is anything radioactive  
19 associated with these products. They say put them up and  
20 forget about them for up to twenty years, ten, twenty years.  
21 That is why people love them. The problem is that they do  
22 forget about them.

1           Next. Discourage proliferation simply to avoid  
2     electrical wire. Install protections to avoid damage to the  
3     exit signs. The exit sign that I showed earlier, there was  
4     damage all around it. You can see where forklift have been  
5     hitting all around the thing. I think that you need to protect  
6     it. There are probably a lot of facilities out there that are  
7     cracked up with tritium right now that we don't even know.

8           Revisit acceptable surface contamination levels, NRC  
9     reg guide 128.6 under related documents. We are going to  
10    revisit it, because they are probably too low. Why do we have  
11    to clean up to those levels? You know? Well, we debated that.  
12    We looked at all the alternatives. One was burn the place  
13    down. Just burn it. Why can't they just have a fire? Well, I  
14    don't think that is too good. And so, we talked about all  
15    different things. We said, well I think those levels are too  
16    low.

17           But, then if local media gets involved, and stuff,  
18    and says are cleaning this up to a certain level. Yeah. Well,  
19    what is that level? Well, it is the level in our rules. Now,  
20    if we were to say well no. The rules say this, but we are  
21    going to just let it go. Trust me. I don't think that would  
22    work. So, we are kind of stuck. Maybe in the future, if we

1 revise those guidelines, which is in our que to do, then maybe  
2 we will do it.

3 Possible Technological Improvements: we could  
4 solidify our mix of phosphur, so that it would be easier to  
5 clean up in these events.

6 Last, watch out for tritium guys in you neighborhood.  
7 It happened to me. It could happen to you. All right.  
8 Thanks.

9 CHIP CAMERON: Thank you, Joe. Any questions,  
10 comments? I don't know if Don Cool wants to add anything?  
11 Let's go to Bill.

12 BILL DUNDULIS: Joe -- Bill Dundulis, Rhode Island.  
13 Joe, one of your other things that you said about, you know,  
14 maybe mixing it with a matrix, what about the possibility of,  
15 instead of gas, sometype of Lexain or something that they use  
16 on street lights covers or a jet cockpit. You know, at least  
17 then you would need a bigger hammer to get it open.

18 JOE KLINGER: That is right. That sounds like a good  
19 idea. Those of you that are responsible that are responsible  
20 for the licensing there of -- of the manufacturers may consider  
21 something like that. That is a good idea.

22 MIKE BRODERICK: In Oklahoma, we have the privilege

1 of getting involved in this, even before last Friday. I  
2 suspect that the way we got involved will effect a number of  
3 you if you are aware of it. On most Army posts that were there  
4 during the World War II era or before, they have these old --  
5 these crummy old World War II temp -- they built temporary  
6 barracks in World War II for use for the duration of the  
7 conflict. They were still using them up until the last few  
8 years.

9           At Fort Sill in Oklahoma we had several cases --  
10 initially they tore down several of these barracks with the  
11 tritium signs, the exit signs, still in them. After we  
12 educated them about this, they went and surveyed. They found  
13 that in several of their barracks, when soldiers were about to  
14 go home from the Army -- they used that. They would rampage  
15 through the barracks and destroy the exit signs. We had a  
16 couple of the barracks with destroyed signs in them.

17           We worked with NRC region Four on it. In our case,  
18 they ended up -- with one of them we actually made them go with  
19 it as low-level waste. Some of the others where the  
20 contamination wasn't so bad -- they have something that is  
21 called what is called a construction demolition landfill. It  
22 is used for building rubble. They had one of those on federal

1 property that they wanted to use. We agreed. If you do that  
2 they will try to play your solid waste people against you.  
3 They will probably go to the solid waste people and say, well  
4 they said it was okay.

5 CHIP CAMERON: Thank you. Bill Kirk has something to  
6 say and his comment sort of ties into his next talk.

7 BILL KIRK: In the course of following up some  
8 allegations of illegal dumping of radioactive waste in one of  
9 our landfills we chanced to take a bunch of sample of landfill.  
10 Low and behold, 100,000 pCi per liter of tritium in the  
11 landfill. Labeling the methane coming out. It is causing all  
12 sorts of hate and discontent in the local activist groups. I  
13 wouldn't be surprise -- I saw an article that said over half  
14 the landfills in England, when they tested them, they had  
15 levels of tritium up above 10,000 pCi per liter. The notion is  
16 probably dumping signs. You don't know what you might have out  
17 there.

18 JOE KLINGER: It is just a good thing that it is not  
19 a low-level waste disposal site down there.

20 RUTH MCBIRNIE: Ruth McBirnie, Texas. I just had a  
21 quick question, Joe. Did the state absorb the cost?

22 JOE KLINGER: Ah! A very important part. Okay. No.

1 They have not. We went back to MINWAX the general licensee.  
2 We just billed them. I had some interesting conversations with  
3 the plant manager. He happened to be the former brother-in-law  
4 of the tritium guy. I told him, I told him that he is the  
5 general licensee and he is responsible. He said we didn't even  
6 know that the thing was radioactive. I said you are the  
7 general licensee. He said but it wasn't labeled. Then I  
8 showed him the picture of the tube that was up here with the  
9 labeling. He said damn, I feel victimized. He hasn't paid it  
10 yet, but it is a big company. It is Sherman-William's and I  
11 think that \$64,000 for them is not that big of a deal for them.  
12 He has already talked to his lawyers and all that stuff. We  
13 haven't heard anything negative back. So, I am assuming that  
14 they will pay that, but that is a key point. Thanks.

15 CHIP CAMERON: Okay. Don?

16 DON COOL: Well, seeing how you asked me. I guess  
17 there are a couple of things to just know. I very much agree  
18 with the recommendations that Joe has up there. The GO rule  
19 that the commission is approving is currently at OMB. It does  
20 contain some provisions with regards to clear labeling. Not  
21 withstanding what you think, the provisions like that do apply  
22 across all the generally licensed devices.



1           So, that moves in the right direction, but where the  
2 rubber will really meet the road is that when you do the  
3 individual reviews for the distributors, manufacturers, and  
4 interacting with them, not only on their manufacturing, and on  
5 their labeling. Take it apart and look at that as part of the  
6 review. Take a look at the sales literature and those sorts of  
7 things. The point that Joe made is something that we have also  
8 tripped over, which is that you get this less than full  
9 disclosure sorts of sales literature. We ran into several  
10 other cases where -- that was -- those sorts of words, buy it,  
11 throw it up, forget about it. It really misleads people and  
12 literally sets them up for contamination. They don't know.  
13 They weren't told. There was no accountability. The person  
14 that probably purchased it was probably in the purchasing  
15 office twenty years ago and has now retired to Florida.

16           CHIP CAMERON: Ed?

17           EDWARD BAILEY: I think that Joe mentioned in his  
18 talk -- hey, it is just tritium. That is one of the problems  
19 that we face in trying to set up a registration fee for these  
20 licenses. We look at them and say this is no big hazard in  
21 these things. It is just tritium.

22           We met with the tritium light people a few years ago.

1 We were proposing that -- when they sent us the quarterly  
2 report, one thing that we asked them to do was give us a name.  
3 Manager is not a name. Maintenance foreman is not a name.

4 The other thing that we have proposed to them, which  
5 we have not implemented yet, but perhaps will, is that the  
6 manufacturer, the distributor pay a fee of like five dollars  
7 per device to sold. That money would then be used for things  
8 like this, particularly when you don't have a good responsible  
9 party.

10 The other thing that needs to be done on generally  
11 licensed devices of all types is -- the -- the distributor  
12 should be required, in my opinion, to take those devices back.  
13 We have a lot of people who are very conscientious and want to do  
14 the right thing on disposal. They can't get the manufacturer  
15 or distributor to take them back. They come to use and they  
16 are told that it is going to be a \$1,000 for that waste, to get  
17 rid of it.

18 CHIP CAMERON: Great. Joe, thank you very much. All  
19 right. We are going to go to Bill Kirk now. He is the Chief  
20 of the Radiation Control Division in Pennsylvania's Bureau of  
21 Radiation.

22 BILL KIRK: When I looked at this schedule and saw

1 that I was on last I didn't know whether to be grateful that  
2 they gave me time to wake up or not like it because everybody  
3 is in a hurry to get out of here.

4 I am going to tell you a story that sort of  
5 illustrates the law of unintended consequences. Pennsylvania  
6 has a lot of landfills, a lot of solid waste facilities. We  
7 are either first or second in the country for accepting more  
8 solid waste from outside its borders than any other state in  
9 the country. If it wasn't for that commerce clause in the  
10 Constitution, we would be accepting a lot less waste than we  
11 do. Any how, we have fifty-one municipal landfills,  
12 forty-seven private landfills, seven construction and  
13 demolition landfills, seventy-three transfer stations, a couple  
14 of incinerators, composting facilities, and several other  
15 things. We also have some waste energy facilities.

16 A very short aside, a couple of weeks ago we were  
17 dealing with four cesium sources that went through one of these  
18 incinerators and wound up in an ash recycling facility. Then  
19 it went out to a -- we had alarms in two different -- two in  
20 Pittsburg and one in Delaware resulted from these things.  
21 They were little 2 millicurie cesium sources. Amazingly enough  
22 they had gone through the incinerator and were intact. They

1 were leaking a little bit, but two of the four were totally  
2 intact and two were leaking just a little bit. No one has a  
3 clue where they came from.

4           Some years ago -- I wrote the first landfill policy  
5 then, in 1995. The reason that we wrote it was that in 1987  
6 Pennsylvania passed its Low-Level Radioactive Waste Act.  
7 Amongst the many wise words in the act is something to the  
8 affect of thou shall not place low-level radioactive waste at  
9 any facility in Pennsylvania other than the licensed low-level  
10 waste site, which we don't have. I don't know if we ever will.

11           Any how, some liberal types reached the conclusion  
12 that radioactive material equals low-level radioactive waste.  
13 They started writing into landfill permits conditions that said  
14 they can't take anything radioactive. It took me two or three  
15 years to make the landfill people realize that they were all  
16 operative illegally, because almost everything in their  
17 landfill was radioactive.

18           Some of the landfills started playing CYA, or  
19 whatever, and installed monitors. We started responding to  
20 alarms at these landfills. They got up to about a hundred or  
21 so a year. We decided that we were wasting an awful lot of  
22 resources chasing around after various and sundry things in

1 landfills. We decided that we ought to write a guidance  
2 telling these people how they should operate their monitors,  
3 what levels they should be set at, and what sort of things they  
4 should do with it after they get the alarm.

5           What we wanted to do was to make sure that their  
6 responses were appropriate from a public health and  
7 environmental stand point. I remember that when we were  
8 sending a bunch of people out -- it was usually good for a day  
9 or two every time one of these things went off. Most of the  
10 alarms were things that were perfectly legal to go into the  
11 landfill. They were adult diapers and so on.

12           Next. The people who had this stuff had no idea what  
13 to do with it. They were legally responsibility for dealing  
14 with this stuff, but they really didn't know what to do with  
15 it, so they called. The cost was really very high if long life  
16 stuff got in and shouldn't have, particularly if it was  
17 classified as rad waste. Who was going to pay for it? The  
18 hauler and the solid waste facility had to pay for it, if the  
19 originator can't be identified.

20           One of the issues that is causing this is that most  
21 of these landfills had a citizen's monitoring group associated  
22 with it. I don't know if you have these in your state or not,

1 but we have a lot of them. Every landfill has got -- not gun  
2 toting ususally, but we have concerned citizens watching  
3 everything that goes into the landfill. They are all thinking  
4 that people are going to disposing of low-level waste.

5 One of the big problems, and I am sure that you have  
6 realized and had a problem with it, is that we really don't  
7 have a legally acceptable definition of what level of  
8 radioactivity do we have to worry about. A legal definition of  
9 radioactive. We have the usual definition that anything that  
10 emits alpha beta or gamma radiation it is radioactive material.  
11 Obviously we don't want to deal with everything that emits  
12 alpha beta or gamma radiation or we would be dealing with  
13 ourselves all the time.

14 So, we decided that we were going to come up with  
15 some guidance. We require each of these landfills to come up  
16 with an action plan. We provided them with -- ah -- I keep  
17 getting ahead of myself.

18 Most of the time in the facilities these things are  
19 in control in the medical facilities, but when the patient is  
20 allowed to go home, then we have all these things getting into  
21 the trash. We have had alarms from everything under the sun,  
22 even kitty litter. Anything that touches the patient, hygiene

1 items, wipes, towels. At home those things are likely to get  
2 into the trash and go out to the landfills.

3 Radium sources are a problem. We keep picking up  
4 radium sources all over the place. You would think that they  
5 would have disappeared from the world by now. We found a  
6 radium-beryllium source about two or three months ago in one of  
7 the landfills.

8 For some of these things these alarms are not going  
9 to detect, because they not emitters. Part of the action plan  
10 that these people are required to do is training their people  
11 to recognize -- ah --

12 Primordial materials. Pennsylvania has an awful lot  
13 of radium and uranium bearing rock. We have places in  
14 Pennsylvania where you can get 500mR h-1 from standing by a  
15 rock. The average background at these landfills is from 5 to  
16 25mR h-1, some of them are considerable higher. Lots of  
17 potassium in the rocks. And, of course, the usual  
18 transgenicnuclide. TENORM, the whole long list, I am not  
19 going to read that one.

20 Consumer products. Some of the big thick radium  
21 detecting watches set off alarms. Smoke detectors. Most of  
22 this stuff is not going to set off alarms though. Optical

1 lenses. Porceline welding rods.

2           So, we decided that we had to do something about  
3 this. The original idea was just to provide guidance, just for  
4 municipal landfills. Well, it was decided that if it was good  
5 for municipal landfills, it should be good for residual  
6 landfills, waste energy facilities, composters, medical  
7 incinerators and a whole flock of other things.

8           Then it wasn't decided that it wasn't good enough to  
9 have guidance, because guidance was just guidance. It didn't  
10 have to be obeyed. It had to be regulations. So, it was then  
11 -- all the goals got incorporated into regulations.

12           We just started out to conserve our resources. We  
13 didn't want to have to go out all the time. We wanted to tell  
14 these people, after such and such a level, deal with it your  
15 self. At above that level we come out and help. Well, we have  
16 created a monster in that respect.

17           The lawyers came up with the words -- that is about  
18 the solid waste regulations, basic limitations. Next. The  
19 following radioactive materials controlled under specific, or  
20 general license, or order by any federal, state, or other  
21 government agency shall not be processed at the facility,  
22 unless specifically exempted from disposal restrictions. Okay.



1 Next. The following radioactive material shall not be disposed  
2 or possessed at the facility unless approved in writing by the  
3 Department of Disposal, processing does not endanger the health  
4 and safety of the public and the environment. Our lawyers love  
5 that phrase.

6 Short life radioactive material from a patient  
7 undergoing public procedure -- okay. So, we came up with the  
8 guidance that supports the regulations. All the rules were also  
9 in the regs. We had the guidance which provides that each of  
10 these facilities has to write an action plan which has in it  
11 personnel training, monitoring, awareness of items containing  
12 rad, initial response to detection, notification of DEP and  
13 BUP, characterization of what is there, disposition, what they  
14 can reject, what they can't reject, and record keeping. We  
15 gave them detailed instructions on how to put together an  
16 action plan. It has been called the health physicist full  
17 employment act of 2000.

18 We are suggesting that they, unless they have such  
19 talent aboard, that they go out and hire a health physicist to  
20 write their action plan. We provide them with a list of all  
21 the certified health physicist in Pennsylvania that are  
22 practicing.

1           They have to have a plan summary posted for the  
2 people and for their customers. They people have to be trained  
3 to respond to the plan and we have to -- customers and waste  
4 haulers have to be aware of what is going to happen. They have  
5 to have a trained person on duty.

6           This next slide is a part that we argued about for  
7 the better part of a year. We decided that we were going to  
8 have two action levels. Action level one, below which nobody  
9 had to do anything. They could just dispose of it. Action  
10 level two, which is way higher than the DRP and whatever  
11 alphabetical agencies we would need to assist. In between  
12 their action plan would have to spell out exactly what they  
13 were going to do.

14           This started out in the originally version as 30 mR  
15 h-1 for level one. The second version was 50 mR h-1 for level  
16 one. The third version was three standard deviations above  
17 background which amounted to about 1 mR h-1 as level one. We  
18 finally settle on 10 mR h-1 as being the level above which the  
19 something had to be done. I am not convinced that it is going  
20 to work very well. We will try it for a couple of years and  
21 see what happens.

22           Action level two is set at DOT level 50 mR h-1at any

1 surface of the truck and 2 mR h<sup>-1</sup> in the vehicle cab, we put  
2 that one in. In between the landfill's action plan has to  
3 provide for exactly what they are doing. Their system must be  
4 set up to alarm at 10 mR h<sup>-1</sup> above background. If the  
5 background in the area is actually above 10 mR h<sup>-1</sup> they need to  
6 shield the detector to protect it.

7 We recommend that the facility acquire fixed probe  
8 monitors, handheld instruments and probes, including NaI and  
9 "pancake" GM, and portable MCA's. We require annual  
10 calibration and performance tests.

11 These action plans would be facility specific. The  
12 action plan that worked for a landfill would not work for a  
13 waste energy facility.

14 We are allowing people to dispose of isotopes with a  
15 half life <65 days. The assumption being that most of this  
16 stuff is going to be patient excreta. They can build into  
17 their action plans that they are going to accept this sort of  
18 material and put it in landfill.

19 Above action level two, then they isolate the truck  
20 and call us. We will help them figure out what to do. They  
21 are not to allow the truck driver to go back on the road until  
22 the proper action is determined. One thing they can always do

1 is refuse to accept. We are not telling them that they have to  
2 accept. They can't let it go back on the road without a DOT  
3 exemption. Then we would notify wherever it was going. New  
4 regulations require that each facility to have a designated  
5 area where the vehicle may be isolated until such a time that  
6 action is determined.

7           One of the things that we are emphasizing in the  
8 training part of this is that people should keep eyes out for  
9 radioactive material notices of any kind. Maybe we can keep  
10 some of these tritium sources out of the landfill.

11           This is just a few of the many isotopes that could  
12 possibly be there. About seventy-five percent of several  
13 hundred that I looked at have been iodine.

14           On this position of TENORM -- this wording is sort of  
15 peculiar --  $<50 \text{ mR h}^{-1} @ 5\text{cm}$ .  $<5.0 \text{ pCi/g}$  radium and less than  
16 one cubic meter. The term FUSRAP came up a couple of times  
17 when this was being drafted and I am not sure why.

18           Higher levels can be approved by the bureau director  
19 -- pathways analysis demonstrates the those with  $<10\text{mrem}$  per  
20 year in air or  $4\text{mrem}$  per year drinking water or  $25\text{mrem}$  per year  
21 for total of all exposure pathways. Those words came primarily  
22 from waste energy facility considerations. I already went

1 through a lot of those. The slides from this presentation and  
2 the copies of the guidance are on the back table. You are  
3 welcome to them.

4 I had the pleasure of writing the comment response  
5 document on this guidance. The guidance is forty-five pages.  
6 The comment response was about eight-one pages. So, I think  
7 you for the opportunity to talk on this. I will answer any  
8 questions.

9 CHIP CAMERON: Thank you, Bill. Let's go to Pearce.

10 PEARCE O'KELLEY: Bill, you have touched on a subject  
11 that is near and dear to a lot of our hearts. We have wrestled  
12 with this issue in our state and as you said when you release  
13 criteria it is going to increase. The thing that really  
14 bothers me or puzzles me is that -- I think that this was even  
15 mentioned in informational letters that were sent out by the  
16 NRC -- licensee can follow all regulations and let people be  
17 released from their facility, but then when that stuff shows up  
18 at an incinerator or a landfill they can also be held  
19 accountable for following regulations. Actions can be taken  
20 against them for improper control of materials. It seems like  
21 we are putting our licensees in between a rock and a hard  
22 place.

1           One of the issues that I have heard is that it is  
2 almost impossible to require or request these facilities, the  
3 disposal sites or incinerators, to have people there that could  
4 actually be trained to handle these situations. We have heard  
5 that we can't even train them to use a GM. I am curious as to  
6 what success you have had?

7           BILL KIRK: Highly variable. BFI in Pennsylvania put  
8 policy like this into affect several years ago. They are  
9 already doing it and aren't a lot trouble. I think that they  
10 are at least going to have to have some in depth training from  
11 a consultant or something like that.

12          CHIP CAMERON: All right. Let's go to Bill and  
13 Roland and then come back over to Bob.

14          BILL DUNDULIS: Is this document available on your  
15 web site? This is only the odd number pages.

16          BILL KIRK: Oh, Lord. It is available on the web  
17 site. The web site is [www.dep.state.da.us](http://www.dep.state.da.us). When that comes up  
18 there will be at the top of the page a button called  
19 participant. That will take you to a page that lists  
20 regulations and guidance. Under recently finalized guidance you  
21 will find this.

22          BILL DUNDULIS: Thanks, Bill.

1           ROLAND FLETCHER: I think that I have mentioned this  
2 before. When we were responding to these alarms at landfills  
3 repeatedly we developed a program where we notified,  
4 particularly the hospitals, of the fact that it would really  
5 start costing them money, because we weren't going to respond  
6 anymore. We were going to have a consultant respond. It has  
7 been fairly successful.

8           BILL KIRK: Most of our hospitals do have monitors  
9 for the trash going out.

10          BOB HALLISUI: Did I miss something in your  
11 presentation? Do the action plans require the facilities to  
12 notify you of the shipments that they refuse to accept?

13          BILL KIRK: Yeah. We have to issue the DOT forms.  
14 They are required to hold it there until we issue that form.

15          BARBARA YOUNGBURG: Bill, the levels that are set in  
16 the guidance. Are those enforceable then?

17          BILL KIRK: They are also written in the regulations.

18          CHIP CAMERON: Okay. Anybody else? Okay. Thank you  
19 very much, Bill.

20                 (Whereupon, the meeting was concluded.)

21

22