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国际原子能机构

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
AGENCE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ÉNERGIE ATOMIQUE
МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЕ АГЕНТСТВО ПО АТОМНОЙ ЭНЕРГИИ
ORGANISMO INTERNACIONAL DE ENERGÍA ATÓMICA

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721.J1.30.10

21260/21268

2000-11-22

Dear Mr. Brach,

At the fifth meeting of the Transport Safety Standards Advisory Committee (TRANSSAC), it was recommended that a new Co-ordinated Research Project (CRP) be undertaken to address the radiological aspects of package and conveyance non-fixed contamination. Furthermore, it was felt that this CRP should be initiated rapidly and completed in approximately two years.

This recommendation results from the recent experience with non-fixed contamination on packages and conveyances in some Member States. Some packages and conveyances were found to have exceeded the non-fixed contamination regulatory limits. These limits are specified in paragraph 408 (and related paragraphs) of the 1985 Edition of the Agency's Transport Regulations (Safety Series No. 6) and in paragraph 508 (and related paragraphs) of the 1996 Edition of the Agency's Transport Regulations [Safety Standards Series No. TS-R-1 (ST-1, Revised)].

These events resulted in termination and/or delays in shipments of radioactive materials in these countries, especially shipments of irradiated nuclear fuel and high-level wastes. Steps have been taken in these countries to address this problem and, as a consequence, shipments have been resumed. However, there are significant penalties in terms of the costs of operational controls and regulatory oversight and public/media attention.

In response to the recommendation by TRANSSAC V, the Secretariat prepared a proposal for a CRP on this subject. The proposal has been reviewed and approved in principle. For this CRP to be undertaken in a timely fashion, and with the zero-growth budget philosophy under which the Secretariat is currently operating, this CRP can only be started in the near future if it can be accomplished at no cost to the Agency. Otherwise, it will need to be included in the budgets of future years and start no earlier than in 2002.

Mr. E.W. BRACH
Director, Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington D.C. 20555-0001
USA

Rec'd 12/7

→ Action Item

Action: Shan Leman / Tokear

Due: 12/31

- address NRC participation in CRP - funding?

NMSS24

We feel that because of the substantial interest in this matter and the recommendation of TRANSAC V, it would be highly desirable to initiate the CRP as early as possible. However, in view of financial position, we will not be able to provide either direct financial support for work or for participation in Research Co-ordination Meetings (RCMs).

Thus, the CRP on the Radiological Aspects of Package and Conveyance Non-fixed Radioactive Contamination CRP can only be initiated at the present time if:

- all proposals for study under a standard Research Agreement are to be accomplished with no cost to the Agency (this has historically been the normal procedure for CRPs in the Transport Safety area for advanced countries).
- participation by Chief Scientific Investigators and other involved experts at RCMs are accomplished either at the cost of their sponsoring institutions; or, alternatively, one or more participating Member States could provide extra-budgetary funds to the Secretariat to support their participation. Based on the tentative schedule presented below, these extra-budgetary funds would need to be on the order of 25,000 USD for 2001 and 50,000 USD for 2002.

Subject to these conditions, we will proceed with concluding a number of "Research Agreements" with appropriate institutes on the topic of The Radiological Aspects of Package and Conveyance Non-fixed Radioactive Contamination.

The tentative schedule for the CRP is:

Jan- Mar 2001	:	Receipt of Proposals for Research Agreements
Feb 2001:		Report actions to TRANSAC VI ¹⁷
Apr - May 2001:		Evaluation of Proposals for Research Agreements
June 2001:		Transmittal of Research Agreements and initiation of work on the CRP
Nov/Dec 2001:		First RCM
Mar 2002:		Report progress on CRP to TRANSAC VII
June/July 2002:		Second RCM
Nov/Dec 2002:		Final RCM (finalize draft CRP Report)
Jan 2003:		Submit CRP Report for publication
Mar 2003:		Submit final draft report to TRANSAC VIII
Spring 2003:		Publish CRP Report

Within each Research Agreement, the involved institute would agree to transmit to the Agency two hardcopies copies and one electronic copy of complete technical reports including a full description of the research carried out, the results obtained, and the conclusions and recommendations reached. The technical reports would be presented and discussed at each RCM held under the CRP. The final RCM would discuss each Chief Scientific Investigator's findings and report, attempt to reach a consensus on the findings of the studies, develop a set

¹⁷ The Transport Safety Standards Advisory Committee (TRANSAC) has been renamed by the Director General as the Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSAC).

of consensus recommendations, and prepare a draft CRP report. Each final technical report provided as a result of a Research Agreement would be published as part of the product of this CRP.

The standard "Research Agreement" form is available electronically at URL <http://www.iaea.org.at/programmes/ri/uc.html>. Should you need a hard copy of this form, please contact me. The document merely represents a means of formalizing an arrangement designed to assist research teams working on various aspects of the same problem in different countries. We do not believe it contains terms that would be at all onerous to your country or any potential participating institute in your country.

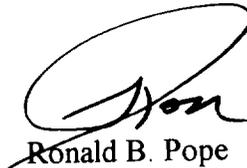
We would be most grateful if you would consider whether this approach is appropriate and let us know your views.

In the event you feel you or an institute you can recommend in your country would be prepared to participate in the project, would you please inform us of this, and, if appropriate, arrange for completion of the proposal as expeditiously as possible.

In addition, please advise if it appears that your country may be able to provide some or all of the extra-budgetary funds needed for the RCMs.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. My electronic mail address is R.Pope@iaea.org.

Yours sincerely,

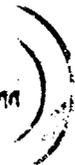


Ronald B. Pope
Head, Transport Safety Unit
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