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dist: 25th March 1987

NE(87)1

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STEERING COMMITTEE FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY

EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE CO-ORDINATED RESEARCH AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME FOR SEA DISPOSAL (CRESP)

(Note by the Secretariat)

1. It is recalled that at its meeting of 30th October 1985, the Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy agreed to the continuation of the NEA Co-Ordinated Research and Environmental Surveillance Programme for Sea Disposal (CRESP) [NE/M(85)2]. The objective of the Programme was to improve the scientific data base available for the radiological assessments of the North-East Atlantic disposal site.

2. Following this decision, the Secretariat took the necessary actions to implement the plans for a second phase of the CRESP Programme. In particular, a meeting of the CRESP Executive Group was convened in November 1986 to review the new programme of work in the light of the contributions from participating countries. In addition, the Executive Group had also to consider an invitation from the Paris Commission, acting as the Secretariat of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources, to extend the terms of reference of the CRESP Programme to cover land-based discharges.

3. This invitation from the Paris Commission followed earlier contacts with NEA. In February 1986 notably, NEA had organised a workshop in co-operation with the Paris Commission to critically review research and monitoring activities related to the contamination by radioactive discharges from land-based sources of the maritime area covered by the Convention. The workshop recommended to the Paris Commission:

- 1) to invite the NEA to extend the terms of reference of the CRESP Programme to cover land-based discharges, and to provide regular reports thereon to the Paris Commission;

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- ii) to agree that given the existing high level of co-operation, there appears to be no need for the Paris commission itself to play a role in radio-ecological research.

4. The Paris Commission agreed to follow the recommendation from the workshop and formally invited NEA to extend the terms of reference of the CRESPP Programme as indicated in 3(i) above. After careful consideration, the CRESPP Executive Group agreed that this extension was both desirable and useful, notably to avoid the setting up of a programme similar to CRESPP within the Paris Commission with mostly the same experts involved. In particular CRESPP could provide competent scientific advice on coastal discharge processes and modelling and, therefore, contribute to improve the scientific and technical understanding of the distribution of radioactivity within the Paris Convention area. On that occasion, it was noted that it is not the role of CRESPP to assess individual national monitoring programmes nor to be involved in the formal scheme for reporting discharges, which is established among the contracting parties to the Paris Convention.

5. New terms of reference were, therefore, proposed by the Executive Group for the CRESPP Programme as indicated in annex. No additional resources would be required as far as NEA is concerned, some extra burden being inevitable at the national level.

6. The Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH) was consulted at its meeting of 9th and 10th March 1987 on the desirability of the proposed extension of the mandate of CRESPP. The CRPPH considered that such an extension was justified and desirable, notably to avoid duplication of efforts, and agreed with the terms of reference proposed by the Executive Group.

7. On the basis of the above and taking into account the views of the CRPPH, the Steering Committee is invited:

- i) to endorse the extension of the terms of reference of the CRESPP Programme as indicated in the Annex; and
- ii) to take note of the fact that the CRESPP Programme is proceeding satisfactorily after the decision taken in October 1985 to extend it for another period of 5 years.

ANNEX

COORDINATED RESEARCH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME  
ON SEA DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE (CRESP II)

I. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The objectives and scope of CRESP II are:

- 1) To continue to strengthen the scientific and technical bases of future assessments of the N.E. Atlantic dump site, which have to be carried out under Article 2(a)iii of the OECD Council Decision Establishing a Multilateral Consultation and Surveillance Mechanism for Sea Dumping of Radioactive Waste [C(77) 115(final)]; and
- 2) In so far as land-based sources of radioactivity are concerned, to improve the scientific and technical understanding of the distribution of this radioactivity within the Paris Convention area\*.

II. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE GROUP

2. The Executive Group will continue its responsibility for the implementation of a co-ordinated research and environmental surveillance programme related to disposal of radioactive waste into the North-East Atlantic, as defined in document NE(85)18, (and agreed by the Steering Committee in October 1985). In addition it will extend its responsibilities to cover land based discharges as indicated in objective 2) above.

3. The main tasks of the Executive Group are for both objectives:

- (i) to keep the overall programme and priorities under review and discuss relevant resource requirements;
- (ii) to co-ordinate the contributions of Member countries and international organisations;
- (iii) to adopt all practical arrangements and working procedures required to carry out the work;
- (iv) to establish liaison with other national and international research activities of interest to the programme;

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\* The Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources (Paris Convention) is a regional convention concerned with both conventional and radioactive pollution in a limited area of the North-East Atlantic. The Contracting Parties are Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the EEC. The Paris Convention aims at eliminating or reducing marine pollution in the Convention area through technical control measures and environmental research and monitoring programmes. A regional international organisation called the "Paris Commission" was established in 1974 to ensure the practical implementation of the Convention.

(v) to review progress of work at regular intervals and conduct evaluations of results achieved.

4. The Executive Group under these new terms of reference is set up for a period of four years until 1990 inclusive. At the end of this period, the Executive Group should establish an overall evaluation of the results obtained in this programme. The continued usefulness of the programme will be re-assessed at this time and the renewal of the mandate of the Executive Group will be decided in the light of results achieved.

5. The Executive Group will report to the Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health and the Steering Committee on an annual basis. These progress reports will also be offered to the Paris Commission.

### III. MEMBERSHIP

6. The Executive Group comprises experts representing NEA Member countries and international organisations contributing to the co-ordinated research and environmental surveillance programme.

### IV. OPERATING PROCEDURE

7. The Executive Group will meet as necessary but at least once a year. Participating countries will provide a Scientific Secretary on a rotation basis to assume responsibility for the technical work and NEA will provide an Administrative Secretary.

8. The co-ordinated research and environmental surveillance programme will be carried out through task groups covering the areas of physical oceanography, geochemistry, biology, modelling and radiological assessment. Interested participating countries will nominate scientists to take part in the various task groups. Task group leaders will be designated by the Executive Group.

9. In respect of objective 1), the task groups have already clearly defined responsibilities as set out in reference 2. In respect of the new objective 2), these task groups will review existing data bases and models, identify areas where additional information is required and recommend to the Executive Group methods for their implementation. In the initial phase (during the next year) the task groups should prepare a programme plan in respect of shelf sea research of the type produced in 1981 for the deep ocean. (Ref.)

10. The Executive Group recognises that extending the scope of CRESP to include shelf seas may require additional expertise within the task groups and Member countries are invited to nominate appropriate scientists when necessary.

### REFERENCES

1. Research and Environmental Surveillance Programme Related to Sea Disposal of Radioactive Waste. NEA, 1981.
2. Co-Ordinated Research and Environmental Surveillance Programme Related to Sea Disposal of Radioactive Waste. CRESP Activity Report, 1981-1985, NEA, 1986.