

May 12, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: William D. Travers */RA/*
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: PLANS REGARDING THE "ONE VOICE" INITIATIVE FOR YOUR INFORMATION

As a result of the lessons learned from the Federal response to the criticality event in Tokai-Mura, Japan, and the Y2K Federal response and coordination effort, the staff is pursuing an initiative which is referred to as "One Voice." The goal of this initiative is to enhance communication and coordination among the member agencies of the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) so that the Federal government speaks in a consistent manner following radiological events, especially those occurring in a foreign country.

The attached documents, which are provided for your information, articulate the staff's plans regarding the "One Voice" initiative. The first of these two documents consists of a "One Voice" Initiative Concept which details background information on the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan, the need for the "One Voice" initiative, and the status of Incident Response Operations' (IRO's) activities related to this issue. The second document is a proposed letter from Frank J. Congel, Director, IRO, to the Chairman of the FRPCC. This letter will formally request the FRPCC Chairman to distribute the "One Voice" initiative to the FRPCC members (17 Federal agencies) and to raise it as a topic for discussion at the next FRPCC meeting.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact either Dr. Frank J. Congel (FJC) at 415-7476, Dr. Charles L. Miller (CLM1) at 415-7482, or Leigh Trocine (LXT) at 415-6415.

Attachments: 1. ["One Voice" Initiative Concept](#)
2. [Draft Letter from IRO to the FRPCC](#)

cc w/atts: SECY
OGC
OCA
OCIO
OIP
OPA
OCFO

ATTACHMENT 1

"One Voice" Initiative Concept

- [Background - Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan](#)
- ["One Voice" Initiative](#)

Background - Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan

The objective of the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP) is to establish an organized and integrated capability for timely coordinated response by Federal agencies to peacetime radiological emergencies. The FRERP provides the Federal government's concept of operations based on specific authorities for responding to radiological emergencies, outlines Federal policies and planning considerations on which the concept of operations of this Plan and Federal agency specific response plans are based, and specifies authorities and responsibilities of each Federal agency that may have a significant role in such emergencies.

Each participating Federal agency has responsibilities and/or capabilities that pertain to various types of radiological emergencies. The following Federal agencies participate in the FRERP:

1. Department of Agriculture ([USDA](#) [EXIT](#))
2. Department of Commerce ([DOC](#) [EXIT](#))
3. Department of Defense ([DOD](#) [EXIT](#))
4. Department of Energy ([DOE](#) [EXIT](#))
5. Department of Health and Human Services ([HHS](#) [EXIT](#))
6. Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#) [EXIT](#))
7. Department of the Interior ([DOI](#) [EXIT](#))

8. Department of Justice (DOJ **EXIT**)
9. Department of State (DOS **EXIT**)
10. Department of Transportation (DOT **EXIT**)
11. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA **EXIT**)
12. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA **EXIT**)
13. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA **EXIT**)
14. General Services Administration (GSA **EXIT**)
15. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA **EXIT**)
16. National Communications System (NCS **EXIT**)
17. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

These participating Federal agencies also meet periodically as members of the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC), which is chaired by FEMA.

The FRERP covers any peacetime radiological emergency that has actual, potential, or perceived radiological consequences within the United States, its territories, possessions, or territorial waters and that could require a response by the Federal government. The level of the Federal response to a specific emergency will be based on the type and/or amount of radioactive material involved, the location of the emergency, the impact on or the potential for impact on the public and environment, and the size of the affected area.

"One Voice" Initiative

The NRC staff finds significant value in assessing event responses and gaining insight from previous experiences. After reviewing the lessons learned from the Federal response to the criticality event in Tokai-Mura, Japan, and the Y2K Federal response and coordination effort, an important issue has come to light which deals with Federal coordination following a radiological event in a foreign country.

The FRERP recognizes appropriate Lead Federal Agencies (LFA) for responses to both foreign and domestic events with potential radiological consequences. However, regardless of the protocols established in the FRERP, there continues to be an ongoing need for NRC and other Federal agencies to effectively share and coordinate information regarding events at foreign nuclear facilities with a broad spectrum of stakeholders. In addition, a significant foreign radiological event will tax the Federal government to address the potential for such an event occurring in the United States of America.

For example, EPA would be the LFA for any significant foreign radiological event, and EPA would monitor such an event with the focus of protecting the health and safety of United States citizens. However, NRC and DOE would be tasked with answering questions regarding the potential for a similar event occurring in the United States and the potential consequences of such an event. Therefore, there is an ongoing need for the applicable Federal agencies to effectively share and coordinate information with each other and with a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

In order to enhance the United States' response to international events with potential radiological consequences, the Incident Response Operations (IRO) staff recognizes that the Federal government needs to speak with **"One Voice"** and that the proper avenue for pursuing this issue is through the FRPCC. The IRO staff also recognizes that the applicable LFA should become the vehicle for appropriately managing effective communication and coordination. This effort constitutes a significant challenge; however, it is believed that this initiative is important enough to merit the continuing coordination and effort by the applicable stakeholders to ensure that it is executed appropriately.

In an effort to enhance and formalize this initiative with the various Federal stakeholders, the IRO staff has taken or plans the following actions:

- Dr. Charles L. Miller, Deputy Director, IRO, raised the need for pursuing this issue at an FRPCC meeting that was held at FEMA headquarters on January 18, 2000.
- The FRPCC members in attendance (representatives of the 17 Federal agencies references above) were generally receptive to the "One Voice" concept and agreed with the need for this initiative.
- Dr. Miller and Russell Salter, Chairman of the FRPCC, briefly discussed the need for this effort while they were both attending a Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center Leadership Symposium on February 29 through March 2, 2000.
- Russell Salter endorsed the initiative in his remarks to the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference held in Reno, Nevada on April 10-13, 2000.
- IRO generated a draft letter formalizing the need for this initiative and requesting FRPCC action. This letter formally requests the FRPCC Chairman to distribute the "One Voice" initiative to the FRPCC members and to raise the issue as topic for discussion at the next FRPCC meeting. At this time, we hope that the initiative will be assigned to either an existing FRPCC committee or subcommittee or that a new committee or subcommittee will be formed to address this issue. (IRO will volunteer to chair the applicable committee or subcommittee.)
- Once the applicable committee or subcommittee has resolved the pending issues and established the appropriate protocols, they will be forwarded to the FRPCC members who will in turn raise the protocols and resolutions with

their respective Federal agencies for approval. Then the 17 signatories will vote on the applicable actions.

ATTACHMENT 2

Mr. Russell Salter, Chairman
Federal Radiological Preparedness
Coordinating Committee
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW, #614
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Salter:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff finds significant value in assessing event responses and gaining insight from previous experiences. After reviewing the lessons learned from the Federal response to the criticality event in Tokai-Mura, Japan, and the Y2K Federal response and coordination effort; an important issue has come to light which deals with Federal coordination following a radiological event in a foreign country.

As you know, the objective of the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP) is to establish an organized and integrated capability for timely coordinated response by Federal agencies to peacetime radiological emergencies. The FRERP provides the Federal government's concept of operations based on specific authorities for responding to radiological emergencies, outlines Federal policies and planning considerations on which the concept of operations of this Plan and Federal agency specific response plans are based, and specifies authorities and responsibilities of each Federal agency that may have a significant role in such emergencies. The FRERP covers any peacetime radiological emergency that has actual, potential, or perceived radiological consequences within the United States, its territories, possessions, or territorial waters and that could require a response by the Federal government. The level of the Federal response to a specific emergency will be based on the type and/or amount of radioactive material involved, the location of the emergency, the impact on or the potential for impact on the public and environment, and the size of the affected area.

The FRERP recognizes appropriate Lead Federal Agencies (LFA) for responses to both foreign and domestic events with potential radiological consequences. However, regardless of the protocols established in the FRERP, there continues to be an ongoing need for the NRC and other Federal agencies to effectively share and coordinate information regarding events at foreign nuclear facilities with a broad spectrum of stakeholders. In addition, a significant foreign radiological event will tax the Federal government to address the potential for such an event occurring in the United States of America.

For example, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would be the LFA for any significant foreign radiological event, and EPA would monitor such an event with the focus of protecting the health and safety of United States' citizens. However, NRC and the Department of Energy would be tasked with answering questions regarding the potential for a similar event occurring in the United States and the potential consequences of such an event. Therefore, there is an ongoing need for the applicable Federal agencies to effectively share and coordinate information with each other and with a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

In order to enhance the United States' response to international events with potential radiological consequences, the NRC recognizes that the Federal government needs to speak with **"One Voice"** and that the proper avenue for pursuing this issue is through the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC). The NRC also recognizes that the applicable LFA should become the vehicle for appropriately managing effective communication and coordination. This effort constitutes a significant challenge; however, it is believed that this initiative is important enough to merit the continuing coordination and effort by the applicable stakeholders to ensure that it is executed appropriately.

As you may recall, Dr. Charles L. Miller, Deputy Director, Incident Response Operations, raised the need for pursuing this issue at an FRPCC meeting that was held on January 18, 2000. The FRPCC members in attendance were generally receptive to the **"One Voice"** concept and agreed with the need for this initiative. In addition, you and he briefly discussed the need for this effort while you were attending a Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center Leadership Symposium on February 29 through March 2, 2000. You also endorsed the initiative in your remarks at the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference held recently in Reno, Nevada. We therefore request that you distribute this **"One Voice"** initiative to the FRPCC members and raise it as a topic for discussion at the next FRPCC meeting. We volunteer to chair an applicable committee or subcommittee that is assigned or formed to resolve the pending issues and establish the appropriate protocols.

We appreciate the opportunity of working with the FRPCC on enhancing the Federal response capability. Please call me at (301) 415-7476 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Congel, Director
Incident Response Operations

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus

Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield