



DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20305

47/5

SPAS

29 JUN 1978

SUBJECT: Ionizing Radiation Studies

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Reference:

a. White House memorandum of 9 May 1978 for the Secretaries of Defense and Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), et al, subject: Radiation Exposure Inquiry.

b. Memorandum for Record, subject: Interagency Task Force Meeting on Ionizing Radiation, 23 Jun 1978 (TAB A).

c. Director, DNA letter of 28 Jun 1978 to Mr. Peter F. Libassi, HEW General Counsel (TAB B).

2. Reference 1a tasked HEW to coordinate a uniform Administration approach to the problems associated with exposures to low-level ionizing radiation. Reference 1b presents the minutes of an initial interagency coordination meeting chaired by HEW and proposes seven major tasks and task force groups for organization of the effort. Reference 1c is the DNA Director's initial reply concerning the seven draft tasks which promises a follow-up response with more detailed recommendations concerning the seven tasks.

3. Request comments concerning the wording of the seven tasks and recommendations for possible additions, deletions, and/or modifications be forwarded to the undersigned by 7 Jul 1978.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

HARTMAN B. MOWERY
LTC, Infantry
Acting Executive Agent
(Ionizing Radiation Studies)

2 TABS
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(See page 2)

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SUBJECT: Ionizing Radiation Studies

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Naval Bureau of Medicine & Surgery, ATTN: CDR W. Beckner, 23rd & E Sts,
NW, Washington, DC 20372
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23 Jun 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Interagency Task Force Meeting on Ionizing Radiation

Ref: White House Memorandum to HEW, dated 9 May 1978.

1. Meeting was held at 1030 hours, 23 June, at HEW Headquarters. Attendees listed at Enclosure 1.
2. Purpose of meeting, chaired by Mr. Libassi, General Counsel of HEW, was to organize an Interagency Task Force. Mr. Libassi expressed his thanks for the briefings conducted for him by DoD, DoE, and others already involved in the program. He has already talked with environmental groups and Congressmen Rogers and Brown. He plans to see Congressman Carter and Labor personnel.
3. The project leader for overall coordination is Linda Donaldson. She has been assigned eight full-time staff personnel to head up the work involved. Mr. Libassi will still be deeply involved with the project and will essentially be in charge.
4. Initial thoughts of tasks involved are at Enclosure 2. These tasks were developed from briefings and discussions given previously. It is planned to have input to the Draft Plan requested by the White House by mid-July. After coordination, the Plan should be completed by 1 October 1978.
5. Discussion was then held by HEW personnel assigned to head up each of the proposed tasks.
 - a. Tasks 1 and 2 (see Enclosure 2).
 - (1) Task Leader - Mr. Clark Heath of CDC;
telephone: 404-633-3311, X3961.
 - (2) Mr. Heath envisioned the following subtasks:
 - (a) Review of current knowledge on radiation to include:
 1. Nature of radiation
 2. Animal and tissue studies
 3. Human experiences

Tab A

SUBJECT: Interagency Task Force Meeting on Ionizing Radiation

(b) List the remaining questions and determine if answerable:

1. Low dose effects
2. Adequacy of current standards
3. Mechanism of injury

(c) Discussion of current and proposed studies:

1. Review of government structure for current studies
2. Plans for new studies
3. Priority to be established for new studies

(d) Review of data needs and problems of study:

1. Exposure data or causes; i.e., dosimetry versus synergistic effects.
2. Outcome data or effects of radiation and other agents.
3. Effects of sample size and location factors involved.

(3) These studies must include medical occupational workers and plant workers.

(4) It is a people problem and not concerned with animal effects per se. The environmental effects are not to be included at this time.

(5) Following immediate requirements were specified:

(a) Identify personnel to work on these tasks from each agency as soon as possible.

(b) Personnel to attend meeting at CDC in Atlanta at 0830 hours, Wednesday, 28 June 1978.

b. Task 3 (see Enclosure 2).

**(1) Task Leader - Mr. John Blamphin of HEW/OS;
telephone: 202-245-6343.**

(2) Mr. Blamphin outlined this task as shown in Enclosure 3.

SUBJECT: Interagency Task Force Meeting on Ionizing Radiation

(3) The following elaboration was offered:

(a) There are three groups involved:

1. Exposed personnel
2. General public
3. Medical and scientific personnel

(b) The goals and tasks consist essentially of organizing a work group, developing a plan to accomplish the goals, and then implementing the plan.

(4) Following immediate requirements were specified:

(a) Identify personnel to work on this task by COB Thursday, 29 June 1978.

(b) Provide a list of agency information programs ongoing to include a short summary of the past, present, and future activities and the name and telephone number of a contact person for each of the programs.

(c) Provide samples of current publications which provide information to the public on the programs.

c. Task 4 (see Enclosure 2).

(1) Task Leader - Mr. Stephen Cole of HEN/OGC;
telephone: 202-245-7721.

(2) Ms. Donaldson outlined this task with the following comments:

(a) Must determine the kinds of records used, where they are maintained, and who controls access.

(b) Legal and practical restrictions to access of records.

(c) The kinds of records that best facilitate research.

(3) An immediate requirement was specified for identifying personnel to work on this task by COB Tuesday, 27 June 1978.

SUBJECT: Interagency Task Force Meeting on Ionizing Radiation

d. Task 5 (see Enclosure 2).

(1) Task Leader - Mr. Don Gonya of HEW/OGC;
telephone: 301-594-2412.

(2) Ms. Donaldson outlined this task as shown in Enclosure 4.

(3) The following elaboration was offered:

(a) Must identify those at risk, both present and past.

(b) Must identify sources of care and benefits.

(c) Must determine the number of lawsuits, both government and private.

(d) What problems exist currently.

(4) DoD mentioned the problem of defining injury and relating the injury to radiation, which will take some time to accomplish. Prior to this, there is a need for immediate decisions as to actions for those who consider themselves radiation victims. It was pointed out that this is to be covered under the current problems subtask.

(5) Following immediate requirements were specified:

(a) Identify personnel to work on this task by COB Monday, 26 June 1978.

³
727A, (b) Attend meeting to be held at HEW Headquarters, Room at 1000 hours on 29 June 1978.

e. Task 6 (see Enclosure 2).

(1) Task Leader - Mr. Dennis Tolsma of CDC;
telephone: 404-633-3311, X3243.

(2) Mr. Tolsma outlined this task as follows:

(a) Must inventory current regulatory publications and non-regulatory documents.

(b) Investigate options to regulatory statutes; i.e., rewards for reductions, as opposed to punishment for excesses.

(c) Must review current standards procedures.

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(3) Based on the above, he sees two immediate tasks:

(a) Develop a conceptual framework.

(b) Establish a history of regulations.

(4) It was pointed out that this will require intensive effort from mid-July through August 1978.

(5) The immediate requirement was to identify personnel to work on this task by COB Tuesday, 27 June 1978.

f. Task 7 (see Enclosure 2).

(1) Task Leader - Mr. Pete Libassi of HEW/OGC;
telephone: 202-245-7741.

(2) Mr. Libassi indicated a necessity to postpone action on this requirement until later.

6. Mr. Libassi said that the current plan is to have the various task groups to meet and define the tasks more firmly, and then to have another Interagency Task Force meeting in mid-July.

7. The following is a summary of the immediate actions required:

a. Monday, 26 Jun 78 - Names of personnel for Tasks 1, 2, and 5.

b. Tuesday, 27 Jun 78 - Names of personnel for Tasks 4 and 6.

c. Wednesday, 28 Jun 78 - Meeting on Tasks 1 and 2 at CDC in Atlanta at 0830 hours.

d. Thursday, 29 Jun 78:

(1) Names of personnel for Task 3.

(2) Lists of agency information programs and copies of information publications.

(3) Meeting on Task 5 at HEW Headquarters at 1000 hours.

4 Encls
as


JOHN T. MASON, III
LTC, USA

TELEPHONE LIST

F. Peter Libassi	HEW/OGC	245-7741
Linda Donaldson	HEW/OGC	245-6735
June Zeitlin	HEW/OGC	245-6318
John Blamphin	HEW/OS	245-6343
Karl R. Goller	NRC	443-6953
Art Norris	PHS/HEW	245-6816
Richard Wromble	EPA/ORP	557-9710
W. D. Rowe	EPA/ORP	557-9710
Steven J. Cole	HEW/OGC	245-7721
Don Gonya	HEW/OGC	594-2412
Gordon K. Soper	DOD/HQ, DNA	325-7302
John T. Mason	DOD/AFRRI	295-2255
William A. Felsing	NIOSH/CDC	443-6437
Robert H. Neill	BRH/FDA	443-4417
Rick Cotton	HEW	245-7462
Tony Scardaci	HEW/CDC	236-3496
Dennis Tolsma	CDC	(FTS) 236-3243
Clark W. Heath	CDC	(FTS) 236-3961
Elliot Gerson	HEW/OS	245-1831
Mary Pendergast	HEW/OGC	443-3096
Kathy Weinman	HEW/OGC	245-7733
James L. Liverman	DOE	353-5171
Charles W. Edington	DOE/BER	353-3251
Arthur C. Upton	HEW/NRI	496-5615
Lawrence B. Hobson, Md. PhD.	VA	389-2616

encl 1 to Tab A

INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE MEETING

TASKS

- o Assessment of the dimensions of the health problem created by nuclear and other ionizing radiation exposure, including identification of groups at risk, possible health effects, and the availability of monitoring data.
- o Development and conduct of medical and epidemiological studies necessary to determine to the extent possible the effects of nuclear and other ionizing radiation on those exposed to it. In preparation for this, an inventory of current and past research will be made.
- o Design and initiation of a public information program to meet the different needs of the general public, the health and scientific community and persons exposed to nuclear and other ionizing radiation in the past and at present.
- o Consideration of issues surrounding the maintenance, transfer, and handling of records needed for biomedical and epidemiological research, including legal restrictions on access to data, privacy concerns and improvements in recordkeeping practices.
- o Examination of existing mechanisms for providing care, benefits and compensation to persons injured by radiation exposure and of options for improving or expanding those mechanisms if appropriate.
- o Review of present efforts to reduce exposure to nuclear and other ionizing radiation, and recommendations of additional measures as need becomes evident.
- o Establishment of an entity to coordinate research efforts and to carry out some or all of the five remaining tasks over an extended period of time.

Encl 2 & Tab A

Radiation Exposure

Public Information Program

I. The Problem:

Persons exposed to hazardous amounts of radiation, the general public and the medical and scientific communities may not know the risks involved and steps they can take to prevent dangerous or unnecessary exposure.

II. The Solution:

A broad public information/education program aimed at high risk population groups, the general public and the medical and scientific community.

Goals:

1. To inform persons who may have been exposed about the health dangers involved, steps they can take to prevent serious consequences, and services and benefits to which they may be entitled.
2. To inform the general public of the potential hazards of ionizing radiation and the steps government agencies are taking to reduce overall exposure and prevent accidents.
3. To equip the medical and scientific communities with the latest information and techniques necessary to meet the health needs of persons exposed, and to prevent unnecessary exposure from radiation sources under their control.

Tasks:

1. Establish an Interdepartmental Communications Workgroup.
2. Develop a plan and assign responsibility.
3. Implement the plan.

Encl. 3 to Tab. A

CARE AND BENEFITS

1. Who is at risk?

a. Are any of your agency's employees presently exposed to ionizing radiation as a result of their employment? If so, give:

- i. approximate number
- ii. nature of employment
- iii. nature of exposure (type of radiation, how exposed)
- iv. are they likely to be exposed to other harmful substances? If so, identify them

b. Are any of your contractors' employees presently exposed to ionizing radiation as a result of their employment? If so, give:

- i. approximate number
- ii. nature of employment
- iii. nature of exposure (type of radiation, how exposed)
- iv. are they likely to be exposed to other harmful substances? If so, identify them

c. (NRC) Are any of your regulatees' employees presently exposed to ionizing radiation as a result of their employment? If so, give:

- i. approximate number
- ii. nature of employment
- iii. nature of exposure (type of radiation, how exposed)
- iv. are they likely to be exposed to other harmful substances? If so, identify them

d. Please answer the questions above with respect to past employees, contractors' employees and regulatees' employees.

e. Please identify any other discrete groups known to you who are exposed to ionizing radiation.

2. What sources of care and benefits are available to each of these groups? For each group identified in answer to question 1, please state sources of medical care and benefits

Encl 4 & Tab A

11. 11

available to them (e.g., state workers' compensation programs, Federal worker's compensation programs; etc.) If a source of benefits is available to only part of a group, please state why (e.g., different sources of benefits to military and civilian workers in naval shipyards).

3. Have any administrative claims or lawsuits been filed against your agency alleging injuries suffered as a result of exposure to ionizing radiation? If so, give:
 - a. how many?
 - b. What is the nature of the claim made (i.e., FECA; FTCA and the grounds for suit)?
 - c. Have any claims/lawsuits been settled/adjudicated and what was the result?

4. Are you aware of any claims or lawsuits filed against your contractors, regulatees, or others alleging injuries suffered as a result of exposure to ionizing radiation? If so, please describe them, with citations if known.

5. What problems exist in the current systems from the point of view of your agency (e.g., no guidelines for resolving claims, so each is handled on an ad hoc basis; difficulties of causation)?

6. What problems exist from the point of view of the claimant (e.g., establishing a causal connection; statutes of limitations, etc.).

7. What alternatives could be used to ensure that persons injured as a result of employment exposure to ionizing radiation receive adequate care and benefits?



DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20305

JUN 28 1978

Mr. Peter F. Libassi
General Counsel
Department of Health, Education
and Welfare
200 Independence Ave., SW, Room 722A
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Mr. Libassi:

As the Department of Defense (DoD) coordination agent for matters pertaining to DoD personnel exposures to ionizing radiation, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to send representatives to your Interagency Task Force meeting on June 23, 1978. The names of DoD personnel who have primary responsibility for DoD involvement in each of the seven major tasks tentatively identified are enclosed. These are initial personnel assignments which may change as the definition of each task is refined.

My staff and I, and the Naval Sea Systems Command, look forward to working with you in the effort to address the complex issues associated with exposures to low-level ionizing radiation. The Naval Sea Systems Command has extensive experience in this area; and, as you are aware, DoD has been deeply involved with studies of participants in atmospheric nuclear weapons tests for the past year. We are currently studying the proposed tasks and will provide you with comments concerning the wording of the tasks--along with DoD recommendations for possible additions, deletions, or modifications--within about two weeks.

I am always available to discuss this important endeavor. Please do not hesitate to call me at any time.

Sincerely,

1 Enclosure
As stated

R. R. MONROE
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Director

Cy furnished:
ASD (MRA&L)
ASD (HA)
ASD (LA)
ATSD (AE)
USDRE

Tab B

DOD PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Tasks</u>	<u>Nuclear Test Personnel Review (Atmospheric Nuclear Wpns Tests)</u>	<u>Nuclear Submarine Propulsion Systems</u>
1 & 2	<p>COL DARRELL W. McINDOE, USAF, MC AFRRI Bethesda, MD 20014 Phone: (202) 295-1210</p> <p>CAPT PAUL E. TYLER, USN, MC AFRRI Bethesda, MD 20014 Phone: (202) 295-1211</p> <p>LTCOL ED T. STILL, USAF, VC AFRRI Bethesda, MD 20014 Phone: (202) 295-0227</p>	*
3	<p>LTC WILLIAM A. McGEE, USA DNA 6801 Telegraph Rd. Washington, D. C. 20305 Phone: (202) 325-7095</p> <p>LTC HARTMAN B. MOWERY, USA DNA 6801 Telegraph Rd. Washington, D. C. 20305 Phone: (202) 325-7125</p>	<p>MR. MURRAY E. MILES Naval Sea Systems Command (Code 08R) Department of the Navy Washington, D. C. 20362 Phone: (202) 692-8713</p>
4	<p>MS. ROSEMARY HARRIS DNA 6801 Telegraph Rd. Washington, D. C. 20305 Phone: (202) 325-7681</p>	<p>CDR WILLIAM M. BECKNER, USN, MSC Bureau of Medicine & Surgery (Code 532) Department of the Navy Washington, D. C. 20372 Phone: (202) 254-4224</p>
5	<p>MS. ROSEMARY HARRIS DNA 6801 Telegraph Rd. Washington, D. C. 20305 Phone: (202) 325-7681</p>	<p>MR. MURRAY E. MILES Naval Sea Systems Command (Code 08R) Department of the Navy Washington, D. C. 20362 Phone: (202) 692-8713</p>

* Will be covered for NavSea by Nuclear Test Personnel Review representative.

Encl 1 To Tab B

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|---|--|---|
| 6 | MR. LESTER A. SLABACK
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