



Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

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May 14, 2003

Paul H. Lohaus, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

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Dear Paul:

Please find enclosed a resolution unanimously passed by the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. (CRCPD) membership on May 7, 2003, at our recent annual meeting in Anaheim, California, relating to security of radioactive materials. As you will note in the enclosed resolution, CRCPD is recommending:

- That a joint effort be undertaken, integrating the activities of the State radiation control programs, Department of Homeland Security, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other federal, state, and local resources to create and maintain a comprehensive security system to protect the public health from unnecessary exposure to radiation, and
- That serious consideration be given to providing a mechanism for states to assume responsibility for monitoring facility compliance with security requirements, if the state so desires, under a National Materials Program.

On behalf of the CRCPD membership, we appreciate NRC's attention and possible action on the ideas and recommendations addressed in this resolution.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Fraass
Executive Director

RFG/ss/ms

cc: Board of Directors
CRCPD Director Members



CONFERENCE OF RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTORS, INC.

RESOLUTION

Relating to: Security of Radioactive Materials

WHEREAS: Maintenance of a comprehensive program for ensuring the safety and security of radioactive materials is a common goal for federal, state, and local programs.

WHEREAS: State radiation control programs are committed to and supportive of placing realistic additional security and control requirements on radioactive materials licensees;

WHEREAS: State governments are responsible for the health and safety of their citizens and protection of the environment;

WHEREAS: States have assumed great responsibilities for homeland security and have established linkages between the local law enforcement, health and human services agencies, and counter-terrorism agencies, with the Governors supplying additional security resources, as necessary, through the State Police and/or National Guard;

WHEREAS: State radiation control programs have demonstrated a high degree of success and competence in controlling the use of radioactive materials and responding to any and all incidents involving radioactive material;

WHEREAS: In the event of a terrorist event involving radioactive materials, State radiation control programs would be among the first responders and would oversee the control and cleanup of the affected area;

WHEREAS: Any breakdown in security can rapidly deteriorate into a public health and safety problem, thus inextricably linking safety and security with public health.

WHEREAS: Radioactive materials licensees would appreciate a comprehensive and coordinated effort among the regulatory agencies so that security requirements for all radioactive materials (including source, byproduct, and special nuclear material, as well as naturally occurring and accelerator produced material) are based on realistic assumptions of the risks and consequences, thus minimizing regulatory burden.

WHEREAS: The National Materials Program is founded on the premise that cooperation between the states and the federal regulators can lead to better regulation than either could produce alone;

WHEREAS: Experience has shown that good communication and pre-planning is essential to effective response.


WHEREAS: When various federal agencies have been faced with implementation of new requirements, they have been creative in providing mechanisms for states to monitor compliance at facilities, thus promoting efficiency and minimizing redundancy.

BE IT RESOLVED:

A joint effort be undertaken, integrating the activities of the State radiation control programs, Department of Homeland Security, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other federal, state, and local resources to create and maintain a comprehensive security system to protect the public health from unnecessary exposure to radiation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Serious consideration be given to providing a mechanism for states to assume responsibility for monitoring facility compliance with security requirements, if the state so desires, under a National Materials Program.



Cindy Cardwell
CRCPD Chairperson

Approved by the CRCPD Membership May 7, 2003