

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP**

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17	D/OSWR		X		
18	D/SOVA		X		
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SUSPENSE _____ Date _____

Remarks To 5: With the DCI's added appreciation, please present the enclosed letter to _____ and the other personnel that participated in the Chernobyl Task Force.

Executive Secretary
23 Jun 86

Date

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 16 1986

Executive Registry
86- 2633X

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear *Bill* William:

The Chernobyl nuclear powerplant accident in the Soviet Union on April 26 presented this country with an important challenge. That challenge was to put in place a data collection and dissemination network capable of keeping Americans everywhere informed of the health and environmental consequences of the release of significant quantities of radiation to the environment.

President Reagan established an interagency task force to meet this challenge. We succeeded in our mission due to the extraordinary cooperation of task force participants. I am enclosing a copy of my summary memorandum to the President on the accomplishments of the task force, and a detailed chronology of its day-to-day activities.

The Central Intelligence Agency was a key member of the interagency task force. I want to thank you for the help provided in making the task force a success.

In particular, special recognition goes to [redacted] the Central Intelligence Agency's principal representative to the task force. His efforts to coordinate the collection and dissemination of information throughout the world, and to dispatch technical assistance to U.S. embassies as well as foreign governments, were critical to our success. I greatly appreciated his help.

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Of course, others in your agency contributed to the task force as well. Although it is impossible for me to identify them all, please accept my thanks for their help. I hope there is some way you can communicate to all in the Central Intelligenc Agency just how much I appreciated their contributions.

Sincerely,



Lee M. Thomas
Chairman
Interagency Task Force
on the Chernobyl Accident

Enclosures

cc:

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United States
Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

MAY 29 1986

The Administrator

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Summary Report on Activities
of the Chernobyl Accident Task Force

Following the April 26, 1986, accident at the Chernobyl nuclear facility in the Soviet Union, you directed me to form an interagency task force to monitor its health and environmental consequences. The task force I organized consisted of experts in nuclear power, radiation, public health, agriculture, meteorology, international affairs, and environmental protection.

The task force took immediate steps to carry out your directive. As events have now stabilized, I believe responsibilities for future action can be carried out by each agency without the formal coordination of the task force, and I therefore wanted to provide you with a final report. A full chronology of task force activities is attached.

Summary

By carefully identifying the scientific, technical, and monitoring capabilities in place in the United States and abroad, the task force established a reliable data collection network. We contacted governments in most affected countries, requested that they collect and share with us appropriate monitoring information, and offered them technical assistance.

Our network is now fully developed. We are sharing current data with many nations throughout Europe and Asia. The network has enabled us to assess the short-term impacts of the accident. We will also employ it to monitor long-term consequences in this country and others.

A key conclusion that we now can draw is that the radiation released at Chernobyl poses no significant increased risk to the American people or to their environment. However, we will continue to monitor our air, water, and milk supplies on a priority basis until such time as the ambient radiation levels approach normal background in this country.

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What We Now Know

We know that a significant amount of radiation was released by the explosion and fire at the Chernobyl facility. We also know that radiation has been widely dispersed throughout the northern hemisphere by winds, precipitation, atmospheric mixing, and other meteorological phenomena. A significant amount of the radioactive materials originally released have decayed during the weeks since the accident occurred. All indications are that the Soviets have now contained the accident, and little or no additional radiation is escaping to the environment.

We are finding radioactive contaminants in samples of air, water, and milk in Europe, Asia, and in the United States. For the next several weeks, we will likely continue to detect these radioactive isotopes. While we do not feel the levels seen to date and those projected for the future pose any long-term concern, prudence dictates that we continue monitoring their distribution and concentration. We will share our findings with all who express an interest in them.

How We Operated

The task force operated on a daily basis from April 30 to May 14. We established several key working subgroups. These are the groups that did the majority of task force work. They made contact with foreign governments to build our data monitoring network. They offered U.S. technical assistance, and coordinated its delivery. They applied meteorological and sampling expertise in such a way as to predict very accurately just when the radioactivity would reach American shores. They carefully reviewed contamination levels and translated them into useful health and travel advisories for Americans in this country and abroad. And they provided solid technical expertise on the operation of nuclear facilities that has helped us to better understand the scope of an accident about which we have had virtually no first-hand information.

The task force also recognized very early that effective communication with the American public and the rest of the world would be vitally important to its credibility. On a daily basis, we collected information and data, analyzed them, compiled them into useful form, and disseminated them widely. The task force kept the public fully informed every day through printed updates, media briefings, personal interviews, and participation in virtually every television network news and information program.

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The task force's credibility as a timely source of accurate information helped to prevent the spread of unfounded rumors and public fear.

The Next Phase

Given the significant accomplishments of the past several weeks, the immediate work of the task force is now complete. It is time to move on to the next phase of our response to the Chernobyl accident.

We should do all we can now to benefit from the lessons learned during this exercise. Our recent experiences should have lasting value for future contingency planning and emergency preparedness activities in this country and others.

While it is no longer necessary for task force members to meet on a regular basis, it is important that our information collection and dissemination functions continue. Our radiation monitoring activities using EPA's Environmental Radiation Ambient Monitoring System (ERAMS) will proceed as they have for several more weeks. We will take samples of rainwater, surface water, ambient air, and milk so we can monitor changes in radiation levels in the United States. We will also coordinate the analysis of sampling data from around the world. We will share all of this information with the public.

The efforts of our health and agricultural workgroup should be sustained in order to keep our people advised about the safety of imported foods and drugs and the implications of travel to affected areas. The Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services should also lead efforts to fully assess the consequences of radiation exposures in this nation.

The task force made important progress in better preparing this country to deal with international crisis management situations. The State Department should take the lead in maintaining the information collection network established during this exercise. We should continue to provide technical assistance to foreign governments as appropriate.

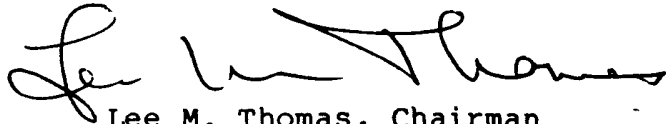
In conjunction with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, and Environmental Protection Agency, the State Department should lead U.S. efforts to work with international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Environment Program, and the World Health Organization, to examine key issues such as international notification of emergency circumstances, uniform data collection and dissemination, and international standards of protection.

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Finally, this government should undertake a thorough review and analysis of our response to the Chernobyl accident so as to assess our performance and improve our contingency planning capabilities. The Federal Radiological Planning Coordinating Committee, chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, should undertake a thorough review of all task force activities. By evaluating our response to this real-life experience, we will be better equipped to manage a similar event should it be necessary in the future.

* * *

In closing, I want to say that it has been an honor to serve as chairman of this task force. I commend all who worked with me during this very intense and emotional period. Their dedication and willingness to give 100 percent of themselves exemplifies the very finest in service to the public.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lee M. Thomas".

Lee M. Thomas, Chairman
Interagency Task Force
on the Chernobyl Accident

Attachments

The Federal Response to the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident Chronology of Events

Environmental Protection Agency

After the Swedes reported the first indications that a major nuclear accident had occurred at a power plant in Russia, the U.S. Government rapidly mobilized its resources to assess the accident and the situation in Europe, to monitor environmental radioactivity levels in this country, to determine the potential for health and environmental effects here and abroad, and to provide the best and most current information to public officials, the press, and U.S. citizens. The key events that transpired are summarized below.

Monday, April 28

The EPA received the first information on a possible major radiological incident in the afternoon this day. After a few press inquiries, the Press Office, the Office of Radiation Programs (ORP), and International Activities began to work together to try to handle press and citizen calls and to try to piece together the sparse information. ORP contacted DOE to determine what was known by that Agency, especially if information was available on whether a foreign atmospheric nuclear test had occurred. DOE was sure there was no foreign atmospheric test but indicated a reactor accident was a greater possibility, and DOE would try to make a determination. ORP next contacted the NRC which had picked up an AP wire service report from Moscow that described the first brief TASS announcement of a nuclear accident at Chernobyl. The Press Office contacted the Department of State for information and obtained a statement to help EPA answer public inquiries. Sheldon Meyers, Acting Director, ORP, had been on travel and was alerted to the situation at his home that night by his staff.

Tuesday, April 29

Activity this day focused on mobilizing Federal resources, to wit, gathering information, still extremely limited; contacting all agencies involved in radiological emergency response; and determining what was being done and what should be done. Press and citizen calls increased dramatically. Most citizens wanted travel advice; this continues.

The White House called an interagency meeting to coordinate the Government's response. This meeting was held in the morning at the Old Executive Office Building. In attendance were representatives from the White House staff, NSC, NOAA, DOE, CIA, DOS, and EPA (represented by Sheldon Meyers and

Linda Fisher). The multiagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)¹ for responding to unspecified foreign nuclear detonations was discussed as a viable mechanism for coordinating the Federal response. As in the MOU, EPA was given the lead coordinating role. A second interagency meeting began in the afternoon and ran into the evening. The status of information, known and unknown, was discussed. The first Federal press release on the accident was developed. The Presidential party, then in Bali, was contacted and apprised of events. The DOE was given the lead for liaison with Congress. A Federal Task Force was formally established with Lee Thomas, EPA Administrator, named as the Chairman. Mr. Thomas left an out-of-town meeting of EPA Assistant and Regional Administrators to return to Washington to assume his chairmanship. He was briefed at 10:30 p.m.

Other significant actions included:

- A formal offer of U.S. assistance was made to the U.S.S.R.
- Sampling frequency in the U.S. for radioactive airborne particulates was increased from twice weekly to daily in EPA's Environmental Radiation Ambient Monitoring System (ERAMS). The Canadian air monitoring network also increased sampling to daily.
- An afternoon meeting about the Chernobyl accident was held at the State Department with representatives from State, EPA, DOE, and NRC. The State Department suggested a joint press briefing should be held the next day. NRC provided a list of the type of questions they were getting from the public and the press.
- Arrangements were made for a meeting of all MOU agencies for Wednesday, April 30 at 1 p.m.; later rescheduled for 5:30 p.m. because of Congressional briefings.
- An emergency meeting of the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC)² was held at 2:30 p.m. to discuss the respective roles of the Federal agencies in support of EPA's lead role for coordinating the Federal response to the Chernobyl incident.
- The first press statement was issued by EPA to announce formation of the Interagency Task Force headed by Mr. Thomas and to provide available information on the accident, movement of the radioactive air mass, and intensification of sampling in the U.S. for airborne radioactivity.

Wednesday, April 30

Sheldon Meyers was named to head up EPA's response team and EPA's efforts to support the Task Force. He, in turn, named Dave Janes, Director, Analysis and Support Division, to coordinate and lead ORP's efforts. To fulfill EPA's responsibilities as overall coordinator, ORP developed an organizational plan to address three critical areas:

(1) Data Receipt, Evaluation, and Assessment - Mike Mardis. This effort would be the centralized collection point for data from DOE on international levels of radiation and from monitoring by the National Laboratories, from NOAA on air levels, from ERAMS, from state monitoring, and from U.S. embassies or diplomatic posts via the State Department, and the U.S. scientific monitoring teams. The Dose Assessment Working Group evolved from this part of EPA's organization.

(2) Data Reporting - Bill Gunter. This function would coordinate the dissemination of information and the response to all inquiries, in conjunction with the Press Office, be they from the general public, the press, or Congress. Inherent to this function was evaluation and interpretation of data for use by the press and general public. Press releases, testimony, Task Force reports, and other informational reports would be the responsibility of this group. Contact with NOAA on U.S. and foreign weather projections was also maintained here.

(3) Operations Support - Harry Calley. This function would provide interagency liaison, technical and logistical support, and serve as the interface for flow of information between agencies and other groups.

The EPA response organizational plan and a proposed agenda for the 5:30 p.m. interagency meeting were used to brief Mr. Thomas at 4:30 p.m.

The first formal meeting of the Task Force was held at 5:30 p.m. At this and all subsequent meetings, status of activities and events and updates on available information were presented and discussed. The first assignments were given at this meeting: (1) EPA would be the clearinghouse for offers of assistance and would coordinate with the State Department, (2) FAA requested measurement assistance from DOE, (3) the CDC/FDA medical network would be used to provide information to State health officers, (4) the lead for Public Information would be EPA (Dave Cohen, Press Office), and (5) it was reiterated DOE would head Congressional liaison. It was decided a health assessment group was needed.

Other significant events included:

- An interagency press briefing was held at the State Department at 11:10 a.m. Participants were Lee Thomas, EPA Administrator and Task Force Chairman; Sheldon Meyers, Acting Director, Office of Radiation Programs, EPA; Harold Denton, Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, NRC; and Lester Machta, Director, Air Resources Laboratory, NOAA; and Del Bunch, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Reactor Deployment, DOE. The transcript of this briefing was released in lieu of an EPA press statement.

- Congressional briefings were held for members and staff.

- The U.S.S.R. declined to accept the U.S. offer of assistance.

- The first U.S. field measurements of radioactivity were telephoned to EPA.

- Collections in the ERAMS milk monitoring program were increased from monthly to twice weekly.

Thursday, May 1

Organizational planning continued in this day's Task Force meeting. Several assignments resulted: (1) The State Department was to report on the Soviet obligation to report data; (2) International Activities/EPA was to make a recommendation on international information exchange; (3) ORP/EPA (with the State Department) was to prepare a cable requesting technical information from the U.S.S.R. The cable was also to solicit information based on questions submitted by Task Force agencies; (4) a Health Working Group under the leadership of HHS was formed and tasked to examine potential long and short-term health effects, identify symptoms and effects, and distribute information to health officials. Assessment of agricultural and food effects was also a responsibility of this working group; (5) ORP/EPA was to be responsible for day to day events, reporting, and data collection/receipt per its organizational plan; (6) a subgroup comprised of DOE, NRC, FEMA, and CIA representatives would describe and evaluate possible reactor scenarios and would be headed by NRC's Denton; (7) the NOAA would be responsible for providing the meteorological and atmospheric dispersion information that would be included in the daily Task Force report; and (8) DOE would evaluate the technical aspects of extinguishing a graphite reactor fire.

After the Task Force meeting, ORP/EPA used its three team plan to organize collection of information for daily Task Force reports, to set up a system for collecting radiological data,

to provide an EPA representative to the Health and Agriculture Working Group (Jerry Puskin), and to obtain representation from the U.S. Customs Service, Federal Aviation Administration, Postal Service, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to the Health and Agriculture Working Group because of the probable need to evaluate and monitor food and products imported to the U.S. from affected countries.

Other significant events included:

- The first Task Force report was released to provide current information and a status report on Federal activities (based on Task Force assignments discussed earlier) to the press and to the public.

- A press conference was held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building (DHHS) in Washington, D.C.

- The Task Force reported that the State Department issued a travel advisory recommending against travel to Kiev and adjacent areas in Russia and urged the public to monitor press reports for any updated information.

- The House Subcommittee on Energy, Conservation, and Power of the Committee on Energy and Commerce held a hearing, chaired by Congressman Markey.

- The first laboratory-confirmed [at EPA's Eastern Environmental Radiation Facility (EERF)] data were received by EPA's Washington data collection center.

Friday, May 2

The Task Force met. It was decided that contacts should be made with the counterpart agencies in affected countries to try to obtain radiological data. (NRC placed calls to 18 countries between May 2 and May 5.) Status reports were made and the best available information was reflected in the daily Task Force report.

Other significant events included:

- The first environmental monitoring data were received from the Swedish government for the Stockholm area. Using this, projections were made for radiation doses at the Chernobyl site but were estimates only because no information on actual radiation levels was made available by the Soviets. Very little other data were received and what was available was chiefly anecdotal. Some data from European power plants were available.

- Arrangements were made with Frank Young, FDA Commissioner who was to attend a WHO conference in Geneva, May 4-15, to act as the Task Force liaison with the WHO conferees.

- The Task Force recommended against the use of potassium iodide (KI) in the U.S. because (1) no harmful levels were expected to reach the U.S. and (2) the use of KI presents a risk, i.e., allergic reactions, to the population.

- The travel advisory was still limited to Kiev and adjacent areas but was upgraded (1) to recommend against travel by women of child-bearing age and children to Poland until the situation there was clarified and (2) to advise travelers in Eastern Europe to avoid consumption of milk and dairy products.

- Reports began to come into the State Department from U.S. embassies in Europe on impacts and reactions to the accident from local officials.

- A press conference was held at EPA.

Saturday, May 3

The Task Force met. The State Department reported that a command center had been set up in the Department. NRC sent a notice to its licensees requesting they report any unusually high data. EPA was tasked to establish additional liaison with the DOD to determine if DOD was collecting radiological data at European sites and, if not, to initiate data collection at bases in Europe as well as in Japan. The FDA, FAA, and INS were directed to coordinate their data, and the Health and Agriculture Working Group planned to meet at noon. Chairman Thomas emphasized the need to update advisories.

Other significant events included:

- A Task Force Report was prepared for internal use over the weekend; the EPA Press Office was open.

- The State Department had sent cables to diplomatic posts to alert them to the need for radiological data to be sent to the U.S. and to request any available information.

- New information was received from the Swedish government on isotopes in rain but was not yet analyzed and interpreted. The EPA had received a bit more data that could, to some degree, be quality assured.

- The U.S. had dispatched scientists to make environmental measurements in U.S. embassies and consulates in selected cities in the U.S.S.R., Poland, and Hungary.

(Ultimately, requests for measurements in other posts were made and granted.) Leaving Washington on Friday night, EPA scientist Richard Hopper went to Warsaw, Poland. A military team went to Moscow.

- The DOD was requested to collect environmental data from its military bases in Europe and Japan and to transmit the results to EPA.

Sunday, May 4

The Task Force met. NOAA reported that the plume had reached Japan but no numbers were firmly established; the State Department was to call our embassy there and EPA was to determine when data from the military would be available. The amount of good quality assured data was still limited; this hampered the efforts of the Health and Agriculture Working Group in preparing assessments and advisories. The State Department and HHS were to work on (another) cable to offer medical liaison with the U.S.S.R. The USDA reported that the World Agriculture Outlook Board requested data from the Task Force to consider in their grain and sugar beet projections. It was reported that the Brookhaven National Laboratory analyzed the dose to the Long Island teenagers who had returned from Kiev. 26/40 were positive, indicating an exposure to an iodine source, but readings were not alarming. Individuals were so advised and told no other precautions were necessary. Chairman Thomas stated the major goal was to try to obtain as much data as possible from all sources and, when available, prepare a summary fact sheet of that data, country by country. He also asked that the type of data needed to update health/travel advisories be identified.

Other significant events included:

- Again, an internal use Task Force Report was prepared for weekend use; the EPA Press Office was open.

- Interim travel guidance for affected areas, subject to revision and update, was: avoid drinking fresh milk or eating dairy products, eat processed food if possible, wash/peel fresh produce; and drink bottled water or other beverages, if possible, instead of local water.

- No medical screening for U.S. citizens returning from affected areas was recommended. People were advised to direct specific questions to state radiological control program officers or personal physicians.

- Soon-to-be-travelling U.S. citizens were again advised to monitor press reports.

- EPA scientist Hopper reported low levels (three times background) at the U.S. embassy in Warsaw, Poland.

- A second cable to diplomatic posts was sent, via the State Department, and specifically set forth data collection requirements.

- A reasonable amount of good quality data was starting to come to EPA. The dose assesment group met to review this new information; NRC, EPA, and HHS were involved, and a DOE member joined later.

- ORP/EPA established and tested a computerized data base and associated data entry protocols as the mechanism to receive and assess data on a larger scale.

Monday, May 5

The Task Force met. The CIA, DOE and the Pacific Northwest Laboratory (PNL), and the NRC were to closely coordinate their modeling efforts on reactor scenarios and dose calculations for Chernobyl. The State Department reported on the status of information received by country and was told to transmit data to EPA. To provide information to state officials, FDA decided to treat the accident as a "mass tampering" and so used its tampering incident information networks. The IAEA visit to Moscow was discussed. It was decided the report update would discuss possible U.S. detections and their meaning. A USIA representative attended and sought guidance for its public affairs activities abroad.

Other significant events included:

- The first U.S. positive field estimates were received from the Pacific Northwest Laboratory (PNL) in Richland, Washington.

- ORP/EPA began preparing formal morning briefing reports for the Administrator.

- Technical press briefings by Lee Thomas were held for the print media (major dailies, wire services, and West Coast newspapers) and then the broadcast media.

- The Dose Assessment Group completed its first report.

Tuesday, May 6

The Task Force met. It was decided to begin publishing consolidated data. U.S. positive measurements were to be placed in context; their meaning and health implications to be

explained. DOD data began to come into EPA. The Health and Agriculture Working Group reported to the Committee on projected health effects and identified Protective Action Guides (PAGs). EPA was asked to provide any data it had received on radiation counts on returning U.S. citizens to the Health and Agriculture Working Group. The USIA asked for assistance in preparing a Euronet technical program on nuclear safety. Thomas directed that any discussions of PAGs should explain what PAGs are, what actions are taken, and how to compare PAGs to ERAMS and other U.S. data.

Other significant events included:

- The Task Force Report today had its first discussion of foods, drugs, and products. A joint communique by world leaders participating in the Tokyo summit was attached.
- The Task Force received the first Dose Assessment Working Group report.
- The highest level detected in the U.S. to date, in rainwater, was reported. ERAMS air particulate samples, however, were not above background.
- The travel advisory did not change; preliminary data to date indicated radiation levels are low and pose no health hazard.
- A monitoring program for imported food was in place.
- Another technical press briefing was held.

Wednesday, May 7

The Task Force met. It was determined that data now coming in was now a better source of information for various assessments than determining possible reactor scenarios, although that effort would continue. HHS indicated talks were underway with the WHO. It was emphasized that the U.S. samples must be explained in daily reports. Initial planning for the weekend was begun. A question about whether EPA had received Polish data from the NRC was raised.

Other significant events included:

- A Task Force Report was issued. PAGs were discussed in depth.
- Activity in ERAMS air particulate samples was confirmed by EERF and reported by the Task Force the next day.

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- Canada destroyed an Italian shipment of vegetables based on elevated levels of radionuclides. The U.S. continued its program of inspecting imported foods.

- A statement by the FAA indicated no special flight precautions were necessary. Flights above 20,000 feet near Kiev or at any altitude elsewhere were not expected to present any public health or safety hazard.

- The Task Force reported that the State of Oregon issued an advisory that people who use rainwater as their sole source of drinking water should refrain from drinking rainwater at this time.

Thursday, May 8

The Task Force met. The USDA reported on a Commodity Credit Corporation inventory of nonfat dry milk; USDA was to coordinate any assistance with the State Department. Canada asked for data from the U.S. scientific teams at East European embassies; EPA and State were to coordinate. The limited amount of data was of concern to the Health and Agriculture Working Group. The first data summary by EPA was released and given to the Health and Agriculture Working Group. EPA and members of the Health and Agriculture Working Group met after the Task Force meeting and also talked during the day about data needs.

Other significant events included:

- A Task Force Report was issued.
- Alternatives to fresh dairy products were suggested.
- Data of various forms and for various pathways had been received from 15 countries.
- The Dose Assessment Working Group completed its second report for distribution to the Task Force at the next meeting.
- The Task Force reported that the previous night ERAMS had confirmed its first detection of radioactivity from Chernobyl in air at ground level in the U.S. More positive rainwater samples were also reported.
- The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service and the FDA had in place routine procedures to monitor imported products. Assignments issued provided for increased monitoring and analysis of fresh fruit and vegetables, fish and selected dairy products at entry and for notifying countries who export meat and poultry products to the U.S. of special monitoring procedures to undertake prior to shipment to the U.S..

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● Estimates of dose and surface deposition from the Chernobyl accident for a 10 day period were reported by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Friday, May 9

The Task Force met. It decided to meet again on Monday and Wednesday and consider closing down the formal meeting arrangement. A reading for I-131 from Albany, NY was discussed; Sheldon Meyers later decided to include field estimates, state reports, etc. in the data updates but note these as unconfirmed by the EPA laboratory. Another data summary, including U.S. data, was distributed to the Task Force and made publicly available through the EPA Press Office. The Health and Agriculture Working Group reported it would complete a report on advisory levels in food by today. This group also hoped to complete a report to the Committee on drugs and biologicals on Monday; letters will be sent from FDA to manufacturers under 1 of 2 possible regulatory mechanisms. The USDA reported it was beginning to receive responses to its cable to trading partners on radiation contamination levels in meat and poultry.

Other significant events included:

● A Task Force report was issued and contained detailed U.S. monitoring data.

● Routine procedures were in place to monitor imported food. Working with U.S. Customs officials, particular attention was given to products from Austria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Finland, Hungary, Japan, Norway, Poland, the Soviet Union, Sweden, and West Germany.

● A cable was prepared in which the U.S. responded affirmatively to a cable from the WHO-Copenhagen asking for U.S. participation in exchange of global data.

● Travel advice for women of child-bearing age and children was eased; they no longer needed to defer travel to Poland. EPA scientist Richard Hopper reported radiation levels as low, currently posing no hazard.

Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and 11

The Task Force did not meet, but Task Force reports were updated and issued. The EPA Press Office and the data collection center at ORP/EPA were open. The highest rainwater field estimate (at 5000 pC/l) thus far was reported on Saturday in Portland, Oregon. The first positive milk sample was reported by the media on late Sunday night for dairies in

northwest Oregon. The Task Force report concluded that the U.S. radiation monitoring network had recorded sporadic and detectable levels of radiation from the Chernobyl accident in most areas of the country but these levels pose no health or environmental threat.

Monday, May 12

The Task Force met. The latest U.S. and foreign data compiled by EPA was given to Task Force members. The Health and Agriculture Working Group reported it had completed development of an advisory outlining levels of concern for imported products. Not published in the Task Force report, these advisory levels will be used in the FDA and USDA inspection programs. In response to a question from Mr. Thomas, FDA indicated all groups were working closely together to collect and provide results to the EPA data base and then, in turn, convey information to responsible state officials. Chairman Thomas tasked the group to consider, for discussion on Wednesday, May 14, close-out vs. continuing activities and future needs for emergency response programs. For the latter, he suggested the FRPCC could evaluate the lessons learned from the Chernobyl accident, including whether emergency response plans should be updated or reorganized.

Other significant events included:

- A Task Force report was issued. By this time, reports concentrated on U.S. monitoring data.
- EPA scientist Richard Hopper completed measurements in Budapest, Hungary and began making measurements in Sofia, Bulgaria on this day.
- FDA reported trace amounts of I-131 were detected on a few imported food shipments from Europe but these traces presented no public health hazard.
- Foreign data received over the weekend at EPA suggested external radiation levels were decreasing in Western Europe.
- The Dose Assessment Working Group completed its third report for use by the Health and Agriculture Working Group. (The report was given to the full Task Force on Wednesday, May 14.)
- The cable was sent to the WHO, agreeing to cooperate and to use them as a clearinghouse for worldwide data collection.

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Tuesday, May 13

The Task Force did not meet on this day, but a Task Force report was released. The report only gave U.S. data and noted that deposition values were still less than 10 percent of the level at which protective actions would be taken under FDA's recommended Protective Action Guides.

Other significant events included:

- The USGS issued a press release to report satellite images over the Chernobyl reactor site confirmed cooling.
- Data collection at EPA continued, and collaboration with the WHO began.

Wednesday, May 14

This was the last meeting of the Task Force. As such, the discussion focused chiefly on close-out and certain continuing activities, as follows. EPA will continue its operations, including public reports and intensified monitoring, until deemed to be not necessary, probably in about 10 days. The agencies should continue to cooperate and collaborate especially in areas where continued activity is necessary, most probably in the Dose Assessment and Health and Agriculture Working Groups. A summary health and dose assessment report will be prepared with EPA serving as the lead agency. This report will be similar to those prepared following the Chinese atmospheric tests and the TMI accident. EPA will also prepare its own report on lessons learned in responding to this accident. Unless the charge to the Task Force is changed, the other agencies should also evaluate the lessons learned in the context of their individual responsibilities and push to modify their own procedures accordingly. The Health and Agriculture Working Group will submit to Mr. Thomas a list of areas they believe should be improved in the future; this will be circulated to the Task Force members. The scope of the MOU should be examined in terms of lessons learned in this incident, e.g., including nondetonations (EPA suggests Transboundary Nuclear Events as a new MOU title and scope); the need for real-time dose and health information; and the role of the State Department especially in relation to the need for an international capability for faster, real-time data collection. In the interagency emergency response exercises that are routinely conducted, more senior staff should perhaps be included so they will receive the benefits of that experience. Mr. Thomas announced he intended to send a wrap-up memorandum to the White House.

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Other significant events included:

- A Task Force report was issued. Sources of information for citizens as well as state agencies were given.
- The State Department requested continued use of EPA monitoring equipment for about six months. The request was granted.
- EPA's laboratory in Alabama confirmed the first instance of I-131 detections in milk sampled from the ERAMS. The levels reported were very low, far below the FDA's recommended PAG's, and pose no danger.

Thursday, May 15

The first report from WHO was received by EPA. At present, WHO has about 10 percent of the data EPA has gathered. EPA also has greater country coverage. This indicated WHO will go through a catch-up period. EPA will probably only collect and report foreign data for another week. Data receipt continued but, in general, was slowing down.

Other significant events included:

- The Task Force report on this day presented the latest U.S. data, including the milk detections noted above, and reiterated and elaborated on advice to U.S. citizens who had traveled in Europe, especially on obtaining medical tests to assuage any health concerns they may have.
- The State Department had requested the Dose Assessment Working Group evaluate the possible dose to individuals at diplomatic posts and on this day sent a list of locations to evaluate to the Group, based at EPA.
- The media was advised they could also obtain U.S. ERAMS and foreign measurement data from EPA's 10 Regional Offices.

Friday, May 16 - Sunday, May 18

Task Force reports were issued and reported solely on data from the U.S. monitoring network and from U.S. power plants which had been asked by NRC to provide information to the Task Force from their monitoring programs. Levels of radioactivity appeared to be dropping.

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NOTES:

1. The MOU was issued in 1977, to be effective for five years, with EPA as the lead agency. FEMA had not yet been established. The process of revising and updating the MOU, given its lapse, was undertaken in 1985. When the Chernobyl accident occurred, the revised MOU was being circulated for signature by participating agencies.

2. The FRPCC is normally the Federal body that coordinates the Federal response to radiological emergencies with FEMA as the lead agency. The FRPCC chiefly focuses its activities on domestic incidents, hence, the MOU for foreign detonations was invoked for responding to the Chernobyl accident. Most of the same agencies and individuals are, however, involved in both coordinating functions.

The above information was compiled from Task Force Reports, EPA reports to the Administrator, and other reports to the Task Force and to the data collection center at EPA as well as from interviews with involved EPA staff in ORP and the Press Office.

5/29/86