

Report by NCRP on “Optimizing Decision Making for Late-Phase Recovery from Nuclear or Radiological Terrorism Incidents”

In March 2008 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued its final Planning Guidance for Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) and Improvised Nuclear Device (IND) Incidents (Federal Register 73, No. 149, 45029–45049). This document provides recommendations for protection of public health in the early, intermediate and late phases of response to an RDD or IND, and discusses approaches to implementation of the necessary actions. Although Planning Guidance for the early and intermediate phases of response generally follow U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines, the proposed late-phase Planning Guidance for cleanup and restoration of an affected site is based on an approach termed "optimization." DHS guidelines provide a general description of the goals of the late recovery phase, but they do not describe the complex optimization approach to decision making during the process of achieving these multifaceted goals.

In an effort to more fully define the process and procedures to be used in optimizing the late-phase recovery and site restoration following an RDD or IND incident, DHS has funded NCRP to prepare a comprehensive report that addresses all aspects of an effective optimization process. The preparation of the NCRP report, entitled "Approach to Optimizing Decision Making for Late-Phase Recovery from Nuclear or Radiological Terrorism Incidents," will be a three-year effort by a scientific committee designated as SC 5-1. Members of SC 5-1 will represent a broad range of expertise for addressing the complex issues involved in optimizing decisions on late-phase cleanup and site recovery following an RDD or IND incident, including experts in homeland security, health physics, risk and decision analysis, economics, environmental remediation and radioactive waste management, and communication with public and government organizations. Stakeholders at the local, state and federal levels will hold discussions with members of SC 5-1 during the course of preparing the report. The complexity of the optimization process and the need for a broad range of experience and expertise on the NCRP Committee is underscored in a paper published by S.Y. Chen and T.S. Tenforde in *Homeland Security Affairs*, **VI**(1), January 2010.

The membership of SC 5-1 is:

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The first meeting of SC 5-1 is scheduled for November 3-4, 2010 at the NCRP Headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland.

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