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| WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS OPAG on DPFS  **expert team on emergency response activites (et-era)**  BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, 30 NOVEMBER – 4 DECEMBER 2015 |  | DPFS/ET-ERA/Doc. 4.2(5)  (4.XI.2015)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Agenda item : 4.2  ENGLISH ONLY |

**Summary of RSMC Montreal Activities for 2014 - 2015**

*(Submitted by Canada)*

##### Summary and purpose of document

We present a summary of activities at RSMC Montreal for 2014 – 2015. Traditional activities continue on the nuclear ERA side. Faxing of RSMC products remains a significant communication problem due to the high failure rate. With regards to the recent expansion of the WMO ERA programme to include non-nuclear activities, RSMC Montreal has been involved in developing and testing of request for RSMC support procedures. Two such response tests were conducted with NMHS Argentina in September 2014 and October 2015.

##### Action Proposed

The meeting is invited to note and discuss the information presented in this paper.

1. The RSMC Montreal report of activities for 2014 is available on the [WMO ERA Web page](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/DPFSERA/resources.html). The report for 2015 will be added to the Web page by the end of February 2016.
2. Traditional activities continue at RSMC Montreal on the nuclear ERA side. These include monthly RMSC tests, quarterly IAEA – RSMC tests, responding to CTBTO requests, etc. The tests help to maintain operational readiness and ensure that the mechanics of response, production and posting of products on common Web pages are well oiled. Problems are identified and corrected as needed.
3. One important problem for RSMC Montreal remains the faxing of products to the contact point at NMHS. We continue to observe a high failure rate for reasons well identified and discussed at previous meetings of the ERA group. There are also costs associated with maintaining a commercial Web based faxing system. Action 2 in Annex III of the ET-ERA meeting (Washington, 2013) identified steps for the implementation of a plan to migrate from fax distribution of RSMC products to email / internet distribution. RSMC Montreal limits faxing to the single quarterly test with the IAEA in which it is a lead centre. We invite the group to update the plan and to implement it so that fax transmissions can be completely discontinued as soon as possible.
4. A test of the procedures to request non-nuclear RSMC Montreal services, running of atmospheric transport and dispersion modelling and product generation was conducted with NMHS Argentina on 3 September 2014.
5. Tests of the production of Time of Arrival charts were conducted on 2 June 2015 and 27 October 2015. There was some initial difficulty in producing the maps for the desired time intervals, since RSMC Montreal was set up to produce all time periods on one display. Hatching is not included on the Time of Arrival charts so black and white printing is not yet feasible.
6. RSMC Montreal was tasked with pursuing Action 16 from the ET-ERA meeting (Washington, 2013), namely “to assist in the development of guidance on radioactive clouds for aviation interests”. This work is also of interest to new work groups created by ICAO, which are responsible for the development of operational instructions for how to deal with the release of radioactive material. This work was done in parallel with RSMC Vienna and is submitted under agenda item 4.1.
7. The CTBTO continued to request atmospheric transport modelling support from the RSMCs and issued a total of 34 such requests between October 2013 and November 4, 2015 (inclusive). Changes were made to the CTBTO server to which files containing calculations of Source-Receptor-Sensitivity fields are uploaded. RSMC Montreal was able to seamlessly adapt to these changes.
8. Regarding Action Item 24 of the 2013 ET-ERA meeting, transmission of CTBTO meteorological data on WMO GTS continues to be done in two bulletins. One is sent out from RSMC Montreal and one is sent from RSMC Vienna in BUFR format. Individual member states of the CTBTO must assign a synoptic identification number to each station before its data can be encoded in BUFR format. While many countries have already done so, several have yet to complete this task, observations from the whole network are found in one or the other of these bulletins.
9. RSMC Montréal was represented at a workshop on Atmospheric Transport Modelling and Source Characterization, organized by the CTBTO in Stockholm, Sweden, in September 2014.

**Reference:**

Washington, 2013: [Meeting of the CBS Expert Teams on Emergency Response Activities](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/CBS-Reports/documents/Final-Report-ET-ERA-CollegePark2013.pdf) (ET-ERA), College Park, MD, U.S.A. 21-25 October, 2013.