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IMPROVEMENT OF ABILITY OF RSMCs IN EER TO FULFIL THE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

(Submitted by Canada and the United States)

Summary and purpose of document

Based on the experience of RSMC Montréal and RSMC Washington during the 22 May 2001 JINEX 1 International test, WMO TD 778 Annex 1 was reviewed. The purpose of this paper is to seek clarification on a number of issues and to propose some modifications to the text of Annex 1.

Action proposed

The meeting is invited to provide clarification on outstanding issues and to consider the proposed changes to the text of WMO TD 778 Annex 1.

Annex 1: WMO TD 778 Annex 1 Appendix I-3

Annex 5: Cover page of WMO TD 778 Annex 5.

Note: In what follows, the text of WMO TD 778 Annex 1 and Annex 5 is in Times New Roman 10 font; Proposed additions are in double underlined Times New Roman 10 font and Questions and comments from RSMC Montréal and RSMC Washington are in Arial 12 font.

ANNEX 1

APPENDIX I-3

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORT MODEL PRODUCTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

SUPPORT FOR NUCLEAR ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

IAEA Notification of WMO

In accordance with the IAEA Convention on Early Notification of Nuclear Accidents, the IAEA shall notify the WMO Secretariat and the RTH Offenbach (Germany) of an accident occurrence and/or whether emergency meteorological support is required. RTH Offenbach will put the EMERCON message on the GTS in the form of an alphanumeric bulletin in plain-text English language under the abbreviated heading WNXX01 IAEA for global distribution to the NMCs and RSMCs. (See also the WMO Manual on the GTS (WMO Publication No. 386). **The GTS message implies an IAEA-notified emergency and a «request for services» from the LEAD RSMCs (those whose responsibility includes the country of the accident), while the other RSMCs are to send their products only to the NMSs in their region (not including IAEA).**

For an IAEA-notified emergency for which emergency meteorological support was requested, the IAEA shall send a timely message to the RSMCs, WMO Secretariat and RTH Offenbach informing that the IAEA no longer requires emergency meteorological support. RTH Offenbach will put the EMERCON message on the GTS in the form of an alphanumeric bulletin in plain-text English language under the abbreviated heading WNXX 01 IAEA for global distribution to the NMCs **and RSMCs.**

Regional arrangements

The RSMCs designated by WMO for the provision of atmospheric transport model products for nuclear environmental emergency response shall:

1. Provide products only when either the Delegated Authority¹ of any country in the RSMC region of responsibility or the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), requests RSMC support. Upon receipt of a «request **for services form**» from the delegated authority² ***or from the IAEA***, the RSMC shall provide basic information to the national Meteorological Service of that country ***or to the IAEA respectively***;

Regarding paragraph 1, RSMC Montréal and RSMC Washington would like WMO/IAEA to define explicitly what constitutes an "IAEA request" in TD 778. For example, would this request be only in the form of a phone or fax message from IAEA directly to an individual RSMC requesting support or can a WNXX01 message on the GTS for a transboundary emergency be considered as a request for support? Are there other ways to "request" support? While this may be defined elsewhere, we would recommend that the definition be included explicitly in WMO TD 778.

¹ The person authorized by the Permanent Representative of the country to request RSMC support.

² The RSMC products will be provided to the NMS Operational Contact Point designated by the Permanent Representative.

2. Upon receipt of a first request *for services* related to a nuclear incident *and in the absence of a prior notification by the IAEA* inform the WMO Secretariat, all designated RSMCs and IAEA of the request;
3. *For an IAEA notified emergency that indicates a transboundary emergency*, distribute the basic products to the IAEA and all national Meteorological Services in the Region³. *For a request for services without Notification by IAEA*, basic information provided to the national Meteorological Service of the requesting country will not be disclosed to the public in that country nor distributed by RSMCs to other national Meteorological Services;

- PARAGRAPH 3: Similar to paragraph 1: What constitutes "an IAEA notified emergency"?

- Annex 5 of WMO TD 778 presents fictitious scenarios to demonstrate RSMC support for Environmental Emergency Response. It uses "Acciland", "Neighbourland" and "Distantland" and mentions that "It is assumed that Acciland and Neighbourland are located in the same WMO Region and that Distanland is not". Does WMO / IAEA make a difference between the RSMCs responsible from Acciland vs the RSMCs in neighbourland or distantland with respect to paragraph 3? This distinction is not made in CBS-XII 6.3 Appendix B, Annex 1.

- If there is no distinction, then according to paragraph 3, all RSMCs would fax to IAEA and to the NMSs in their respective areas of responsibility. For the 22 May 2001 JINEX test, the request by RSMC Toulouse to the other RSMCs outside of the Acciland Region not to fax their products to IAEA would appear to be in contradiction to this.

- On the other hand, assuming that there is a distinction to be made, then it should be covered explicitly in the text of Annex 1.

- Also if there is a distinction to be made, then Annex 1 needs to mention explicitly that the distantland RSMCs will not fax their products to IAEA (for an IAEA notified emergency) but only to the NMSs in their areas of responsibility.

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4. Provide, on request, support and advice to the IAEA and WMO Secretariats in the preparation of public and media statements;
5. Determine the standard set of products and the method of delivery in consultation with users and the IAEA;
6. Provide product interpretation guidelines to users;
7. Provide support and technology transfer to national and regional meteorological centres that want to become designated RSMCs;
8. Make arrangements to provide backup services. These would normally be between the two designated centres in a Region. Interim arrangements should be made by centres in regions with a single

³ The basic information will normally be provided by the NMS to the IAEA national contact point.

designated RSMC.

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Global arrangements

Until such time as new RSMCs have been designated, it is proposed that Regional Association VI-designated RSMCs be responsible to provide services for radiological emergencies to Regional Association I; Regional Association IV-designated RSMCs be responsible to provide services to Regional Association III; while the Regional Association V-designated RSMC, in collaboration with Regional Association IV-designated RSMCs, will be responsible to provide services to Regional Association V.

In cases of radiological emergencies where coordination is required between RSMCs of different Regions, the RSMCs of the Region where the emergency has occurred will provide this coordination.

- This last paragraph seems required only if a distinction is made between the Acciland and Distantland RSMCs. Otherwise, we seek clarification on how it should be interpreted.

Support for non-nuclear environmental emergency response

If support is required for response to a non-nuclear environmental emergency, related to atmospheric transport of pollutants the Permanent Representative with WMO of the affected country may direct its request for support to the operational contact point of the designated RSMC(s) for its Regional Association;

1. Due to the potentially broad range of environmental emergencies, the RSMC shall consider each request with regard to its capabilities and the suitability of its products to address the emergency requirements and will then respond accordingly;
2. The RSMC shall inform all other designated RSMCs and the WMO Secretariat of the request and the agreed actions.

ANNEX 5

**FICTITIOUS SCENARIOS TO DEMONSTRATE RSMC SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

Acciland:	Country where a nuclear accident is occurring or about to occur
Neighbourland:	Country neighbouring on Acciland
Distantland:	Country at considerable distance from Acciland
Scenario 1:	Acciland learns of the accident and realizes the potential for an uncontrolled release to the atmosphere of radioactive materials and needs Atmospheric Transport Model support
Scenario 2:	Neighbourland learns through media of a potential accident in Acciland, and needs Atmospheric Transport Model support
Scenario 3:	Distantland is concerned that an accident in Acciland could have an impact on its own country and needs Atmospheric Transport Model guidance

*It is assumed here that Acciland and Neighbourland are located in the same WMO Region and that Distantland is not.
