

Issy-les-Moulineaux, 12 November 2014

**Invitation to participate in the
INEX 5 Exercise
on Notification, Communication and Interfaces Related to Catastrophic
Events involving Radiation or Radiological Materials**

Dear Colleagues,

The INEX series of International Nuclear Emergency Exercises, organised by the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency since 1993, has proven very successful in testing, investigating and improving nuclear emergency management systems for responding to nuclear accidents and radiological emergencies at the national and international level.

The last series, the INEX 4 consequence management and transition to recovery exercises conducted throughout 2010 and 2011, investigated arrangements for emergency response and actions related to widespread radiological contamination of the environment arising from a radiological emergency involving a radiological dispersal device. The NEA's Working Party on Nuclear Emergency Matters of the Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH) has published *the Summary of the Fourth International Nuclear Emergency Exercise (INEX 4) and Topical Session*.

Building on the INEX 4 outcomes, the INEX 5 concept is to conduct a table-top exercise addressing emergency management aspects of notification, communication and interfaces between and among each participating country and international organisations. To achieve this, the INEX 5 scenario involves a release of radioactive material resulting from a catastrophic natural disaster event. While the INEX 5 scenario involves a release from a nuclear power plant (NPP), the exercise material is developed to enable NPP and non-NPP countries to conduct regional table-top exercises to address emergency management aspects of notification, communication and interfaces between and among countries and international organisations. Alternatively, countries may instead conduct independent exercises.

The goal of INEX 5 is to strengthen communication and notification interfaces within and between countries through identification and implementation of corrective actions. The INEX 5 exercise is an opportunity for participating countries to test and demonstrate the value of relevant changes put in place as a result of the Fukushima Daiichi NPP accident.

The key INEX 5 exercise objectives are to:

- Test and investigate the adequacy of national arrangements (including national coordination and communication) - and where appropriate international arrangements - for notification, communication and obtaining and managing international resource support to respond to a severe contamination event;
- Review and share information on approaches to notification and communication processes in order to identify good practice and to allow review and improvement of local, national and international arrangements;

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- Identify key areas and approaches to international coordination and communication in order to provide a basis for improvements in international emergency management systems.

As a table-top notification, communication and interfaces exercise, the INEX 5 exercise will be played during the early crisis phase. The INEX 5 framework specifically excludes the intermediate and late phases, except for appropriate notification and communication activities within the scenario questions, although issues arising during this phase may need to be addressed. Additionally, INEX 5 is neither intended nor designed to test international conventions for notification or assistance.

Participation in INEX 5

The INEX 5 is open for participation to all countries (NEA member and non-member countries) as well as interested international organisations. The exercise period is September 2015 to June 2016 that enables conduct of an INEX 5 Evaluation Workshop in early 2017 and countries may conduct their exercise at their choice during the stated period.

Each country participating in INEX 5 will be responsible for planning, conducting and evaluating its own exercise. To support this and to facilitate comparison of exercise outcomes, the NEA has prepared an exercise scenario, necessary generic technical materials, and a standard evaluation questionnaire, to help national planning teams develop the country-specific aspects of a national INEX 5 exercise.

In order to receive the INEX 5 scenario and technical materials and to facilitate overall planning, countries and international organisations intending to conduct an INEX 5 exercise should notify the NEA Secretariat, by **31 March 2015**, of their intention to participate and provide appropriate contact information for their National Exercise Organiser.

A short, explanatory document, "INEX 5: General Information" is also attached to assist you with your decision to participate in this exercise. For further information regarding INEX 5, please contact the NEA Secretariat (below).

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Sincerely,



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Encl: INEX 5 - General Information