



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

September 3, 2002

Dear Stakeholder:

In a continuing effort to plan for the future, the Department of Energy (DOE); the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), have developed a plan entitled *Agenda for HHS Public Health Activities (for Fiscal Years 2002-2007) at U.S. Department of Energy Sites*. The plan specifically includes proposed research and public health activities related to DOE sites.

We will be updating this agenda annually, so I encourage you to provide feedback on the plan. Your review of this document and submission of comments will aid the agencies in refining the agenda. The document can be viewed at: <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/health> or via the link at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/default.htm>. If you require a hard copy, please send a written request to the address below. Your contributions will help us move forward on actions that further improve public health.

Please provide your written comments regarding this plan by October 1, 2002, to:

Natasha Friday, Acting Deputy Chief
Radiation Studies Branch (Mail Stop E-39)
Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects
National Center for Environmental Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

We encourage you to remain interested, informed, and involved, and we look forward to your comments.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Miller, Ph.D.
Chief, Radiation Studies Branch
Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects
National Center for Environmental Health





Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

August 29, 2002

Dear Stakeholder:

**Subject: Funding for Activities Around Department of Energy Nuclear Weapons
Production Facilities**

In 1990, the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Secretary, Department of Energy (DOE), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) transferring the authority and resources to manage and conduct energy-related analytic epidemiologic research from DOE to HHS. This includes the authority, resources, and responsibility for the design, implementation, analysis, and scientific interpretation of analytic epidemiologic studies of workers at DOE facilities and residents of communities in the vicinity of DOE facilities.

The Secretary, HHS, delegated responsibility for implementation of the MOU to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Director, CDC, designated the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) as lead for CDC and for the conduct of environmental studies. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has responsibility for the conduct of occupational studies.

This MOU was renewed in 1995 and 2000. During the second renewal, the activities being conducted at DOE sites by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) were incorporated into this MOU.

Funding for activities by these agencies around DOE sites comes from Congress through the DOE budget. Each year, CDC (NCEH and NIOSH) and ATSDR send a request to DOE to secure funding for the next fiscal year. Working with DOE, the Office of Management and Budget prepares a budget incorporating HHS activities for submission by the President to Congress. The budget Congress eventually approves for DOE includes an amount for all HHS activities associated with DOE sites.

Since the MOU was originally signed in 1990, NCEH has undertaken projects at a number of DOE sites. We have completed a major historical dose reconstruction project around the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in the state of Washington. We are in the midst of dose reconstruction activities around the Savannah River Site in South Carolina and around the Idaho Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in Idaho. We also have a historical document retrieval activity in progress for the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. NCEH has completed the Fernald Environmental Dosimetry Project and the Hanford Thyroid Disease Study. These last two activities were funded directly to CDC by Congress and not through the MOU.

The table that follows shows approximately the amount of money received by NCEH for each fiscal year since the beginning of the MOU. You will note that funds for NCEH activities have generally decreased since 1996, with 2002 funding being the lowest amount received since 1991. Although Congress has not yet passed the budget for 2003, we anticipate that this downward trend in funding will continue in the future.

YEAR	AMOUNT
1991	\$ 2,860,000.00
1992	\$ 6,200,000.00
1993	\$10,380,000.00
1994	\$12,300,000.00
1995	\$ 5,800,000.00
1996	\$ 9,540,000.00
1997	\$ 8,210,000.00
1998	\$ 7,700,000.00
1999	\$ 6,420,000.00
2000	\$ 6,200,000.00
2001	\$ 6,500,000.00
2002	\$ 4,800,000.00

As a result of this trend in DOE funding, NCEH has begun prioritizing all of its DOE-related activities. At the present time, we do not anticipate starting any new projects, and we want to complete all of our current projects in a manner that will maximize the public health benefit to all citizens. We expect to be in dialogue with all of our Health Effects Subcommittees and other interested stakeholders associated with each of our current projects to determine how we can best achieve this goal. The meetings we hold with such groups are always open to public participation. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend these meetings and participate in this process as you feel appropriate. I look forward to working with you in the future in this effort.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Miller, Ph.D.
Chief, Radiation Studies Branch
Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects
National Center for Environmental Health