

# BNL ALARA Center Data Base

U.S.A.

H-220

## PREVENTIVE MEASURES FOR RADIATION INJURY LITIGATION

**Keywords:** OPERATIONAL & MAINTENANCE TECHNIQUES; DOSE; EQUIVALENT; RADIATION DOSE; OCCUPATIONAL DOSE; RADIATION PROTECTION; LITIGATION

**Principal Investigator:**

Mark Somerville, CHP  
Pacific Gas & Electric Company  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant  
P.O. Box 56  
Avila Beach, CA 93424  
U.S.A.

**Phone:** (805)545-4745

**Project Manager:**

Mark Somerville, CHP  
Pacific Gas & Electric Company  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant  
P.O. Box 56  
Avila Beach, CA 93424  
U.S.A.

**Phone:** (805)545-4745

**Objectives:** To evolve good preventive measures against radiation injury litigation in the nuclear power industry.

There are many complicating factors which should be taken into account:

- There is a lack of scientific consensus.
- Standards are changing and becoming more restrictive.
- Public's perception of radiation risk is very high.
- The long period of latency between exposure and effects masks causality.
- It is almost impossible to distinguish between radiation caused and non-radiation caused injury.

**Comments:** The following points of advice emerged:

- \* Develop principles for a good radiation safety program and stick to them.
- \* Ensure that records are complete and retrievable.
- \* Treat workers with respect and care.
- \* Be honest in internal communications.
- \* Make sure personnel exposure database is accurate and reliable.
- \* Hire competent radiation protection personnel and train them well.

**Remarks:** In the face of the many changes that radiation protection programs are undergoing, such as dealing with smaller and more diversified staff, using advanced radiation workers, continuing advances in technology, it is important to manage program changes in such a way that adequate levels of safety and legal defensibility remain intact.

**References:** 1. Somerville, M.O., "Radiation Injury Case at Diablo Canyon," INPO Radiation Protection Managers' Workshop, Atlanta, Georgia, May 22-23, 1995, available from S. Driscoll, Institute of Nuclear Power Operators, 700 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, GA, 30339-5957.

**Duration:** from: 1994 to: 1996

**Funding:** N/A

**Status:** Completed

**Last Update:** April 23, 1996