

# **AREVA Resources Canada Inc.**

Kiggavik Project, Nunavut

# **RADIATION PROTECTION PLAN**

January 2010, Version 5

# **REQUIRED USERS**

Required and other users are responsible for using the current version of the Radiation Protection Plan as posted on the Kiggavik drive. Users may print copies of this plan, but are ultimately responsible for ensuring they are using a current copy as posted. Users are requested to destroy all previously printed copies of the plan when they are informed of revisions.

# **HISTORY OF REVISIONS**

Version	Revision	Date	Details of Revision	
01	00	March 2007	Original submission	
02	00	October 2007	activities/capabilities and goals of continual improvement	
03	00	August 2008		
04	00	January 2009	Update to reflect changes in field activities/capabilities and goals of continual improvement	
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Original Copy of this Manual:	
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Approved by: Signature and Date	January 21, 2010
Approved and Signed by title:	Frederic Guerin General Manager, Kiggavik Project
Approved by: Signature and Date	January 25,7000

The original hard copy of this approval page has been signed and is located at the AREVA Resources Canada Inc. corporate office.

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1	INT	RODUCTION	1-1
	1.1	Purpose and Scope	1-1
	1.2	Revision to Manual	1-2
	1.3	Responsibilities	1-2
2	ADI	MINISTRATIVE ELEMENTS	2-1
	2.1	Program Documentation	2-1
	2.2	Training	2-1
	2.3	Designation of Occupational Workers	2-2
	2.4	Dose Limits and Dose Levels	2-2
	2.5	Obligations of Occupational Workers	2-2
	2.6	Pregnant Occupational Workers	
3	PRO	OGRAM ELEMENTS	3-1
	3.1	ALARA	3-1
	3.2	Radiological Monitoring	3-1
	3.3	Dosimetry Monitoring	3-1
	3.4	Code of Practice	3-1
	3.5	Management of Radioactive Materials	3-2
	3.	5.1 Radioisotopes	
	3.	5.2 Core Storage	3-2
	3.	5.3 Disposition of Drill Cuttings	3-2
	3.	5.4 Spills	3-3
	3.6	Shipping of Radioactive Materials	3-3
	3.7	Site Abandonment and Restoration	3-3
	3.8	Emergency Response	3-4
1	RFI	FERENCES	<i>∆</i> -1



# 1 INTRODUCTION

This Radiation Protection Plan will be in effect for the duration of the Kiggavik Project located about 80 km west of Baker Lake:

West Boundary 97° 57' 50.4" W Longitude;

• East Boundary 97° 20' 56.4" W Longitude;

• North Boundary 64° 39' 28.8" N Latitude; and,

• South Boundary 64° 17' 02.4" N Latitude.

# 1.1 Purpose and Scope

The Radiation Protection Program is designed to meet the requirements of the applicable Nunavut Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, mineral exploration best practices, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Regulations and the AREVA Resources Canada Inc. (ARC) Integrated Quality System Manual (IQMS). The program elements include:

# **Administrative Elements**

- Program documentation
- Training
- Designation of Occupational Workers
- Dose limits and dose levels
- Obligations of Occupational Workers
- Pregnant Occupational Workers

## **Program Elements**

- ALARA
- Radiological monitoring
- Dosimetry monitoring
- Code of Practice
- Management of radioactive materials
- Shipping of radioactive materials
- Site abandonment and restoration
- Emergency response



### 1.2 Revision to Manual

The Kiggavik Radiation Protection Plan is reviewed by the Environment and Radiation Protection Supervisor, the Manager Safety and Radiation, and the General Manager Kiggavik Project on an annual basis and is updated as required to keep the information current and consistent with regulatory and procedural changes. A History of Revisions can be found at the front of this manual.

# 1.3 Responsibilities

The Facility Supervisor is responsible to ensure that this plan is implemented by the Environment Health and Safety (EHS) Group. This Group includes:

- Environment and Radiation Protection Supervisor
- Environment Technicians
- First aid responders (ARC staff and/or contractors)
- Safety personnel (ARC staff and/or contractors)

The General Manager, Kiggavik Project is ultimately responsible for any activity being carried out by Kiggavik Project personnel.



# 2 ADMINISTRATIVE ELEMENTS

# 2.1 Program Documentation

The Radiation Protection Program is comprised of a series of key documents combined in the Radiation Protection Procedures Manual (RPPM). These include Dosimetry Monitoring Strategy (DMS), Routine Radiological Monitoring Schedule (RRMS), and Shipping Radioactive Material.

The Radiation Protection Program includes comprehensive work instructions for worker dosimetry, radiological monitoring and the safe handling of radioactive materials.

To ensure occupational exposures are managed in accordance with the As Low As Reasonable Achievable (ALARA) principle, radiological parameters are monitored against a defined Radiation Protection Code of Practice (COP). The COP defines values of radiological parameters above which intervention may be required and the corresponding mitigative measures to be followed.

# 2.2 Training

ARC provides necessary training to all its employees and contractors to ensure worker safety and protection of the environment during exploration activities. The training programs provided are designed to meet the requirements of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) *Uranium Mines and Mills Regulations* (although CNSC does not regulate uranium exploration projects), territorial *Workers Compensation Board* and *ISO 14001*.

All new employees, including contractors, receive appropriate radiation protection training prior to beginning work. This includes instruction on the origins of ionizing radiation, the types of radiation, health risks, the principles of radiation safety and regulatory compliance. Training also includes the safe handling, management and disposition of radioactive materials such as drill muds, cuttings, and radioactive core. Training may be in the form of a PowerPoint Presentation.

All visitors at the Kiggavik site for more than 72 hours, or who will be left without an escort will receive radiation protection training. Visitors who have not received training must be escorted on site at all times.

All Kiggavik Project personnel supervising the shipment of radioactive materials must possess a valid TDG certificate in accordance with Transport Canada Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations. If radioactive materials are to be transported by aircraft, TDG training is to include the necessary aviation components for Class 7 materials. If contractors have their own training program they must submit its documentation.



All ARC field personnel and contractors establishing temporary work camps and/or handle fuel and lubricants and radioactive material require spill response training. If the contractors have their own training program they must submit evidence of the training program. Training for ARC employees is provided in accordance with the *Spill Contingency Plan*. Contractors are given a copy of said plan. If the contractors do not have an acceptable training program in place, AREVA will supply the training material and/or provide the training as required.

# 2.3 Designation of Occupational Workers

An Occupational Worker is defined as a person with a reasonable probability of receiving an occupational dose of radiation that is greater than 1 milliSievert per year (1 mSv/y), the prescribed limit for the general public.

An Occupational Worker by definition is equivalent to a Nuclear Energy Worker under the Canadian Nuclear Safety Act.

#### 2.4 Dose Limits and Dose Levels

Occupational Workers are informed of the risks associated with radiation to which they may be exposed in the course of their work, and the applicable dose limits, during radiation protection training. Occupational Workers are limited to a maximum annual effective dose of 50mSv in a one year dosimetry period, not to exceed 100mSv in a five year dosimetry period. A pregnant Occupational Worker is limited to 4mSv for the balance of the pregnancy, once notification has been made to the employer. In the control of an emergency and the consequent immediate and urgent remedial work, the effective dose shall not exceed 500mSv. The relaxation of normal dose limits in emergency situations does not apply to pregnant workers.

Occupational Workers are informed of their radiation dose levels, in writing, on a quarterly basis.

# 2.5 Obligations of Occupational Workers

Occupational Workers are obliged to provide information required to identify them to the National Dose Registry (i.e. given name, surname, previous surname, SIN, sex, date and province and country of birth) and release their dose histories for the current one and five year dosimetry periods. The purpose of this information is described to the Occupational Workers during radiation protection training. Occupational Workers are obliged to provide written acknowledgement that they have received information regarding the risks associated with exposure to radiation and dose limits.



# 2.6 Pregnant Occupational Workers

All Occupational Workers are informed during training of the risks associated with radiation to which the worker may be exposed in the course of their work, including the risks associated with the exposure of embryos and foetuses to radiation. All female Occupational Workers are informed of their obligation to inform their employer, in writing, when they become pregnant and are informed of the applicable effective dose limit of 4 mSv for the balance of the pregnancy.



## 3 PROGRAM ELEMENTS

#### 3.1 ALARA

Radiation protection practice has its foundation in the ALARA principle, As Low As Reasonably Achievable. The commitment to maintain worker doses ALARA is established as a policy within ARC's Integrated Quality Management System Manual (IQMS). This policy is established by senior management and is approved by the President and Chief Executive Officer. This manual, the COP, and the Radiation Protection Procedures all follow the ALARA principle.

# 3.2 Radiological Monitoring

Routine radiological monitoring is performed for gamma radiation, radon progeny (RnP), and long-lived radioactive dust (LLRD) in order to document radiological conditions, estimate worker doses, and to detect potentially abnormal radiological conditions. Radiological monitoring is conducted in accordance with the methods outlined in the RPPM.

Contamination control measures are in place to minimize the spread of radioactive materials into unintended locations. Contamination monitoring and control is conducted in accordance with the *RRMS* and associated work instructions.

### 3.3 Dosimetry Monitoring

Dosimetry monitoring is conducted to determine and document worker exposures to radiological components which include gamma radiation, radon progeny (RnP) and long-lived radioactive dusts (LLRD). Workers are assigned appropriate dosimetry based on the anticipated radiological hazard in accordance with the DMS and associated work instructions.

### 3.4 Code of Practice

To ensure occupational exposures are managed in accordance with the ALARA principle, radiological parameters are monitored against the Radiation Protection COP. The COP defines values of radiological parameters above which intervention may be required and the corresponding mitigative measures followed.



# 3.5 Management of Radioactive Materials

# 3.5.1 Radioisotopes

Nuclear materials and radiation devices are used for exploration and instrument calibration. The possession, use, storage, and disposal of nuclear materials and radiation devices are carried out in strict accordance with Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) *Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Regulations* and licence conditions.

# 3.5.2 Core Storage

Nunavut currently lacks regulations or guidelines for uranium mineral exploration or mineral industry environmental protection. In the absence of territorial regulations, the storage and disposal of radioactive materials arising from project activities are be carried out in accordance with Saskatchewan *Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations*, 1996. ARC's Saskatchewan uranium drilling activities have been ongoing for the last 35 years and continue to this day.

Permanent and long-term storage areas of radioactive material must be located at least 30m from the main camp and at least 100m from the high water mark of all water bodies.

Gamma radiation dose rates at 1m from the surface of a storage area should be reduced to  $1\mu Sv/h$  and in no instances exceed  $2.5\mu Sv/h$ .

Permanent on-site core storage areas are locked when not in use and appropriately labelled with radiation warning signs.

# 3.5.3 Disposition of Drill Cuttings

During drilling activities, drill mud solids or cuttings in non-mineralized zones are deposited on the ground, preferably in a selected natural low-lying depression. This natural depression must also be located at a minimum of 31m beyond the ordinary high level water mark of any nearby water bodies, and where direct flow into the water body is not possible. Upon completion, a radiological survey is conducted before and after drilling to ensure elevated readings are not occurring. The depression is then backfilled and contoured, as much as possible, back to natural pre-existing conditions.

When mineralized core is intercepted, all drill mud and cuttings are collected in appropriate containers and categorized as radioactive through appropriate radiation measurements.



Drill mud or cuttings with a uranium content greater than 0.05% will be collected and stored at the radioactive storage compound with an appropriate containment system in place. Down hole disposal of cuttings is not often practical at Kiggavik. Drill holes are sealed by cementing/grouting the upper 30m of bedrock or the entire depth of the hole, which ever is less or otherwise approved of by the NWB in writing.

# 3.5.4 Spills

The uncontrolled or accidental release of any radioactive materials including drill mud solids and cuttings is considered a spill. All spills of radioactive material are appropriately reported and responded to in accordance with the Spill Contingency Plan.

In the event of a spill, radioactive materials are collected and necessary site remediation undertaken to meet the site abandonment criteria of less than  $1\mu$ Sv/h above background at a height of 1m. To the greatest extent possible, all spill affected areas will be decontaminated.

Material collected during the clean-up is stored in appropriate containers and stored in the onsite long-term storage area, for future handling.

## 3.6 Shipping of Radioactive Materials

Shipping and receiving radioactive material is carried out in accordance with the CNSC *Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulations* and the Transport Canada *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations*.

All personnel responsible for or directly involved with the shipment of radioactive materials must possess a valid transportation of dangerous goods (TDG) certificate which includes the transportation of Class 7 materials. Support personnel providing assistance during the preparation and shipment of radioactive material do not require TDG training as long as they are working under the direct supervision of trained individuals.

## 3.7 Site Abandonment and Restoration

Site abandonment and restoration is carried out in accordance with the Abandonment and Restoration Plan.

Gamma radiation surveys are conducted at each site prior to drilling and prior to final abandonment. Contaminated soil or cuttings are collected in appropriate containers and stored in the long-term core storage area for future handling, which may include transfer to an



operating mine site. All drill sites are cleaned to ensure that the gamma dose rate at a height of 1m is less than  $1\mu Sv/h$  above ambient background.

All materials and equipment leaving the drill site are monitored for contamination in accordance with the RRMS. Materials or equipment that cannot be decontaminated to meet unrestricted release criteria are either stored in the long-term core storage area or shipped to a licensed facility such as the McClean Lake Operation in accordance with the CNSC *Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulations* and the Transport Canada *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations*.

# 3.8 Emergency Response

Emergencies could include such incidents as spills, lost or damaged nuclear sources and transportation incidents.

Emergencies involving radioactive materials are responded to in accordance with the Emergency Response Manual. When responding to an incident involving nuclear material, emphasis is always placed on minimizing exposures.

In the event of an incident involving radioactive material, immediate actions are taken to minimize worker exposures. In the event of any incident involving radioactive material, the EHS Group is notified immediately.

In accordance with the Spill Contingency Plan, in the event of a spill involving radioactive material, actions are taken to contain the spill, limit the spread of contamination and to control access to the spill area. Appropriate radiological and dosimetry monitoring is performed to ensure worker doses remain ALARA. Mitigation measures to be followed include recovery of radioactive material and decontamination of affected areas..

In the event a radiation source or nuclear device is damaged, it is removed from service immediately and stored in a secure location. The removal of a damaged source from site is coordinated with the Manager, Safety and Radiation and the McClean Lake Operation Radiation Protection Group.

If at anytime it appears that a radiation source or nuclear device has been lost, misplaced or stolen, the Facility Supervisor, the General Manager, Kiggavik, the McClean Lake Radiation Protection Group, and the Manager Safety and Radiation are notified immediately.

Emergency response is co-ordinated through the corporate office in Saskatoon. The ARC *Emergency Response Assistance Plan* details the organization, responsibilities, procedures and



mitigative measures to be followed in the event of an offsite emergency involving the transport of radioactive material. Environmental emergencies are considered secondary to the safety of personnel.

All incidents involving nuclear materials and radiation devices are reported to the General Manager with 24 hours and appropriately investigated.

In the event of any incident involving a radiation source, federal and territorial agencies are notified in accordance with applicable regulations.



# 4 REFERENCES

AREVA Resources Canada Inc. Integrated Quality System Manual

Spill Contingency Plan

**Emergency Response Manual** 

**Emergency Response Assistance Plan** 

**CNSC Uranium Mines and Mills Regulations** 

CNSC Nuclear Materials and Radiation Devices Regulations

CNSC Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulations

Transport Canada Transport of Dangerous Goods Regulations