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NEWS

NEA/OECD REPORT ON RADIOLOGICAL IMPACT OF CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT

“As a consequence of the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident in 1986, people living in member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are not likely to have been subjected to a radiation dose significantly greater than that received from one year of exposure to the natural background radiation”, a new report from the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the OECD concludes. As a result, the report says, the lifetime average risk of radiation-related harm for the individual members of the public has not changed to any noticeable extent by the accident. It further states that the number of potential health effects (cancers and genetic effects) that can be derived by calculating collective doses will not constitute a detectable addition to the natural incidence of similar effects within the population. The NEA

report—entitled *The radiological impact of the Chernobyl accident in OECD countries*—follows an earlier study and evaluates the radioactive fallout recorded in OECD countries from the Chernobyl accident, based on extensive data obtained from national monitoring programmes. The report's data shows that the average individual dose ranged from 2.5 microsieverts in Canada to 660 microsieverts in Austria. Member States of the OECD include 19 European countries and Australia, Canada, Japan, and the United States.—Further information about the report or how it can be obtained is available from the NEA/OECD, 38 boulevard Suchet, 75016 Paris, France. (*IAEA Newsbriefs*, No. 22, (Vol. 3, No. 1), p. 3; Published by the Division of Public Information, International Atomic Energy Agency, P.O. Box 100, 1400 Vienna, Austria.)
