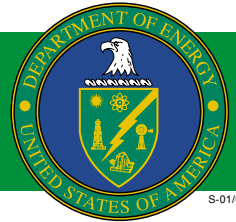




HOMELAND DEFENSE EQUIPMENT REUSE PROGRAM

Providing a Measure of Security - Worldwide



S-01/02-005

Background

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has found a way to protect our nation and the environment by offering excess radiological detection instrumentation to cities across the U.S. and countries around the world.



This typical instrumentation kit provides emergency preparedness experts with the equipment they need to assess situations quickly and accurately.

To help protect the nation against radiological terrorist threats, DOE is working with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to make this older-generation equipment available to emergency preparedness organizations (e.g., Civil Defense) in major U.S. cities. DOE is also working with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to distribute these instruments internationally for use in responding to industrial accidents as well as terrorist threats. This electronic equipment would otherwise be disposed of as hazardous waste at a considerable cost to American taxpayers.

These initiatives are being led by the DOE Office of Assets Utilization National Center of Excellence for Materials Recycle (AU-NMR). AU-NMR is charged with achieving DOE's asset recovery and recycling objectives. In addition to cooperating with DOJ and IAEA, AU-NMR is teamed with The Oak Ridge National Electronics Recycle Center (TORNRC), which will receive, evaluate, and rehabilitate the instrumentation so that it can be redistributed.

Types of Radiological Instrumentation Redeployed

Excess instrumentation recycled through this program include:

- Hand-held dose rate meters
- Electronic pulsers
- Microrem meters
- Count rate meters used for contamination surveys
- Instrument probes (e.g., alpha and gamma scintillation and Geiger Mueller probes)
- Self-reading pocket dosimeters

How It Works

As the lead for the HDER Program, AU-NMR is identifying excess instrumentation available for transfer throughout the DOE complex. The instruments are transferred to TORNRC, which evaluates the condition of the items and repairs them as necessary. AU-NMR provides lists of available instruments to DOJ and IAEA, which share the lists with potential users in the U. S. and abroad. Based on feedback from DOJ and IAEA, TORNRC assembles custom kits of specially selected instruments and sends them directly to the interested users. For instruments distributed domestically, DOJ trains the new owners in proper usage of the kit items.



Shipments of surplus equipment, such as this container of survey meters (left) are shipped by DOE sites to TORNRC, where they are evaluated and, as necessary, repaired (above).

The Future

Other older generation security equipment stored around the DOE Complex is also potentially valuable in mitigating terrorist, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats. Equipment such as weapons detection systems, gloveboxes, and air samplers and other laboratory analytical equipment and supplies may be added to the HDER Program in the future.

Contact Information

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