



# Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

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February 18, 2000

Kristy Miller  
U. S. EPA  
ORIA (MC 6609J)  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., S. W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Miller:

Based upon our recent conversation, you have agreed to participate in a session on Tuesday afternoon 16 May of this year in Tampa, Florida at the annual meeting of the Conference on Radiation Control Program Directors. The general topic is to be communication with the public about radiation risks and controls.

As a consultant to the CRCPD and the assigned organizer of this section of the program, I write to explain the program committee's intentions, to outline your requested role and to offer any needed assistance.

To refresh, the members of CRCPD and thus attendees at these sessions are directors or staff of state radiation control programs. Their training is in health physics or radiologic technology for the most part. As events may require, they have to prepare information about radiation programs and problems for various publics. Most of them have access to public information and education people in senior agencies. Some of them have been able to organize pro-active information programs. But, there are times and circumstances where our people learn of real or rumored crises or disasters and must wing it.

Over the last few years, I have organized several information sessions, including one with a media trainer. These have been well-received, generally well attended and have led to this demand for another session on the same area. In particular, the request was for small enough groups to allow participation or at least interaction with the group leader.

Recognizing that the areas overlap, we have three topics. One is explaining risk communications to be presented by Dr. Vincent Covello. The second is media relations, assigned to you. I will take the third on educating the public. Each of us has a 45-minute presentation to a plenary session of the convention.

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Page Two  
Kristy Miller  
February 18, 2000

Following the three presentations, we three will participate in a panel discussion with discussion among us and questions from the audience. Then we will split into "corner conferences" where each of us will be available for specific questions and comments. The program is to begin at 1:30 p.m. and end by approximately 5:00 p.m.

As the committee saw the division of labor, risk perception and communications would deal essentially with concepts, media relations would be a review of how media work, how they can be approached, their needs, deadlines and such. I intend to talk about public education in terms of non-emergent, non-media based programs. In part, I will use a teaching package developed for school science classes during the 1995 radiology centennial celebration.

As you think about your presentation, please advise Sue Smith at the CRCPD office (address above) about your need for projectors, duplication of handouts or other requirements. It is our understanding that your sponsor will cover your travel expenses. Sue Smith will make your hotel reservations, if you request it.

It would be useful for the three of us to discuss our presentations in advance, possibly by exchanging notes or outlines, as was suggested. We might also have lunch prior to the session. I work from my home in Potomac, Maryland, rather than in Frankfort. I can be reached via mail at 11128 Hurdle Hill Drive, Potomac, Maryland 20854 or by telephone at 301/299-9406.

Thanks for agreeing to do this. It should be fund for us, as well as for our audience.

Sincerely,



Otha Linton  
Consultant - CRCPD

OL/ss

cc: Mary Clark, EPA  
Paul Lohaus, NRC