

Third International Regulators Conference on Nuclear Security

Marrakech, Morocco from 1 to 4 October 2019

Public Information and Communication

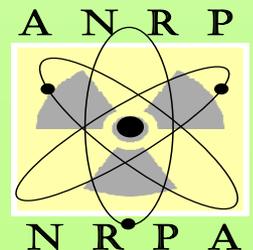
Regulatory Body Reprisal in Case of False Allegations: Cameroon Case

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Scope

- **Introduction**
- **Public Information and Communication Objectives**
- **Regulatory Body Reprisal in Case of False Allegations: Cameroon Case**
- **Conclusion**

Introduction

Transparency is an essential element in establishing a social consensus on the safety, security, economic competitiveness and environmental issues, relating to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Transparency aims to share pertinent information with interested parties, and mainly with the public.

Public: ordinary person, with no necessary knowledge in nuclear science and technology, willing to be ensured in regard to its security.

Promoting Greater Transparency
for Effective Nuclear Security

Summary Report
& Initial Policy Recommendations

February 2013

NSGEG 

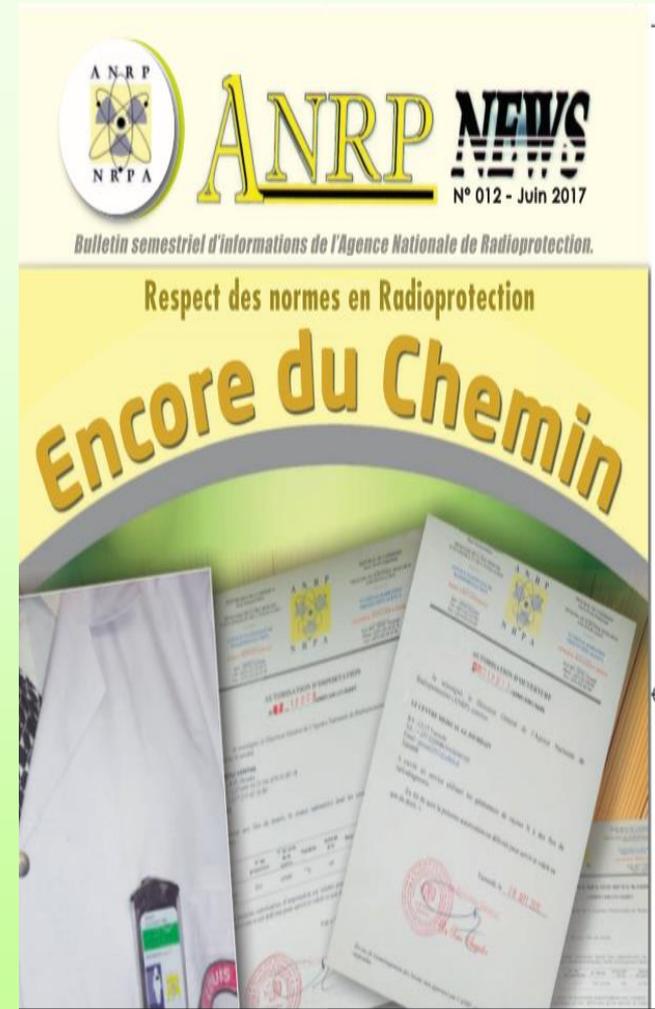
This report is based on discussions of the Nuclear Security Governance Experts Group (NSGEG) at its Workshop on Building Transparency in Nuclear Security held in September 2012 in London, United Kingdom. The workshop was sponsored by the Asan Institute for Policy Studies, Partnership for Global Security, and the Stanley Foundation and is part of a continuing project on nuclear security governance. This report and its recommendations draw upon major strands of discussion put forward at the workshop and in its papers, but do not necessarily reflect the views of individual NSGEG members or other workshop participants who neither reviewed nor approved this document.



Public Information and Communication Objectives 1/2

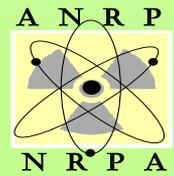
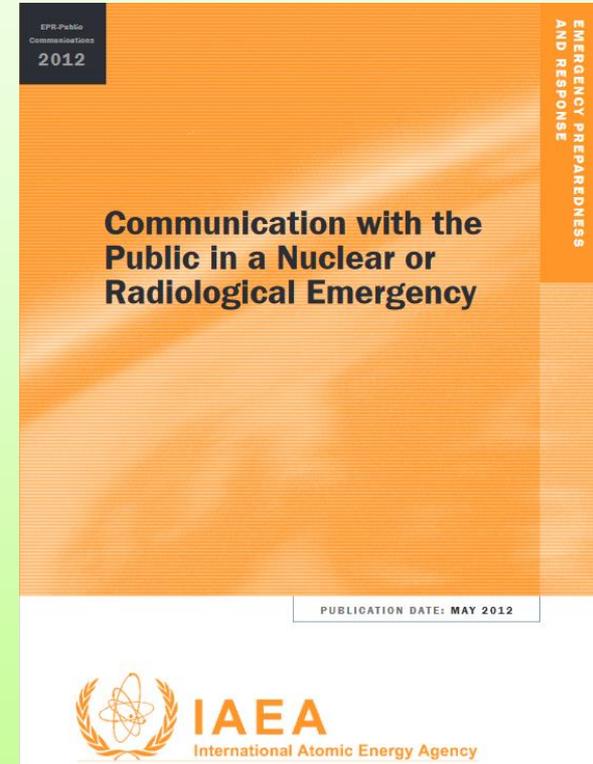
It is important to note that nuclear security related information may have value to the following entities:

- (a) The State;
- (b) Competent authorities;
- (c) Facility operators, including third parties, such as vendors;
- (d) A potential adversary (individuals and organized entities);
- (e) The media;
- (f) The public.



Public Information and Communication Objectives 2/2

- ✓ In Relation to Nuclear installations: site selection approval, safe operation demonstration;
- ✓ In Relation to Nuclear accidents or incidents: information on the real situation, reduction of secondary health impacts induced by radiological accident;
- ✓ Major goals of responding to radiation emergency are to protect the public and to protect emergency personnel during the response;
- ✓ To clarify a Situation: Regulatory Body Communication vs False News (anti-nuclear groups, activists)



Regulatory Body Reprisal in Case of False Allegations: Cameroon Case 1/3

Political opposition groups or activists can make unsubstantiated claims about the damages caused by Radioactive Materials to provoke public fear that suits their needs.

NRPA had to deal with false information on the existence of abandoned radioactive sources in a town in Eastern Cameroon.

The informant, who presented himself as a radiation protection expert recognized by a French company, claimed that these sources were responsible for certain congenital malformations observed in the locality.



Regulatory Body Reprisal in Case of False Allegations: Cameroon Case 2/3

He wrote to the highest authorities of the country to accuse a locally based company for spreading radioactive sources in the area and recommended urgent action.

The Authorities referred the case to NRPA while instructing the implementation of appropriate investigations to clarify the public on the situation.

NRPA undertook administrative investigations and physical search on the field that resulted in no sources discovered.

Equipement	Caractéristiques	Utilisation
 Inspector 1000	Marque : CANBERRA Modèle : Inspector 1000 N° série : 13000272	Radiamètre pour la mesure des débits de dose
 Identifinder	Marque : FLIR Modèle : Identifinder N° série : 910421-2036	Radiamètre pour la mesure des débits de dose
 Backpack	Marque : Atomtex Modèle : 6105 N° série :	Radiamètre pour la mesure et la cartographie des débits de dose
 RadEye	Marque : Themo Scientific Modèle : RadEye N° série : 01113	Radiamètre pour la mesure des débits de dose
 GPS Garmin	Marque : Garmin Modèle : eTrex 20x N° série : 470002185	Mesure des coordonnées géographiques

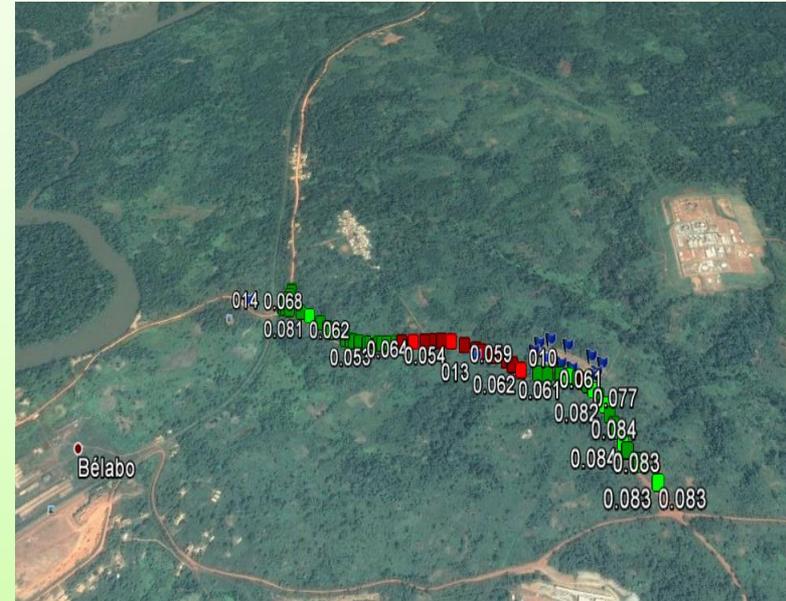
Equipment used for Investigation

Regulatory Body Reprisal in Case of False Allegations: Cameroon Case 3/3

After receiving the report produced by NRPA, the Government instructed NRPA to organize a campaign of awareness of the population on radioactivity in order to stop the psychosis that prevailed.

Despite the difficulty of the task, because it was necessary to develop complex concepts to people not well informed, NRPA provided practical demonstrations of detection of radioactive sources to the local population.

They were asked to report to NRPA all materials being suspected in the fields bearing ionizing radiation trifle signs.



Ambient Radiation map of the Site

DG NRPA Addresses the Public and Media



Conclusion

The lack of transparency, in particular, allows weak links in the international nuclear security system to remain potential targets for exploitation by terrorists or other actors.

Necessity to improve global protections against potential nuclear terrorism through a better balance between national sovereignty and global responsibility in the nuclear security area, associated with an effective international information sharing system.

- Necessity to improve on media understanding of nuclear security issues through frequent engagement, non-technical briefing materials, and their involvement in nuclear security exercises that demonstrate concepts and principles in action.
- If severe damage to the communications network disrupts communication from authorities, public anxiety and fear could be heightened.



**Thank you for your kind
attention**

