

RISK

newsletter

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March 1, 1981

SRA: Off and Running

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) is off to a good start and is already involved in numerous activities. Its first major goal is to attract enough members so that it can function as a strong and independent, international and interdisciplinary, professional organization. A good start has been made. At present, there are approximately 300 members, and the Society is growing rapidly. The first issue of the Society's journal, RISK ANALYSIS, will be out soon, and all indications are that it will be successful. SRA was incorporated in the District of Columbia (USA) late last year as a nonprofit organization. Several of its activities are described elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Society will attempt to facilitate communication among those concerned with the various aspects of risk analysis, risk perception and acceptability, and risk management. Its scope will be broad including health risks, engineering risks, mathematical processes involved in risk analysis, the social, psychological, economic, and philosophical aspects of risk, and the governmental and regulatory implications of risk analysis.

The purpose of the Society is detailed in Article 2 of its constitution, but briefly, it is to promote communication among different disciplines involved in dealing with risk; the many geographic areas, worldwide, concerned with risk problems; and the various institutions and interest groups which have a need to deal with risk in one or more of its many aspects. The Society will also strive to become an unbiased focal point for the many diverse elements of the risk analysis-risk management community.

The first annual meeting of SRA will be held in Washington, D. C., on June 1, 1981 at the National Academy of Sciences in conjunction with the Society-sponsored workshop. The first set of elected officers and councillors will be installed at this meeting. The directions that the Society will take will be greatly influenced by the people who are selected to guide its early development. The election will be by mail ballot and present members along with those who join SRA within the next month or six weeks will have the opportunity to participate. Charter membership in the SRA will remain open until after the first annual meeting. Members of SRA will receive a subscription to RISK ANALYSIS and to this newsletter. They will also be encouraged to participate in its many activities and to help in guiding its future course.

A membership Application Form for the Society for Risk Analysis is included on page three of this issue of RISK newsletter. The dues for regular membership are \$30.00 (U.S. Currency or equivalent) and include a subscription to RISK ANALYSIS. Instructions are on the Application Form.

Risk Workshop Scheduled in Washington on June 1-3

An "International Workshop on the Analysis of Actual vs. Perceived Risks" will be held at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington D. C. from the 1st through the 3rd of June, 1981. The Workshop will be jointly sponsored by the Society for Risk Analysis and the Board on Toxicology and Environmental Health Hazards of the Academy. The general Chairman of the Workshop is Dr. Norton Nelson of the Institute of Environmental Medicine of the New York University Medical Center. The organizing committee for the Workshop consists of Dr. Robert G. Tardiff (Chairman) of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. W. Gary Flamm of the U. S. Food and Drug Administration, Dr. Joseph Rodricks of Clement Associates and Dr. Vincent T. Covello of the National Science Foundation.

The Workshop will attempt to derive general principles about the differences between actual and perceived risks and about inter-risk comparisons through the judicious use of case studies reflecting different types of risk. The organizers of this Workshop have selected cases to illustrate the various elements of risk: voluntary and involuntary; low and high probability of occurrence or exposure; Low and high consequence of the occurrence or exposure; and low and high catastrophic potential. It is recognized that there will be differences of opinion about the cases selected for the workshop, but it is hoped that the resulting discussion will lead to a clarification of the issues.

The cases discussed in the workshop will be: Failure to use seat belts in automobiles, Nuclear power (European Perspective), Nuclear power (U. S. Perspective), Cancer chemotherapy, Food additives, Smoking cigarettes Health impact of toxic wastes and Depletion of stratospheric ozone. Each of these topics will be discussed with regard to: the estimation of the exposure and population at risk, the quantitation of the risk, the tolerance of the risk, the perception of the risk, and the management of the risk. In addition to Dr. Nelson, session chairmen include; Dr. John Bailar of the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Richard Hall of McCormick & Company, Dr. Cristoph Hohenemser of Clark University, Dr. Paul Hopper of General Foods Company, Dr. Robert W. Kates of Clark University, Professor Timothy O'Riordan of the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom, Dr. David Rall of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Dr. Claude Rupert of the University of Texas at Dallas, Dr. Marvin Schneiderman of Clement Associates, and Dr. Arthur C. Upton of the Institute of Environmental Medicine of the New York University Medical Center.

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News Briefs ...

RISK CONFERENCE IN 1982. The Society for Risk Analysis and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission will jointly sponsor a conference on risk in the Washington, DC area in the Spring of 1982. The early planning of the conference is being done at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory under the direction of Dr. Ray Waller. Dr. Waller chairs an organizing committee which consists of 3 representatives of the NRC, 3 representatives of the SRA and 3 representatives of LASL. More information will appear in the next issue of this newsletter or can be obtained from: Dr. Ray A. Waller, Mail Stop 606, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Post Office Box 663, Los Alamos, NM 87545, Tel. (505) 667-3308.

NATO ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTE. A NATO Advanced Study Institute on Technological Risk Assessment will be held in Erice (Sicily), Italy from the 21st to the 31st of May 1981. International experts will lecture on key aspects of technological risk assessment. These aspects include mutagenesis, epidemiology, atmospheric and aquatic transport of pollutants, input-output, and other models for cradle-to-grave risk-benefit assessment. The Institute is being organized by Drs. Paolo F. Ricci, Leonard Sagan and Chris Whipple of the Electric Power Research Institute. For more information write any of the above at: Electric Power Research Institute 3412 Hillview Avenue, P. O. Box 10412, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

RISK/BENEFIT FORUM AT HARVARD. A Forum on "Risk/Benefit Analysis for Regulation of Chemicals" will be held on March 25-27, 1981 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Forum will be jointly sponsored by the Energy and Environmental Policy Center and the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, both of Harvard University. This forum is designed for individuals who must cope with the implementation of Risk/Benefit analysis in the regulation of chemical pollutants. For more information contact: Kathleen T. Fahey, Dept. of Environmental Health Sciences, Harvard School of Public Health, 665 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, Tel. (617) 732-1171

SYMPOSIUM ON HEALTH IMPACTS OF ENERGY. An "International Symposium on Health Impacts of Different Sources of Energy" will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on June 22-26, 1981. The Symposium will be jointly sponsored by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Program and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The United States host organizations are the US Department of Energy and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory with Dr. Chester R. Richmond acting as the Scientific Advisor. For more information contact Helen Pfuderer, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, P. O. Box X, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, Tel. (615) 547-4334.

CONFERENCE ON RADIATION HAZARDS IN MINING. An "International Conference on Radiation Hazards in Mining; Control, Measurement and Medical Aspects" will be held in Golden, Colorado on October 4-9, 1981. The conference will be jointly sponsored by the Mine Safety and Health Administration of the US Department of Labor and the Colorado School of Mines. For further information contact the chairman of the Program Committee, Mr. Manuel Gomez, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Denver Technical Support Center, P. O. Box 25367, D. F. C., Denver, CO 80225, Tel. (303) 234-5382.

WATER CHLORINATION CONFERENCE. The Fourth Conference on Water Chlorination: Environmental Impact and Health Effects will be held at the Asilomar Conference Grounds at Pacific Grove, California on October 18-23, 1981. The conference will feature an extensive treatment of risk assessment in water chlorination technology. For more information write Dr. Robert L. Jolley, Chemical Technology Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, P. P. Box X, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

News Briefs ...

RISK CONFERENCE AT BROOKINGS. A conference on Risk Assessment in Regulating Health and Safety is being planned at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC for May 1, 1981. The conference will address a study recently completed at Carnegie Mellon University on the subject. For more information contact: Dr. Lester B. Lave, The Brookings Institution 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

HEALTH RISK ANALYSIS PROCEEDINGS. The Proceedings of the Symposium on "Health Risk Analysis" which was held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on October 27-30, 1980 will soon be available. The volume is edited by P. J. Walsh, C. R. Richmond and E. D. Copenhaver and is about 480 pages. The proceedings are scheduled to be issued in June 1981 and can be obtained from the publisher, Franklin Institute Press, Box 2266, Philadelphia, PA 19103. For more information about the content of the proceedings, contact the publisher or E. D. Copenhaver, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, P. O. Box X, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, Tel. (615) 576-7555.

PLENUM is the Official Publisher for the SRA

The Society for Risk Analysis has signed an agreement with Plenum Publishing Corporation of New York and London designating Plenum as the Society's official publisher. While both parties retain much flexibility, the agreement is a favorable one from the point of view of the Society.

Plenum will publish RISK ANALYSIS, The Society's new journal. The editorial structure and policy will, however, be established entirely by the Society. Copyrights to material published in RISK ANALYSIS and the journal name are the property of the Society. The journal will be supplied to Society members at a very reasonable cost so that membership dues can be kept relatively low. Both Plenum and the Society will actively promote the sale of the journal to institutional subscribers, so that RISK ANALYSIS will have the broadest possible distribution. As of now the material for the first two issues is in the hands of the Publisher, and the first issue should appear soon.

RISK ANALYSIS needs good manuscripts. Society members are requested to consider this journal as a place to publish work. The journal is fully "peer reviewed", but its quality still depends on having a supply of good material submitted. The mechanics of producing the journal should become more refined and efficient with a little time. All members are encouraged to communicate with the editor about questions they have or to make suggestions for improvements.

The Society's agreement with Plenum also includes any proceedings, books or monographs sponsored by the Society. Under this part of the agreement Plenum has the first right to quote on any such works. In return, Plenum agrees to offer such works to Society members at a substantial discount.

WORKSHOP (Continued from page 1)

The proceedings of the Workshop will be published, but the details of the publication plan are still being worked out. Additional information and preregistration materials will be sent to members of the Society for Risk Analysis or may be requested from Dr. Robert G. Tardiff, Board on Toxicology and Environmental Health Hazards, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20418

SOCIETY for RISK ANALYSIS

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please enroll me as a member of the Society for Risk Analysis. I am in accord with the purposes of the Society as described in the Constitution.

Signature

Fill in the following information by typing or by clear legible hand printing.

Name _____
last first middle initial

Address _____

city state country mailing code

Telephone _____
business residential

Academic Degree(s) _____

Professional affiliation _____

Areas of interest in risk analysis _____

Membership information: Annual dues for Regular membership in the Society for Risk Analysis have been set at \$30.00 (United States currency or the equivalent). As a member you will receive a subscription to *Risk Analysis: An International Journal*, to be published for the Society by Plenum Publishing Corporation of New York and London. You will also have all of the other privileges of Membership. Checks or money orders should be made payable to "The Society for Risk Analysis" and should be mailed along with the completed application to the Treasurer, Dr. Gordon W. Newell, NAS 356, Board on Toxicology and Environmental Health Hazards, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20418.

An Invitation ...

As interim officers of the Society for Risk Analysis, we invite you to become involved. We are convinced that the Society has an important role, but fulfilling that role will require the participation of many people. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time if you have suggestions or want further information.

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