RERTR 2017 - 38th INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON REDUCED ENRICHMENT FOR RESEARCH AND TEST REACTORS

NOVEMBER 12-15, 2017 EMBASSY SUITES CHICAGO DOWNTOWN MAGNIFICENT MILE HOTEL CHICAGO, IL USA

Assessment of the Total Effective Dose Equivalent for Hypothetical Accidental Release from the LEU GHARR-1 Core

S. Adu¹, B.J.B. Nyarko³, Geoffrey Emi-Reynolds¹, Emmanuel O. Darko² and F.Otoo² *1 Nuclear Regulatory Authority House 1 and 2 Neutron Avenue, P. O. Box AE 50, Atomic Energy, Kwabenya- Accra, Ghana 2 Radiation Protection Institute Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, P. O. Box LG80 Legon-Accra, Ghana 3 National Nuclear Research Institute, Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, P. O. Box LG 80 Legon-Accra, Ghana*

ABSTRACT

In this study, health physics code Hotspot was used to calculate the total effective dose equivalent due to the release of radionuclides from hypothetical MNSR Ghana Research Reactor-1 (GHARR-1). Calculations have also been done for the proposed LEU core inventory, source term, and atmospheric dispersion. Radiation doses were assessed in different environmental pathways; ground deposition, inhalation and submersion. Radiological dose assessment for 16 cardinal directions from different distance at GHARR-1 due to the release of 90 Sr, 131 I and 137 Cs from the core were found to be less than 0.5μ Svhr⁻¹ proposed by IAEA for the members of the public. The total dose rates for different pathways were directly proportional to the air concentration. The result showed that conversion of the GHARR-1 reactor from HEU to LEU will therefore pose no significant radiological hazard for the members of the public and environment within the safety perimeter of the reactor.