PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel 1: Selection of Screening Categories for Models

Moderator: Mr. Bruce Hicks, *Director, Air Resources Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

Rapporteurs: Mr. Rickey Petty, *Program Manager, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, Department of Energy*

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Synopsis

The objective of this panel was to discuss the model screening criteria considered important by the agencies for various applications. For example, applying a dispersion model for an atmospheric chemical release from a storage area, model-screening criteria might include such things as range, source characterization, model runtime, and input requirements. The idea was to start with a strawman list of criteria and have each panelist add those criteria considered important by their agency. The criteria list would then serve as input for breakout groups that would define specific thresholds within each criterion. After considerable discussion following the panelists' presentations, it was decided to adopt a scenario-based approach. This would link the criteria to potential real-world threats. The goal is then to establish criteria for selecting suitable models for each scenario. In a meeting of key participants, which followed the general session, four scenarios were selected based on terrorist threats: an anthrax release from a crop duster, a "dirty nuke" release, an urban release of sarin, and an airplane crash into a nuclear power plant. It was further decided that each of the three breakout groups scheduled for the next morning would focus on model criteria needed to address these scenarios in one of three phases of operations: planning, response, or recovery.