

# The Irish approach to post-accident preparedness

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**Abstract**—While Ireland has no nuclear facilities it has in place a National Emergency Plan for Nuclear Accidents. This plan was established, following the Chernobyl accident, for the national response to a nuclear accident abroad affecting Ireland. It has since been extended to also cover domestic radiological emergencies for which a national-level input is required to support the local response. This paper will look at the approach taken to developing and maintaining arrangements for a nuclear accident abroad. The use of hazard assessments to prioritise resource use and planned protective actions, and the specifics of Ireland's situation in terms of location, governance, economy and available resources have heavily influenced the preparedness arrangements. In particular, the importance of the ingestion pathway to projected doses, together with the significance of agricultural exports to the Irish economy, has had a key influence on the arrangements in place.