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Metallurgical Scrap

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THE UNITED STATES INITIATIVE FOR
INTERNATIONAL RADIOACTIVE SOURCE MANAGEMENT (ISRM)(Prepared by N. Naraine and J. Karhnak, Center for Cleanup and Reuse,
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The United States takes seriously the potential problems from uncontrolled radioactive sources. To address these problems, the United States Department of State is leading the development of an initiative for International Radioactive Source Management (ISRM). The Department of State, through a number of Federal and state agencies, regulatory bodies and private industry, will endeavor to provide coordinated support to the international community, particularly through IAEA, to assist in the development and implementation of risk-based clearance levels to support import/export of radioactive contaminated metals and the tracking, management, identification, remediation, and disposition of "lost sources" entering nation states and targeted industries.

The United States believes that the international control of radioactive sources is critical in avoiding wide-spread contamination of the world metal supply. Thus the initiative has four objectives: 1) Protect sources from becoming lost (Tracking management); 2) Identify primary locations where sources have been lost (Stop future losses); 3) Locate lost sources (monitor and retrieve); and 4) Educate and train (deploy knowledge and technology).

A number of efforts already underway in the United States support the overall initiative. The EPA has provided a grant to the Conference of Radiation Program Control Directors (CRCPD) to develop a nation-wide program for the disposition of orphaned radioactive sources. This program now has internet visibility and a toll-free telephone number to call for assistance in the disposal of sources. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Department of Energy (DOE), and other government agencies as well as private companies are assisting CRCPD in this program. The NRC has begun a

program to improve control of radioactive sources in the United States, and also intends to promulgate a regulation defining conditions for the release of materials from licensed facilities. The DOE is involved in the development of improved radiation detectors, and Los Alamos National Laboratory is beginning a program to accept certain sealed sources. The Customs Office is developing equipment and protocols for use at ports of entry into the United States. The United States detector companies have been involved in numerous programs, such as the Illicit Trafficking Radiation Assessment Program (ITRAP). The United States steel and recycling industries are also participating in the overall efforts. The United States programs will be summarized in the paper, along with the recent progress in the Department of State initiative.