

SESSION 5

PANEL DISCUSSION

HOW CAN NEW ICRP RECOMMENDATIONS BEST HELP TO ASSURE PUBLIC AND WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY?

Moderator: Hans RIOTTE

The panel discussion moderated by the NEA secretariat addressed questions received in advance and during the conference from participants. The panel members were representatives from regulatory bodies of each of the countries participating in the conference, joined by experts from the Japanese nuclear industry, radiation protection and medical professionals. Among the key topics were numerical recommendations for exclusion and exemption.

PANEL DISCUSSION

How can the new ICRP recommendations best help to assure public and workplace health and safety?

For the purpose of this panel discussion participants had been asked to submit questions for this session or views on the new ICRP recommendations prior to the conference and during the first day of the conference. The NEA secretariat received a lot of responses which were categorised into topics for the panel discussion. The panel consisted of participants who had presented their specific views in previous sessions in addition to two new members: Mr. Yasuhito Awatsuji, MEXT, and Dr. Nobuyuki Sugiura, JHPS. (See annex; list of the panellists). Panellists were expected to discuss the questions presented by the moderator in accordance to their scientific, practical, regulation background and or personal ideas.

1. Lower boundary

There were lots of comments about the lower boundary for dose limit. While the panellists had expected the ICRP to give clear guidance for exemption, exclusion and clearance, they also showed many varieties of radiation exposure: occupational, from natural sources, internal exposure to radon. They also pointed out the difficulty to propose the figure set in the recommendations since it complicated the situation. Dr. Holm explained the role of the ICRP was not to recommend precise recommendations but a concept for the decision maker on radiation protection.

2. LNT hypothesis

Almost all participants considered the LNT hypothesis as the best tool at present to ensure radiation protection in low dose for its uncertainty.

3. Collective dose

Due to the uncertainty of dosimetry in low dose level and the LNT hypothesis, the concept of collective dose was recognised as useful. It was agreed however that a more precise explanation for the appropriate application of collective dose was needed in the new ICRP recommendations.

4. Dose constraint

There were a lot of questions and views regarding the concept of dose constraint. Questions were combined into two points: responsibility for setting the dose constraint figure and the effectiveness of prevention of occupational and public exposure, who and how to deal with the dose constraint concept. The responsibility for setting the dose constraint figure should depend on the right position for each state and each country. So, the ICRP should clearly state this in their recommendations. While on the one hand it was suggested that the Government is eligible to set dose constraints, on the other hand, industries stressed the importance for operators to maintain flexibility in order to achieve optimisation of radiation protection. It was shown that it is difficult to apply dose constraints to natural

sources and to workers who operate in several nuclear facilities. During the discussion, it was repeated that the ICRP suggests that the dose constraint concept is useful in order to approach the optimisation in the designing stage and the emergent situation.

Furthermore it is expected that consensus on international dose constraint will enhance stakeholder trust and be useful in the technical area. Some participants showed examples where the international peer review to radiation protection in power stations among the industries was effective. And the international effort was expected on the implementation radiation protection under the new ICRP recommendations.

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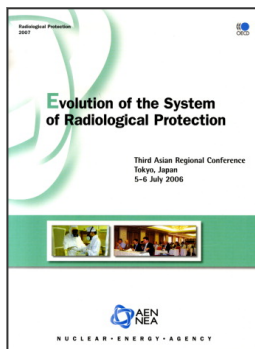
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