

Charter for Agency Steering Committee on Radiation Protection

Purpose of Steering Committee:

The Standards for Protection Against Ionizing Radiation, 10 CFR Part 20, are based in part on the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP). The technical basis for radiation protection recommendations is obtained from authoritative reviews developed by the National Academies and the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. The NRC staff will ensure that NRC regulations and guidance have a sound technical basis, represent the current understanding of radiation-induced health effects, and provide a risk-informed and performance-based graded approach to radiation protection.

The Steering Committee on Radiation Protection, comprised of managers from each major NRC program office, will guide the staff in its evaluation of national and international radiation protection activities and provide support to the continued evolution of NRC's regulatory framework as a coherent risk-informed system based on sound up-to-date scientific information. Some key areas that have been identified for monitoring include: 1) evaluating the results of national and international radiation protection organizations' activities, 2) review and analysis of health effects and risk analysis information, 3) development of national and international radiation protection recommendations, 4) development and coordination of Federal Guidance for Occupational Exposure and Exposure of the General Public, 5) Federal agency and State interactions, 6) analyses of potential impacts to NRC licensees of various proposals, and 7) rulemaking activities.

Membership:

vacant, Chairperson
vacant, RES
vacant, NSIR
vacant, NMSS
vacant, NRR
vacant, NRO

Technical Advisors:

Donald Cool, FSME
vacant, NRO
Vincent Holahan, RES
Cyndi Jones, NSIR
Roger Pederson, NRR
vacant, NMSS

Objectives:

The objectives of the steering committee include the following:

1. Monitor national and international research activities associated with health effects of exposure to ionizing radiation in order to decide if regulatory changes are warranted,
2. Identify issues and impacts of information obtained from research activities and any subsequent proposed changes in radiation protection recommendations,
3. Develop an agency strategy to ensure that NRC's position is reflected in any new national and international radiation protection recommendations on protection of humans and/or the environment,
4. Identify impacts and implementation issues, and keep decision makers informed of potential issues, and
5. Identify research tools and analyses that would support the strategy.

Strategy:

1. The committee will meet on an as needed basis to formulate recommendations and actions to support them.
2. Key messages will be developed to facilitate interactions and will be provided to the Commission for review.
3. The committee will guide the staff in evaluation of current national and international radiation protection activities and to support continued evolution of NRC's regulatory framework as a coherent risk-informed system based on sound up-to-date scientific information.
4. Interaction with national and international stakeholders to understand their views and position, and build coalitions for NRC positions. International stakeholders would include other countries with radiation protection programs. National stakeholders would include the States, other Federal agencies, industry, and the public. Staff will use all available opportunities, including bi-lateral and multi-lateral initiatives, conferences, and meetings.
5. The staff will participate in various forums with stakeholders to present NRC views. Examples include: national meetings, such as the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, meetings of the Health Physics Society and American Nuclear Society; international meetings such as NEA Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health and meetings of the IAEA; and interagency meetings such as those convened by the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards.
6. Guide staff analyses of potential impacts to NRC licensees from scientific information and radiation protection recommendations that can be initiated in the near term, so that preliminary information is available to support technical and policy decisions, especially as they pertain to rulemaking.