



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE AND MATERIALS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001**

ACNWMR-0267

September 25, 2007

The Honorable Dale E. Klein
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington D.C. 20555-0001

**SUBJECT: ENGAGEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON
RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION (ICRP)**

Dear Chairman Klein:

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials (the Committee) believes that the staff is well prepared and engaged in contemporaneous activities associated with the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and other national and international regulatory and recommending bodies. The staff is currently engaged through:

1. Direct review of and comment on ICRP draft documents;
2. Membership, by invitation, on the ICRP Committee 4: Application of the Commission's Recommendations;
3. Membership on the Nuclear Energy Agency's Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health, which provides a forum to develop consensus views on ICRP recommendations; and
4. Federal interagency coordination of views on ICRP recommendations through the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards.

In addition to the participation of its staff, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), through grants and contracts, provides financial support to the ICRP. These activities are effective in keeping the NRC current with the emerging guidance being offered by the ICRP.

The Committee notes that publication of the new (2007) ICRP recommendations will provide the NRC with the opportunity to work with other Federal agencies to move toward a consistent radiation protection framework for the United States.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends that:

1. The Commission invite representatives of organizations such as the ICRP, Nuclear Energy Agency, International Atomic Energy Agency, and National Council on Radiation Protection & Measurements to meet with the Commission, staff, and key U.S. stakeholders. This exchange should provide the Commission with important insights regarding radiation protection issues and initiatives, and the programs that address them. This engagement and follow-up will offer the opportunity for the Commission to take a leadership role and set a course for radiation protection practice.
2. The current staff activities continue and, in addition, the staff institute a more formal process in order to:
 - a. Identify emerging radiation protection issues with lead times longer than 3 to 5 years.
 - b. Assess the potential impact of emerging issues on current NRC regulations.
 - c. Develop strategies for reacting to changes in national and ICRP recommendations.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael T. Ryan
Chairman

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