

No: 13-094

November 7, 2013

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NRC's Donald Cool Named to ICRP Main Commission and Chairman of ICRP Committee Four



The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is pleased to announce that Donald Cool has been elected to the Main Commission of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). Since 1928, the ICRP has developed and overseen a system that is the basis for radiation protection standards and policies used around the world.

Cool was also appointed chairman of ICRP Committee Four, the standing committee on the application of radiological protection recommendations. Cool, who holds a Ph.D. in radiation biology, is a senior advisor in the NRC's Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs. He has been an active participant in the ICRP for 29 years and a member of the standing committee since 1993. Cool also co-chairs the U.S. Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards and is a council member of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements.

ICRP's radiological protection recommendations are updated periodically to reflect the latest scientific evidence and radiation protection experience. ICRP has more than 200 volunteer members from roughly 30 countries who are the leading scientists and policymakers involved in radiological protection. The ICRP Main Commission has 12 members and a chairman. ICRP Committee Four provides advice on applying the radiological protection system. Among the issues on its plate, the committee is updating advice on emergency and long-term exposure using experience in contaminated territories such as around Fukushima.

Cool joined the NRC in 1982 as a health physicist in the Fuel Cycle Safety Branch, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS). He has held progressively more responsible positions including leader of the Programmatic Safety Section, NMSS; chief of the Radiation Protection and Health Effects Branch, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research; and director of the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS.