



Next Steps towards Revising Radiation Protection Regulations

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Background

- ICRP revised recommendations announced in December, 2007
- NRC staff analysis indicated areas warranting consideration for revisions – SECY-08-0197, December, 2008
- Commission approved staff recommendation to engage stakeholders and initiate development of technical basis materials on April 2, 2009
- Staff Recommendations – SECY-12-0064, April 25, 2012

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SRM-SECY-12-0064

- The Commission issued the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) to the staff on December 17, 2012.
- The Commission approved in part, and disapproved in part, the staff's recommendation from SECY-12-0064.
- The Commission concluded that there was an insufficient risk and safety basis for changes to the occupational dose limits, recognizing the important role played by the ALARA provisions.

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Revise Methodology and Terminology

- Commission Direction:
 - Develop a regulatory basis for a revision to 10 CFR Part 20 to align with the most recent methodology and terminology for dose assessment.
 - Develop regulatory basis for parallel alignment of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix I.
 - Make corresponding changes in other portions of the regulations.

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Limit for Occupational TEDE

- Commission Direction:
 - Disapproved staff's recommendation to develop the regulatory basis to reduce the occupational total effective dose equivalent (TEDE)
 - Continue discussions with stakeholders on alternative approaches to deal with individual protection at or near the current dose limit.

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Occupational Limit - Lens of the Eye

- Staff Recommendation:
 - Develop regulatory basis for reducing limit
 - Consider single values of 5 rem (50 mSv) or 2 rem (20 mSv)
 - Continue dialogue on how prevention of cataracts should be viewed in comparison with the potential induction of cancer
- Commission Direction:
 - Continue discussions with stakeholders regarding possible revisions to the dose limit for the lens of the eye

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Occupational Limit - Embryo/Fetus

- Staff Recommendation:
 - Develop regulatory basis for reducing limit to 100 mrem
 - Consider options of applying over entire gestation period, or only after declaration
- Commission Direction:
 - Continue discussions with stakeholders

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ALARA Planning

- Commission Direction:
 - Develop improvements in the NRC guidance for those segments of the regulated community that would benefit from more effective implementation of ALARA strategies and programs to comply with regulatory requirements.
 - Continue discussions with stakeholders on alternative approaches to deal with individual protection at or near the current dose limit.

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Units of Exposure and Dose

- Commission Direction:
 - Disapproved the elimination of traditional units from NRC regulations. Both units should be maintained.

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Reporting of Occupational Dose

- Staff Recommendation:
 - Explore implications, benefits, and costs of requiring additional categories to report
 - Explore mechanisms to increase sharing of data between NRC and States to move towards national database
- Commission Direction:
 - Improve reporting of occupational exposure by NRC and Agreement State licensees, some of which do not currently submit reports.

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Next Steps

- Engage Federal Agencies, States, licensees, and with public stakeholders on each of the topics.
- The staff develop regulatory basis using Commission direction for each technical issue.
- The regulatory basis will be provided to the Commission as a voting matter.
- The tentative date for development of the regulatory basis is December, 2015.

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Challenges

- Addressing alternative approaches to deal with individual protection at or near the current dose limit.
- Improve reporting of occupational exposure by NRC and Agreement State licensees and increase sharing of data between NRC and States to move towards national database

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Questions? Questions?


