

(1) Overview of work of ICRP and Task Group 97

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Abstract– The work of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) helps to prevent cancer and other diseases and effects associated with exposure to ionising radiation, and to protect the environment. Since 1928, ICRP has developed, maintained, and elaborated the International System of Radiological Protection used world-wide as the common basis for radiological protection standards, legislation, guidelines, programmes, and practice. ICRP has published more than one hundred reports on all aspects of radiological protection. Most address a particular area within radiological protection, but a handful of publications, the so-called fundamental recommendations, each describe the overall system of radiological protection. The International System of Radiological Protection as developed by ICRP is founded on (i) the current understanding of the science of radiation exposures and effects and (ii) value judgements. These value judgements take into account societal expectations, ethics, and experience gained in application of the system. ICRP is an independent, international organisation with more than two hundred volunteer members from approximately thirty countries across six continents. These members represent the leading scientists and policy makers in the field of radiological protection. ICRP is comprised of a Main Commission, a Scientific Secretariat, four standing Committees (on Effects, Doses, Medicine, and Application), and a series of Task Groups. The Main Commission and the Scientific Secretariat work together to direct, organize, and oversee the work of ICRP. The Committees advise the Main Commission in their area of expertise. They direct the work of Task Groups, and play an important role in ensuring the quality of ICRP reports. Task Groups are established to undertake a specific task, normally the production of a single ICRP publication, and are generally comprised of a mixture of Committee members and other experts in the field invited to contribute to the work. ICRP Task Group 97 has been working on application of the Commission’s recommendations for surface and near surface disposal of solid radioactive waste to prepare a plain-language publication that describes and clarifies the application of the recommendations for the protection of the public and workers (*Publications 101 & 103*) as well as the environment (*Publication 124*). The publication will discuss how the fundamental radiological protection principles are to be applied over the life cycle of surface and near surface disposal including the transitioning from planned exposure to existing exposure situations in the case of a loss of institutional control. Application of the graded approach in implementing the principles and advice in all facets of a facility’s life cycle, based on the hazard posed, including the degree of isolation of the waste, will also be discussed. The publication will update the recommendations in *Publications 46, 77, and 81* in light of the Commission’s current recommendations, taking into account recent international experience and will be a companion document to *Publication 122* on Radiological Protection in Geological Disposal of Long-lived Solid Radioactive Waste. ICRP welcomes this opportunity to share information on the work of Task Group 97 with regulators, implementers, and relevant stakeholders concerning the practical implementation of the Commission’s recommendations.