

Invited Presentation 7

REVISION AND RECAST OF THE EURATOM BASIC SAFETY STANDARDS: STATUS REPORT AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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The new ICRP Recommendations in Publication 103 introduce a distinction between three exposure situations (existing, planned and emergency exposure situations) and apply radiation protection principles to the different exposure situations. They have prompted a revision of the international standards and a revision of the Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive together with a recast with other Euratom radiation protection directives. Although the present Euratom Basic Safety Standards address NORM industries as "work activities", they do not prescribe how the protection of workers and members of the public should be regulated. This, as well as the identification of which industries were cause of concern was left to Member States. Building materials were not explicitly addressed in the 1996 Euratom Directive, but the Group of Experts established under article 31 of the Euratom Treaty established guidance for the control of radioactivity in building materials and defined a radioactivity index for this purpose. In another guidance report the Experts also defined exemption and clearance levels for materials processed in NORM industries and for residues from these industries. Building materials will now explicitly be included in the scope of the Euratom Basic Safety Standards and NORM industries will, if they are on the so-called "positive list", be regulated as a planned exposure situation. The new Euratom Basic Safety Standards are close to a final draft and an outline of the requirements for natural radiation sources will be presented. Within the process of revising the Euratom Basic Safety Standards, the European Commission launched in 2009 a public consultation on the new requirements for natural radiation sources. The outcome of the consultation will be discussed.