

September 2, 2011

ALL AGREEMENT STATES

**OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE NEW INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION RECOMMENDATION TO THE LENS OF THE EYE  
(FSME-11-084)**

**Purpose:** To provide an opportunity to comment on the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) new recommendation on the lens of the eye. You may submit comments on this issue by one of the several methods, identified in the *Federal Register* notice (FRN) dated October 31, 2011.

**Background:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published a FRN in the *Federal Register* (FR) on August 30, 2011 (76 FR 53847) soliciting comments on the new ICRP recommendation for the lens of the eye. This notice of solicitation for comment represents the third in a series of such requests. Previous notices were published in the FR on July 7, 2009 (74 FR 32198), and September 27, 2010 (75 FR 59160). In addition, the NRC staff held a series of facilitated public workshops in October and November 2010, to engage the views of a wide range of stakeholders on the key issues presented by the ICRP recommendations. A copy of the FRN can be accessed at:  
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/pagedetails.action?granuleId=2011-21900&packageId=FR-2011-08-30&acCode=FR>.

**Discussion:** On April 21, 2011, the ICRP issued a statement on tissue reactions, indicating that it has now reviewed recent epidemiological evidence suggesting that there are some tissue reaction effects, particularly those with very late manifestation, where threshold doses are or might be lower than previously considered. For the lens of the eye, the threshold in absorbed dose is now considered to be 50 rem (0.5 Gy). Consequently, for occupational exposure in planned exposure situations, the ICRP is now recommending a limit on equivalent dose for the lens of the eye of 2 rem (20 mSv) in a year, averaged over defined periods of 5 years, with no single year exceeding 5 rem (50 mSv). The ICRP recommended annual eye dose limit is numerically equal to its current recommendation for the annual limit on effective dose. The new ICRP recommendation can be found on the ICRP Website at:  
<http://www.icrp.org/docs/ICRP%20Statement%20on%20Tissue%20Reactions.pdf>.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at 301-415-7278 or the individuals named below.

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