(FSME-14-043, May, Other, Occupational Radiation)

May 1, 2014

ALL AGREEMENT AND NON-AGREEMENT STATE RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTORS

STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

NOTICE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION (FSME-14-043)

Purpose: To provide notice of the “International Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection: Enhancing the Protection of Workers – Gaps, Challenges and Developments” that will include a series of topical sessions and round table discussions covering a wide range of areas relevant to occupational radiation protection as well as poster sessions and vendor exhibits.

Background: The first International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) conference on this topic, the “International Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection: Protecting Workers against Exposure to Ionizing Radiation,” was held in 2002. The recommendations and conclusions from the first conference resulted in an international action plan on occupational radiation protection that has been accelerating and guiding international efforts in improving occupational radiation protection worldwide. While the 2002 conference provided very broad international input on the status of occupational radiation protection at the time, much work remains to be done and specific challenges exist in the areas of medicine, naturally occurring radioactive material, and the nuclear industry in general. In addition, new developments in recent years have brought with them additional challenges that need to be addressed by the international community.

The objectives of this conference are to exchange information and experience in the field of occupational radiation protection; review advances, challenges and opportunities since the first conference on this topic in 2002; identify areas for future improvement; and formulate conclusions and recommendations.

Discussion: The International Conference will be held at the IAEA’s Headquarters in Vienna, Austria on December 1-5, 2014. The conference will be organized by the IAEA and co-sponsored by the International Labor Organization in cooperation with several other international organizations.

Participants must register online in advance. There is no conference registration fee. The NRC is not in a position to pay for State participants’ travel costs to attend the conference. We will notify you when presentations have been made public.

International Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection Brochure
BACKGROUND

The first IAEA conference on this topic, the International Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection: Protecting Workers against Exposure to Ionizing Radiation, was held in 2002. While the conference resulted in an international action plan on occupational radiation protection, much work still remains to be done.

Radiation protection in medicine and in industries involving exposure due to naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) needs to be strengthened. Exposure of aircrew to cosmic radiation, radon at the workplace other than mines and protection of pregnant women and itinerant workers against radiation continue to be of concern to the affected workers and to national regulatory bodies alike. New developments in recent years have brought additional challenges with regard to the monitoring and recording of individual radiation doses.

The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident has highlighted various appeals for radiation protection of workers in emergency situations. The recent boom in the construction of nuclear power plants, the planned increase in decommissioning activities, and the introduction of novel designs of nuclear reactors have also given rise to new concerns.

With these issues in mind, and considering current developments, the conference aims to focus efforts in this area and to maximize the positive impact of future international work.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the conference are to:

- Exchange information and experience in the field of occupational radiation protection;
- Review advances, challenges and opportunities since the first conference on this topic;
- Identify areas for future improvement;
- Formulate conclusions and recommendations.

AUDIENCE

The conference offers an opportunity to stakeholders involved in the implementation, management and/or development of occupational radiation protection policies to share and discuss experiences. Participants at the conference will include representatives of regulatory bodies, workers and employers involved in the use of radiation sources and in the operation of installations containing or handling radioactive material, radiation protection experts, researchers, persons responsible for occupational monitoring services, and manufacturers of radiation emitting apparatus and other radiation sources. Representatives of workers’ and employers’ organizations, emergency workers/emergency response organizations as well as other interested parties will find this conference of interest.

KEY DEADLINES

15 June 2014 Submission of contributed papers (including Forms A and B);
15 June 2014 Submission of grant applications (Forms A and C);
15 September 2014 Notification of acceptance of contributed paper.

REGISTRATION AND FUNDS

No registration fee is charged. Limited funds are available to assist certain participants. Approved grants will usually cover only part of the cost of attendance. Please refer to the conference web page for details on how to register.

LANGUAGE

The conference will be held in English.

CONFERENCE WEB PAGE

Detailed information on administrative matters, including registration, paper submission and grants is provided on the conference web site: www.iaea.org/meetings

Please include reference number IAEA-CN-223 in all communications.