

# PROTECT: Newsletter May 2007

## The PROTECT project

This newsletter has been sent to everybody who has expressed an interest in the EC EURATOM funded PROTECT project.

PROTECT (a co-ordination action) began in October 2006 and will (i) evaluate the different approaches to protection of the environment from ionising radiation and (ii) compare these with the approaches used for non-radioactive contaminants. This will provide a scientific justification on which to propose numerical targets or standards for protection of the environment from ionising radiation.

The project has four work packages:

- **Work Package 1:** Environmental protection concepts
- **Work Package 2:** Assessment approaches: practicality, relevance and merits
- **Work Package 3:** Requirements for protection of the environment from ionising radiation
- **Work Package 4:** Management and progress assessment

The PROTECT consortium is co-ordinated by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (Brenda Howard – [bjho@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:bjho@ceh.ac.uk)) and the other partners are the Swedish Radiation Protection Authority, Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety, Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority and the England and Wales Environment Agency.

The project website is:

<http://www.ceh.ac.uk/PROTECT>

where you can find a description of activities, outputs and links to other websites and relevant documents on environmental protection (radiological and chemical).

If you have any links you feel should be on the website please contact [clb@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:clb@ceh.ac.uk).



## Consultation within the PROTECT project

To be successful, the PROTECT project needs to consult with a wide range of interested parties including regulatory bodies, international organisations, NGO's and industry. In part, this will be achieved by holding focused workshops. The first of these was recently held in Chester in the UK (see below).

Future workshops will be:

- WP2 27-29<sup>th</sup> June 2007 (Vienna)



- WP2 January 2007 (Oslo)
- WP3 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May 2008 (Aix-en-Provence)

The two WP2 workshops will consider the tools available for radiological assessment of the environment. The attendees will be tool developers, tool users and people with an interest in applying available tools in the future. If you are interested in attending either of these workshops please contact [nab@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:nab@ceh.ac.uk) (note only one or two places remain available for the June workshop).

The WP3 workshop in May 2008 will be an open meeting (up to c. 50 participants) to discuss:

- suggested levels of protection,
- proposed target values to ensure protection level compliance

Contact [Pal.Andersson@ssi.se](mailto:Pal.Andersson@ssi.se) to register for further details of this workshop.

PROTECT has a small budget with which to support the participation of experts external to the consortium in the workshops. Thus, we will not be able to support all attendees at the meetings but we will offer support to some key invited experts.

We are also currently asking for views on environmental protection by questionnaire which can be downloaded from the website.

**The deadline for returned questionnaires is 01/08/07**

### WP 1 Chester Workshop

The first PROTECT workshop was held in Chester (29th-30th March 2007). The workshop included regulators, NGOs and some industry representation (although the focus of this workshop was to elicit views from regulators). In total, 16 experts from outside of the PROTECT consortium attended. Invited presentations were made by a number of independent experts and PROTECT participants. The topics of the presentations were selected to aid discussion around issues highlighted in responses to the on-going questionnaire on regulatory approaches and requirements. Issues discussed (in part defined by questionnaire responses) included:

- justification for regulating the nuclear industry
- alignment of chemical and radioactive substances regulation
- appropriate targets for protection
- demonstration of compliance against protection goals
- credibility of currently suggested benchmark values for ionising radiation and appropriateness of methods used to derive them
- treatment of background exposure within assessments

The workshop report will soon be available on the project website. A number of actions arose from the meeting which the PROTECT consortium will try to address, including:

- review the background, and response to, the ICRP statements
- work with industry on the issue of regulating for protection of the environment
- consider the use of standards/limits versus the use of trigger/screening values.

### Future newsletter issues

We intend to distribute future newsletters to coincide with developments within the projects (e.g. following workshops or the publication of deliverables).

If for any reason you do not wish to receive future newsletters then please let us know and we will remove your name from the distribution list.

### Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have completed the current questionnaire and also participants within the Chester workshop.



**Centre for Ecology & Hydrology**

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