

PROTECT: Newsletter September 2007

Second PROTECT Newsletter

Welcome to the second newsletter of the EURATOM funded project PROTECT. This provides an update of our progress and gives information on forthcoming workshops and consultations.

Consultation on current regulatory approaches to chemicals and radioactive substances

We have now received questionnaire responses from 50 organisations representing industry, regulators, advisory bodies and NGO's. These are currently being analysed and will contribute to a forthcoming report: *A review of approaches to protection of the environment from chemicals and ionising radiation - requirements and recommendations for a common framework.*

The report will be available for comment by interested parties in early November 2007 for about three weeks. All those on the email circulation list (which includes all those organisations invited to respond to the questionnaire) will be notified when the report is available for comment. **Please advise us if you think there are additional organisations we should be including in this process.**

We would like to take the opportunity to thank those of you who completed questionnaires.

Workshop on approaches to demonstrate protection of the environment from ionising radiation

In late June 2007 a workshop was held in Vienna to begin evaluation of the tools/models available for use in the demonstration of the protection of the environment from ionising radiation. The workshop brought together developers of key approaches with current and potential users. Specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- Discuss how the approaches are being used in assessments
- Identify areas which work well and those which require improvement
- Begin to assess the relevance (and applicability) of the approaches to third parties.

A proportion of the workshop was devoted to the application of three approaches to a simple scenario.

The workshop report is available from <http://www.ceh.ac.uk/protect/pages/workshops.html>.

The workshop was attended by 13 experts from outside the PROTECT consortium representing regulators, industry, international organisations and model developers/users. A number of presentations were made on experiences of conducting radiological environmental assessments and model development. Most presentations are available on-line (accessed via the agenda page of the workshop report) and the subsequent discussions are presented in the report.

Three readily available models (RESRAD-BIOTA, the ERICA-Tool and England & Wales Environment Agency 'R&D128) were applied to a simple scenario. The models all predicted that dose rate screening levels (which vary between the approaches) would be exceeded. However, different limiting radionuclides and organisms were identified by each model with maximum predicted dose rates ranging over two orders of magnitude. Investigation of the model parameters showed this to be due to differences in the concentration ratios and sediment-water distribution coefficients used in the models.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of this workshop.

Contribute your views on the available tools We would like as many views as possible on the functionality, merits and shortfalls of the available approaches of estimating the exposure of non-human species. As such we have put a simple (only four questions!) feedback form on the website (see <http://www.ceh.ac.uk/protect/package2/>) and would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete this.

John Ferris (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation) was one of the experts who attended the Vienna workshop. As those of us who had previously collaborated with John during the ERICA project had come to expect, he reported back his findings fairly but with a unique style that made him fun to work and socialise with. It was with great sadness we learnt John died in late August.

Forthcoming workshops

Oslo 28th-30th January 2008

This workshop will continue the evaluation of

the tools available for use in radiological assessments of the environment. The PROTECT consortium will report back on progress following the Vienna workshop, including: a more thorough comparison of the three readily available tools discussed above, and an initial evaluation of the impact of differing potential screening levels. We also intend to have some scenarios for application of various approaches during the workshop. If you would like to attend this workshop please register your interest with Nick Beresford (nab@ceh.ac.uk) by 1st November 2007.

Aix-en-Provence 14th-16th May 2008

This is the final workshop of the PROTECT project. It will be an open meeting (up to c. 50 participants) to discuss:

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

A draft report on these issues will be available for consultation in January 2008. The workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss the recommendations in the report. Subsequent to the workshop the report will be amended (the revised report will also be available for comment).

Please contact Pål Andersson (Pal.Andersson@ssi.se) to register for this workshop as soon as possible.

PROTECT website

The project website is:
<http://www.ceh.ac.uk/PROTECT>

All output from the project, workshop presentations, draft documents and tutorials are available from the site. There are also links to other websites and relevant documents on environmental protection (now including all outputs of the ERICA project and the FREDERICA database) - if you have any links you feel should be on the website please contact clb@ceh.ac.uk.



Important dates

1st November: Register for Oslo workshop

Early November 2007: Draft report on approaches to protection of the environment - requirements and recommendations available for comment

January 2008: Draft report on proposed target values available for comment

28th-30th January 2008: Oslo workshop

14th-16th May 2008: Aix-en-Provence workshop

PROTECT contact

The EURATOM funded project PROTECT is co-ordinated by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (Brenda Howard – bjho@ceh.ac.uk).



Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



Statens strålskyddsinstitut
Swedish Radiation Protection Authority



Environment Agency



Statens strålevern

IRSN