

A practical approach for an environmental protection against the effects of ionising radiation

Frank Bruchertseifer (*fbruchertseifer @bfs.de*),
Wolfgang Donhaerl, Wirth Erich

Federal Office for Radiation Protection Ingolstaedter Landstrasse 1
85764 Oberschleissheim Germany

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The discussion about strategies and goals in the field of the environmental protection against the effects of ionising radiation are currently under consideration in the international community. The ICRP-position "if the man is protected, nature is protected as well" is under rethinking, particularly for marine or undisturbed ecosystems far from civilisation. In the densely populated European Community there is no concept for the environmental protection against the effects of ionising radiation. Therefore two research programs were initiated, FASSET (Framework for Assessment of Environmental Impact) and EPIC (Environmental Protection from Ionising Contaminants). A generally applicable and pragmatic approach in accordance with protection strategies realised for other hazards would be desirable. The consideration of the experience from this field of environmental protection might increase the public acceptance of environmental protection against the effects of ionising radiation. This paper will discuss the advantages and drawbacks of the existing protection approaches and present a pragmatic approach for a concept based on the idea of a reference person to be protected.

