



HEALTH  
PHYSICS  
SOCIETY

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### POSITION STATEMENT OF THE HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY\*

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The Health Physics Society endorses the Guiding Principles for Radiation Protection Professionals on Stakeholder Engagement developed by the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA). The document (IRPA 08/08) that describes these principles in detail may be downloaded from the IRPA Web site at <http://www.irpa.net/>.

The guiding principles are:

1. Identify opportunities for engagement and ensure the level of engagement is proportional to the nature of the radiation protection issues and their context.
2. Initiate the process as early as possible, and develop a sustainable implementation plan.
3. Enable an open, inclusive, and transparent stakeholder engagement process.
4. Seek out and involve relevant stakeholders and experts.
5. Ensure that the roles and responsibilities of all participants, and the rules for cooperation, are clearly defined.
6. Collectively develop objectives for the stakeholder engagement process, based on a shared understanding of issues and boundaries.
7. Develop a culture that values a shared language and understanding and favors collective learning.
8. Respect and value the expression of different perspectives.
9. Ensure a regular feedback mechanism is in place to inform and improve current and future stakeholder engagement processes.
10. Apply the IRPA Code of Ethics in their actions within these processes to the best of their knowledge. (Note: the Code of Ethics for members of the Health Physics Society is essentially identical to the IRPA Code.)

Although stakeholder engagement processes are more common in the United States than they may be elsewhere, and in fact are required by law in many circumstances, the Health Physics Society believes that adoption and implementation of the principles above will improve the process and lead to more effective public discussion and resolution of issues regarding the uses of ionizing radiation and radioactive materials.

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\*The Health Physics Society is a nonprofit scientific professional organization whose mission is excellence in the science and practice of radiation safety. Since its formation in 1956, the Society has grown to approximately 6,000 scientists, physicians, engineers, lawyers, and other professionals representing academia, industry, government, national laboratories, the Department of Defense, and other organizations. Society activities include encouraging research in radiation science, developing standards, and disseminating radiation safety information. Society members are involved in understanding, evaluating, and controlling the potential risks from radiation relative to the benefits. Official position statements are prepared and adopted in accordance with standard policies and procedures of the Society. The Society may be contacted at 1313 Dolley Madison Blvd., Suite 402, McLean, VA 22101; phone: 703-790-1745; fax: 703-790-2672; email: [HPS@BurkInc.com](mailto:HPS@BurkInc.com).