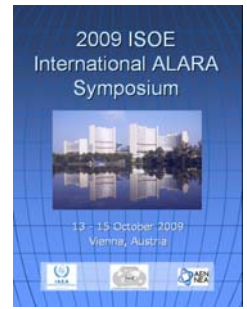


# The 2009 ISOE International ALARA Symposium

In October the IAEA hosted the 2009 ISOE International ALARA Symposium in Vienna. The Information System on Occupational Exposure (ISOE) provides a forum for radiation protection professionals from both Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) utilities and regulatory authorities to share world-wide dose reduction information and operational experience and coordinate international cooperative projects to improve the optimisation of worker radiological protection at nuclear power plants.



ISOE is promoted and co-sponsored by the OECD-NEA and the IAEA. The 2009 symposium received 110 participants for 27 countries to discuss optimized ways to reduce the collective dose in man.Sv in NPPs. Figure 1 shows the trends for total annual collective dose received by nuclear power plant (NPP) workers around the world.

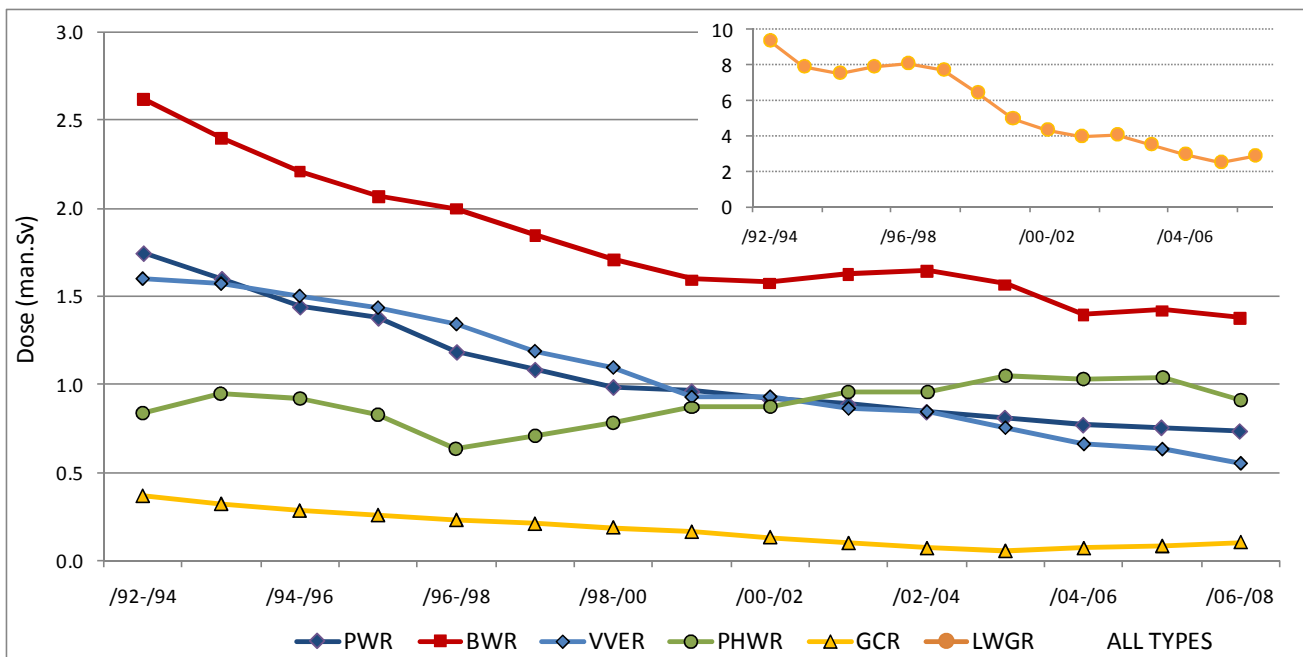


Figure 1. Three-year rolling average of collective dose (man.Sv) per reactor for all operating reactors in ISOE by reactor type, 1992-2008.

Optimization is a continuous process and renewed efforts must be made to standardize radiation dose constraints and other radiation protection techniques used in nuclear power plants. As the workforce is more and more globalized, dose record-keeping practices must be adapted to provide trans-border support services during plant operations and maintenance outages.

A number of Member States are now considering building NPPs or research reactors for the first time. The transfer of good radiation protection practices and safety culture learnt over the many years of world-wide reactor operations is of great importance for the workers at the new reactor site, and also for the maintenance of the good working record of world-wide reactor operations.

Thirty five papers were presented, divided into six sessions: Setting the scene, Examples and evaluation of the ALARA principle implementation, technical and managerial approaches to dose reduction, occupational exposure in NPP, management of occupational exposure in CANDU NPPs and trends and perspectives. The papers and the presentations may be downloaded from the ISOE site:

<http://www.isoe-network.net/> . The next ISOE international symposium will be held in Cambridge, United Kingdom in November 2010.