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## General Discussion

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## General discussion

R. H. FLOWERS. We have seen during this meeting that near-field, far-field and biosphere all represent effective barriers to limit the risk from radioactive waste disposal. It therefore seems that the operators of disposal sites will have no difficulty in meeting ICRP limits on individual dose. The principal concern will be with the understanding and application of ALARA in a practical way. Can Mr Webb, who gave us that very clear paper on radiological protection procedures, offer any advice to the industry on how to apply ALARA in practice?

G. A. M. WEBB. ALARA is two things: one is an underlying principle that should condition the approach to control of radiation doses by all concerned; the other is a procedure for examining complex problems such as the appropriate level of control of radioactive wastes. The procedure, as I briefly described in my paper, is to decide on the relevant aspects for comparing different waste disposal options, such as cost, maximum individual risk, collective dose rate as a function of time, to quantify these and to put in the necessary judgements on how you value one against the other. This procedure does not eliminate the need for responsible judgement, but it helps to quantify the inputs and clarify the reasons for particular decisions.

R. H. FLOWERS. I agree with Mr Webb on this issue of standards of performance but I would go further and hope that we never get into a position where the performance of every component of the multi-barrier system is the subject of world-wide standardization. There will be good local reasons, some of them nothing to do with safety, for variations in container design for example, and this freedom should be maintained within the standardized performance target for the overall system.