

Even after the publication of the UNSCEAR 2013 Report*, related pieces of scientific information have been disclosed and released.

As such newly available information may affect the assessment results (confirmation of, objection to or enhancement of findings, or responses or contributions to identified research needs, etc.), the UNSCEAR conducts follow-up activities in two phases as follows.

Phase I: Ascertain and evaluate scientific information disclosed after the publication of the 2013 Report that has relevance to the content of the report, in a systematic and ongoing manner

Phase II: Consider an update of the 2013 Report at an appropriate time

The results of the follow-up activities are compiled as a white paper and a report. The UNSCEAR publicized three white papers by the end of 2017 and a report in March 2021.

* "Levels and Effects of Radiation Exposure due to the Nuclear Accident after the 2011 Great East-Japan Earthquake and Tsunami" (released in 2014)

New pieces of information released since the publication of the UNSCEAR 2013 Report may affect the assessment results of the UNSCEAR (confirmation of, objection to or enhancement of findings, or responses or contributions to identified research needs, etc.). Therefore, the UNSCEAR conducted ongoing follow-up activities to collect and evaluate such pieces of information systematically. The results of the follow-up activities have been compiled as three white papers published by the end of 2017 and as the 2020/2021 Report published in March 2021 (p.191 of Vol. 1, "Changes in International Organizations' Assessments").

These White Papers fairly analyze new pieces of scientific information from the perspective of whether they materially affect the conclusions of the 2013 Report or whether they respond to research needs identified in the 2013 Report. A total of over 300 publications released since October 2012 was reviewed in these three White Papers.

Major subjects include the following.

- Release and diffusion of radioactive materials in the air and in water areas
- Transfer of radionuclides in land areas and freshwater environment (newly added in the 2016 White Paper)
- Evaluation of public exposure and occupational exposure
- Health effects on radiation workers and general public
- Doses and effects for non-human biota

Source

- "Fukushima 2015 White Paper," UNSCEAR
https://www.unscear.org/unscear/uploads/documents/publications/UNSCEAR_2015_WP.pdf
- "Fukushima 2016 White Paper," UNSCEAR
https://www.unscear.org/unscear/uploads/documents/publications/UNSCEAR_2016_WP.pdf
- "Fukushima 2017 White Paper," UNSCEAR
https://www.unscear.org/unscear/uploads/documents/publications/UNSCEAR_2017_WP.pdf
- "UNSCEAR 2020/2021 FUKUSHIMA REPORT," UNSCEAR
https://www.unscear.org/unscear/uploads/documents/publications/UNSCEAR_2020_21_Annex-B-CORR.pdf

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The 2015 White Paper, 2016 White Paper and 2017 White Paper publicized so far concluded that there were no newly released publications that would materially affect the main findings in, or challenge the major assumptions of, the 2013 Report. These White Papers also selected and compiled publications that would contribute to research needs identified in the 2013 Report. The conclusions of the latest 2017 White Paper (publicized in October 2017) are summarized as follows.

Conclusions (from the Executive Summary of the 2017 White Paper)

- A large proportion of new publications that the UNSCEAR reviewed have again confirmed the main assumptions and findings of the 2013 Report.
- None of the publications have materially affected the main findings in, or challenged the major assumptions of, the 2013 Report.
- A few have been identified for which further analysis or more conclusive evidence from additional research is needed.
- On the basis of the material reviewed, the Committee sees no need, at the current time, to make any change to its assessment or its conclusions. However, several of the research needs identified by the Committee have yet to be addressed fully by the scientific community.

Source: "DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE 2013 UNSCEAR REPORT ON THE LEVELS AND EFFECTS OF RADIATION EXPOSURE DUE TO THE NUCLEAR ACCIDENT FOLLOWING THE GREAT EAST-JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI; A 2017 white paper to guide the Scientific Committee's future programme of work," UNSCEAR

The 2015 White Paper and 2016 White Paper concluded that there were no newly released publications that would materially affect the main findings in, or challenge the major assumptions of, the 2013 Report.

The 2017 White Paper publicized in October 2017 also concluded that a large proportion of new publications that the UNSCEAR reviewed have again confirmed the main assumptions and findings of the 2013 Report and that none of the publications have materially affected the main findings in, or challenged the major assumptions of, the 2013 Report.

On the other hand, the 2017 White Paper suggests that some publications may potentially challenge the findings of the 2013 Report but states that there are questions over some of the data presented therein that need to be resolved before definitive conclusions can be drawn.

Additionally, it is pointed out that several of the research needs identified in the 2013 Report have yet to be addressed fully as peer-reviewed documents by the scientific community.

On the basis of the material reviewed, the Committee found no need to make any change to its most important conclusions of its 2013 Report, as of the time of the publication of the 2017 White Paper.

[Relevant parts in the reports]

- UNSCEAR 2017 White Paper (extracted from paragraphs 137 to 143 on pages 34 to 38)

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