

## Preface

This report is the second of a series concerning radiofrequency electromagnetic (RFEM) radiation that constitutes an extension of the NCRP interest into the subject of non-ionizing radiation. The first report, NCRP Report No. 67, *Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields—Properties, Quantities and Units, Biophysical Interaction, and Measurements*, was published in 1981. The report provided a comprehensive discussion of fundamentals, especially those that relate to radiation protection. It provided the basis for future reports, including this one.

Soon after the work on Report No. 67 was begun, the NCRP formed Scientific Committee 53 to prepare a report on the biological effects of RFEM radiation. This scientific committee was also requested to consider the development of recommendations for exposure criteria if the committee felt that such recommendations could be justified on the basis of the adequacy of the biological information. The scientific literature on the biological effects of RFEM radiation is voluminous but of varying scientific quality, and it has taken considerable time to assess it. On the basis of a detailed evaluation, which is reflected in this report, the committee concluded that exposure criteria could be developed in spite of the limitations of the biological information and these too are included in this document.

It needs to be recognized that our understanding of the biological effects of RFEM radiation is still evolving, based on continuing research on this important subject. As a result, it is to be expected that the exposure criteria set out in this report will be evaluated periodically in the future, and possibly revised as new information becomes available. This is a continuing challenge for those involved in radiation protection and one to which the NCRP expects to respond.

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