

Statement by the Executive Committee of the DPF on the Safety of Collisions at the Large Hadron Collider.

Soon the Large Hadron Collider at CERN will collide protons at energies never before achieved in the laboratory. This has raised concerns in some quarters that new particles created in these collisions might cause serious damage to our planet. In fact, this question has been addressed in the "Review of the Safety of LHC Collisions" issued recently by the LHC Safety Assessment Group.

This report explains why there is nothing to fear from particles created at the LHC. In fact, collisions just like those the LHC will make have been produced by cosmic rays bombarding the earth throughout its existence. It would take about 100,000 LHC experiments to match the number of cosmic ray events that have already occurred. We can rest assured that our planet will not be affected by the four experiments about to be conducted in Geneva.

Documentation:

The report of the LHC Safety Assessment Group is available at <http://cern.ch/lhag/LSAG-Report.pdf>

The report was reviewed independently by an international team whose members were Peter Braun-Munzinger, Matteo Cavalli-Sforze, Gerard 't Hooft, Bryan Webber, and Fabio Zwirner.

Subsequently, the CERN Scientific Policy Committee endorsed the LSAG report and issued a statement:

<http://indico.cern.ch/getFile.py/access?contribId=20&resId=0&materialId=0&confId=35065>

CERN issued a press release on the SPC action:

<http://press.web.cern.ch/press/PressReleases/Releases2008/PR05.08E.html>