

DRAFT REPORT

Methods for Estimating Radiation Doses from Short-Lived Gaseous Radionuclides and Radioactive Particles Released to the Atmosphere during Early Hanford Operations

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services

Revision 1

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*Submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
in partial fulfillment of contract number 200-95-0927*

"Setting the standard in environmental health"



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SUMMARY

This report describes methods for calculating “worst case” radiation doses from short-lived gaseous radionuclides and radioactive particles that were released to the atmosphere during the early years of operations at the Hanford Reservation near Richland, Washington. The work addresses some concerns that remained following the extensive Hanford Dose Reconstruction (HEDR) Project (Farris et al. 1994). The HEDR Project focused on doses to members of the public, located offsite, from releases of various radionuclides, especially ^{131}I , which was determined to be most important. In contrast, the present work addresses possible doses to persons who worked or lived *on* as well as near the Hanford Reservation. Those persons include military personnel stationed on the reservation for protection of the facilities and construction workers who built additional reactors and processing plants after the first facilities began operating in late 1944. Whereas short-lived gaseous radionuclides were not important for offsite residents, they could have been important contributors to dose for onsite workers. In addition, exposure to radioactive particles, the largest of which settled onsite close to the release points, was considered. This report addresses outdoor exposure to radionuclides released to the atmosphere; it does not address exposure to radiation within operational facilities. As requested in the scope of work, we did not design these methods for rigorous dose reconstruction with uncertainty estimation, but rather to perform conservative calculations (i.e., tending to overestimate doses). The work was conducted under a task order agreement between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and *Risk Assessment Corporation*).

A first step in the evaluation was to determine the most important radionuclides that should be included. We used a screening procedure that incorporated factors established by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. The screening factors use the effective dose¹ concept to reflect absorbed doses to all body organs and tissues received from all important atmospheric exposure pathways. The screening procedure also used previously published estimates for amounts of radionuclides released to air from the production reactors and fuel processing facilities.

We applied the screening procedure to atmospheric releases from the production reactors (including 13 isotopes of xenon and krypton, ^{41}Ar , ^{14}C , and ^3H) as well as eleven gaseous and particulate radionuclides released from the fuel processing facilities. The fact that the relative amounts of radionuclides released from Hanford facilities varied over time complicated the analyses. Although the largest releases from Hanford facilities occurred during the first years of operation, both military and construction personnel were also working onsite during the 1950s. To assess the effect of different times on the selection of important radionuclides, we repeated the screening procedure for 8 separate months distributed over the years 1945 through 1956. For each time, the importance of each radionuclide, relative to ^{131}I as a reference, was determined and ranked. The overall combined list of key radionuclides,² from most to least important, was ^{131}I , ^{144}Ce , ^{41}Ar , ^{239}Pu , ^{103}Ru , ^{106}Ru , and ^{137}Cs . These nuclides contributed over 95% of the total dose

¹ Effective dose (units of rem or mrem) incorporates the absorbed dose received by all organs and tissues (units of rad or mrad) and the tissue/organ weighting factors, which relate to risk of death from cancer due to radiation exposure.

² Daughter product radionuclides are not listed here but were included in the methodology.

during any of the eight screening comparisons. We arbitrarily added ^{90}Sr to the list because it was one of the two long-lived components of early releases of active particles.

Estimates of the monthly releases of these eight radionuclides were made for the period from December 1944 through December 1961. We evaluated twelve release points, 5 processing facilities in the 200 Areas and 7 reactors. Release estimates were developed for ^{41}Ar releases from the reactors and for ^{144}Ce , ^{239}Pu , ^{103}Ru , ^{106}Ru , ^{137}Cs , ^{90}Sr , and ^{131}I releases from the fuel processing facilities. The releases of particulate radionuclides included both routine operational releases and unusual (or episodic) release conditions. The latter episodic releases occurred when radioactivity that had been deposited on the interior surfaces of fuel processing plant exhaust ventilation systems and stacks was resuspended and released to the atmosphere. We used radionuclide processing rates (monthly estimates), release fractions, and effluent cleanup factors (when appropriate) to estimate the routine operational releases. Each of the contributing factors was uncertain, and the resulting monthly release estimates are presented as statistical distributions of possible values. The 50th and 95th percentiles of the radionuclide release estimates are included in the report.

In addition to routine releases of radioactive particles and gases, there were high, brief (“episodic”) releases of large radioactive particles in the late 1940s and early 1950s that deposited on ground surfaces. The deposits were more dense within several miles of the release points. The first releases of these so-called “active particles” were due to corrosion of the exhaust system ductwork by acidic gases during the early years of reprocessing plant operations. Because there were no effluent filtration systems at that time, these episodic releases did not greatly affect the total amount of radioactivity discharged. However, the contaminated corrosion particles were larger than those in routine releases and were deposited around and downwind of the processing plant stacks. Environmental surveys documented the presence of the particles, which contained iron and a mixture of the radionuclides identified above.

The second group of episodic releases of active particles occurred in the 1950s. The key radioactive constituents were ^{103}Ru and ^{106}Ru in large particles released primarily from the REDOX reprocessing facility. A layer of radioactive contamination formed on the lining of the stack by deposition of volatile ruthenium tetroxide and ammonium nitrate. When the layer of contaminated ammonium nitrate was disturbed, large radioactive particles were discharged. Although these releases from the stack walls were not well monitored, environmental surveys clearly showed the presence of the released particles in the vicinity and downwind of the stack. Releases of this type occurred during June 1953 and April–June 1954. Exhaust scrubber system failures also led to unusual releases of ruthenium during March 1952 and January 1954. We used data collected at the time to estimate release fractions for all of these episodes. These release fractions were substantially higher than those used to estimate routine ruthenium releases. The release estimates reflect substantial uncertainties in the release fractions.

Many measurements of radioactivity in the environment were made during the early years of operation. We compiled the most relevant data and summarized them in Section 4 of this report. While the measurement techniques were not as sensitive or reliable as those used later, the environmental data do provide useful information about affected areas and time periods. The environment near the 200 Areas was most highly contaminated. Radioactivity was mainly spread to the east and southeast of the release points. Concentrations generally decreased rapidly with increasing distance from the contamination sources; however, some of the large particles released from the REDOX facility in 1952–1954 were known to have traveled long distances. After

corrective action was taken to reduce releases, the number of active particles on the ground decreased due to radioactive decay, weathering, and active measures such as sprinkling, plowing, and seeding. The environmental data indicate that the time periods most affected by releases of large radioactive particles were 1947–1949 and 1952–1955. Iodine releases composed most of the gross beta contamination before 1948, whereas releases from the REDOX facility (mainly ruthenium) significantly contributed to environmental contamination during 1952–1955. Large active particles (particularly the large ruthenium flakes) were sometimes visibly discernible from soil and were easily detectable with radiation survey instruments. Physical and radiological measurements of particles collected from contaminated areas helped us define the characteristics of active particles used in the examples in this report.

The primary exposure pathways for persons working and living onsite were inhalation of airborne radionuclides, direct radiation from plumes and material deposited on the ground, and direct physical contact with large active particles. We wrote a computer program called the Hanford Calculator (Hcalc) specifically for this project to implement the environmental transport and dose calculations for airborne releases. Cautious approaches were used that would generally overestimate the radiation doses received. The program can estimate doses at both a working location and a residence on or near the reservation by specifying those geographic coordinates. Hcalc also includes exposure of persons from food chain contamination, which applies to nearby farming areas.

We used the Hcalc program to estimate radiation doses for cumulative airborne releases of radioactive particles and gases from all separations plants and reactors. A contour map illustrated the spatial variation in effective dose for a hypothetical person who was continuously present outdoors from January 1, 1945 through December 31, 1961 (Figure S-1). Ingestion pathways were excluded from these results. The highest cumulative effective dose estimated from this contour map was 6.5 rem for the 17-year period at an onsite location southeast of 200 East (Figure S-1). The dominant radionuclide contributing to the effective dose was ^{131}I . The thyroid was the organ with the highest estimated absorbed dose (120 rad). If a worker had been at that maximum location for 2000 hours per year and spent the rest of the time east of the Hanford Reservation (at the 1.5-rem contour), his cumulative effective dose would have been 2.6 rem (50 rad thyroid dose), or an average of 150 mrem per year (3 rad per year thyroid dose) over the 17 years. The doses are based on the central (50th percentile) estimates for each radionuclide released.

We further illustrated the dose methodology using three example scenarios. The first scenario was a hypothetical member of the Armed Forces who was assigned to the Army Camp H-40 (4–9 km SE of the five 200-Area processing plants and 15–18 km from the seven reactors) for 3 months, April–June 1954. This period coincided with relatively high releases of the particulate radionuclides. Nevertheless, ^{131}I still would have contributed 4 times higher effective doses than the particulate radionuclides at that time and place. Inhalation was the most important pathway, followed by external exposure from radionuclides (particularly ^{41}Ar) in the air. The total effective dose estimated for this 3-month exposure period was ~4 mrem, with a thyroid dose of ~30 mrad. Table S-1 also shows doses to other tissues for this scenario.

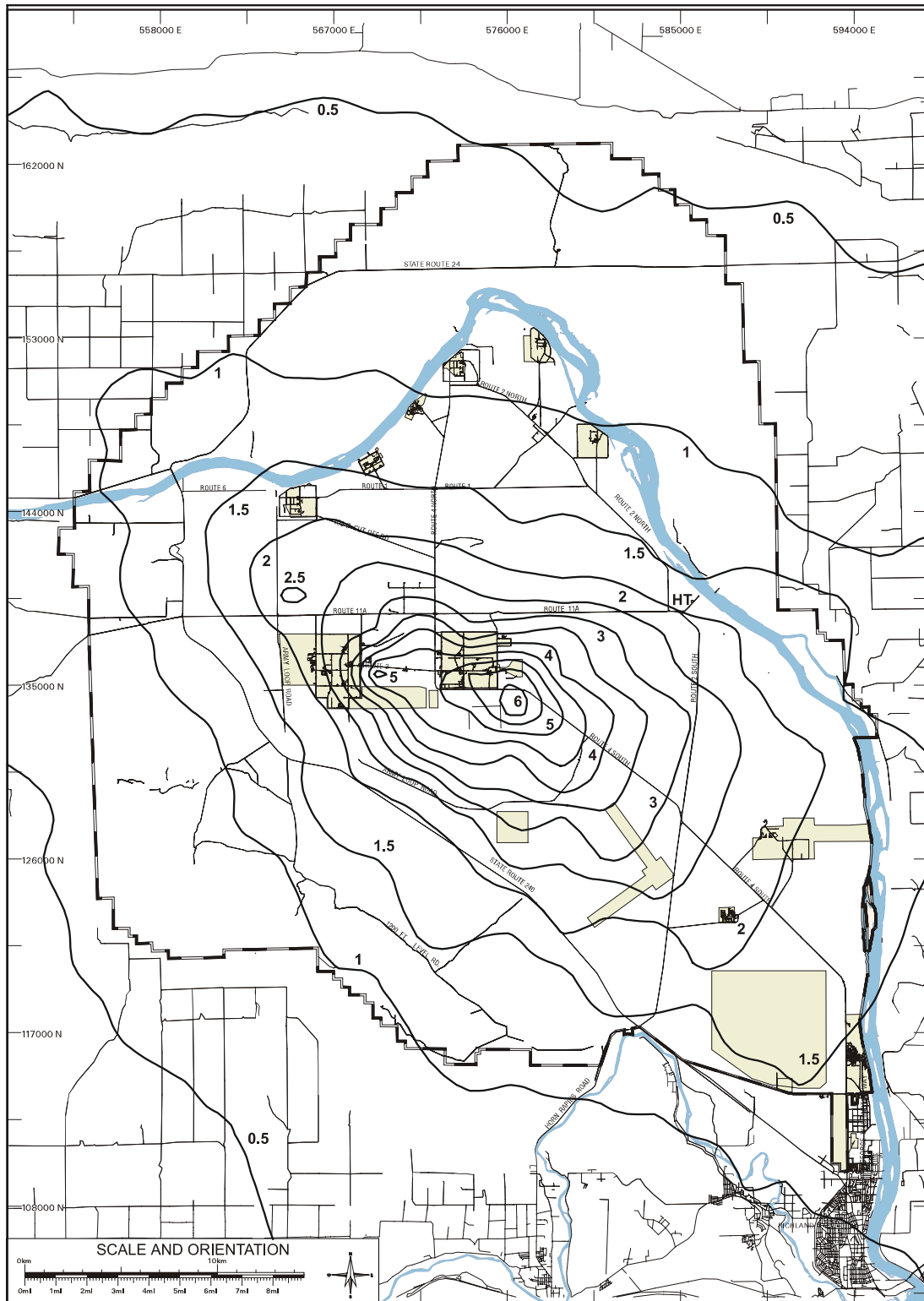


Figure S-1. Contours of committed effective dose (rem) from continuous exposure to airborne releases from Hanford facilities, 1945–1961. Iodine-131 was the primary contributor to dose. Absorbed dose to thyroid (in rad) was about 20 times the effective dose. Ingestion pathways were not included. The notation “HT” shows the location of the Hanford town site.

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**Table S-1. Absorbed Doses to Most Highly Exposed Tissues
and Effective Doses for Example Scenarios (Routine Releases)**

Exposed person Exposure pathways Duration	Absorbed doses (mrad) to tissues ^a				Effective dose (mrem)
	Thyroid	Lungs	Parts of GI tract ^b	Bone surfaces	
Soldier, Army encampment H-40 ^c Inhalation, direct radiation, soil ingestion April–June 1954	27	3.0	0.99–1.1	1.5	2.7
Construction worker at PUREX Inhalation, direct radiation, soil ingestion January–March 1954	24	11	1.0–1.9	1.5	3.6
Resident of Ringold ^d Inhalation, direct radiation, local diet, soil ingestion January–December 1954	150	8.2	2.1–4.4	3.4	11

^a The use of two significant figures to illustrate the results does not imply this degree of precision in these cautious estimates.

^b Range of values for esophagus and the walls of the stomach, small and large intestines, and colon.

^c Absorbed dose to the skin was larger (1.7 mrad) than the range of GI tract doses for this scenario.

^d Absorbed dose to the skin (3.4 mrad) was within the range of GI tract doses for this scenario.

Another scenario for evaluating total airborne releases was a construction worker at the PUREX plant in 200-East Area for the first 3 months of 1954 who lived at the Hanford town site, east of the work location and near the Columbia River (Figure S-1). As in the first onsite scenario, ingestion pathways were not included. Again, inhalation was the most important pathway, followed by external exposure from radionuclides (particularly ⁴¹Ar) in the air. However, at this time and place, ¹⁰⁶Ru and ¹³¹I would have been about equal contributors to the effective dose, which totaled ~4 mrem for the 3-month exposure period. The two largest organ doses were ~20 mrad to thyroid and ~10 mrad to lungs (Table S-1).

The 95th percentile values of the monthly release estimates provide a basis for making worst-case calculations of the radiation doses to persons living and working on and near the Hanford Reservation for brief periods. Because it is not likely that the 95th percentiles of each of the estimates represent actual releases for many months in sequence, the central (50th percentile) estimates are more appropriate for use when making dose estimates for extended periods. This is particularly true for 1954, when additional subjective conservatism has been applied to develop a release distribution with bounds that are well above the best estimates. The central values were used for the two scenarios just described. We also examined the distributions of the sums of the releases of the three radionuclides that were most important during the two 3-month periods. This review suggests that had the distributions of the release estimates been used in the simulations, the ¹³¹I contribution to the calculated doses could have had a 95th percentile 2-3 times the median. The ¹⁰³Ru and ¹⁰⁶Ru release distribution estimates were broader, and the uncertainty associated with those source terms is estimated to be a factor of 5-6.

The third scenario considered exposure of a resident of Ringold during 1954. For this offsite exposure scenario, ingestion of locally produced milk, vegetables, and meat was included. Consequently, ^{131}I is even more important than other radionuclides, compared to the onsite scenarios. The total effective dose estimate for 1954 was ~10 mrem, with a thyroid dose of 150 mrad. For comparison, the annual absorbed dose to the thyroid of a resident of Ringold in 1945 has been estimated to be ~33,000 mrad (Farris et al. 1994). Additional results for this scenarios are also given in Table S-1.

Possible exposure to the large discrete active particles was estimated from past ground contamination surveys. A spreadsheet approach (called SURVEY) was developed that estimates the likelihood of contact with active particles when working in an area with a certain ground contamination level. A worst-case example calculation is included for a survey technician working outdoors in a highly contaminated area without respiratory protection. The results indicated a 73% chance that a single active particle would have been inhaled during 60 days of work in the area. There was a high probability that an active particle could have been transferred to clothing or skin (depending on protective clothing worn) when working in an area of high ground contamination for even one day. Inadvertent ingestion of large active particles was computed to be a low probability occurrence.

A second scenario using the SURVEY spreadsheet illustrated the probability of contact with an active particle for an offsite resident north of Ringold in 1954. This was a time of high offsite ground contamination from REDOX plant ruthenium particles. In contrast to the onsite survey technician example, there was roughly a 1 in 100 chance of inhalation from ground deposited particles in the entire year and a 2 in 1000 chance of a particle contacting the body during a 16-hour outdoor work day.

Environmental survey data show that workers near the 200 Areas were exposed to much greater concentrations of highly active particles than people in offsite areas. Experimentation with the SURVEY spreadsheet showed that an active particle contamination level of several hundred active particles per 1000 ft² of ground surface (or a particle every few ft²) is necessary before it becomes likely (that is, a >10% chance) that inhalation or body contact would have occurred within a 3-month exposure period. Survey maps, included in Appendix C, show that these particle densities were restricted to onsite areas close to the release points.

A requested feature of the methods developed in this work was the ability to evaluate the sensitivity of the results to various input parameters. For our survey technician example, the most important uncertain assumption affecting the predicted particles inhaled is the resuspension factor during work activities. Other sensitive parameters for inhalation are the ground contamination level, the fraction of airborne particles that are inhalable and the inhalation rate at work. For external contact with active particles, the two most important contributors to uncertainty of the predictions are the contamination level on the ground and the ground-to-body contact probability. The latter was estimated from tracer experiments conducted in the outdoor environment at Hanford. The fraction of the body that is exposed skin is also important for assessing the probability of direct contact with skin as opposed to clothing.

Worker contact with large active particles is difficult to reconstruct. The probability of contact would have varied with location and particle size. Further work on this topic is planned. Environmental survey data show that workers near the 200 Areas were exposed to much greater concentrations of highly active particles than people in offsite areas. The relatively small number of large active particles, their ill-defined and changing physical shape (particularly the ruthenium

flakes), and lack of knowledge of actual activities of workers in the highly contaminated areas make it very difficult to assess past exposures of workers to such particles. In the following tables we summarize bounding estimates for the doses that could have occurred. Table S-2 contains the estimated bounding doses for ingestion and inhalation of a single active particle of two types, the corrosion particles released during the early years of operation of T and B plants and the ruthenium particles released during the early 1950s. If skin contact occurred for an appreciable time, the dose rates from these active particles (Table S-3) would likely have produced some observable burn or lesion, which could have been documented in medical records. It is unlikely that there would be any records reflecting internal body contamination for the early years.

Table S-2. Potential Doses (rad) from Inhalation and Ingestion of an Active Particle

Table 3.2. Potential Doses (rad) from Inhalation and Ingestion of an Active Particle							
Type of exposure	Lung	Walls of sections of the GI tract ^a				Bone surfaces	Bone marrow
		Stom	SI	ULI	LLI		
1940s Active Corrosion Particle							
Inhalation ^b	41	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.34	0.18
Ingestion	NA	0.022	0.040	0.22	0.63	0.46	0.19
1950s Active Ruthenium Particle							
Inhalation ^c	40	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.046	0.058
Ingestion	NA	3.6	6.2	29	80	1.7	1.7

^a Abbreviations used: GI = gastrointestinal; Stom = stomach; SI = small intestine; ULI = upper large intestine; LLI = lower large intestine.

^b Dose to the liver: 0.35 rad; doses to adrenals, breast, kidneys, ovaries, spleen, testes, thymus: 0.0081 to 0.14 rad.

^c Doses to the adrenals, breast, and thymus: 0.081 to 0.11 rad; doses to the kidneys and liver: 0.040 to 0.053 rad; doses to the bladder wall, ovaries, testes, and uterus: 0.015 to 0.026 rad.

Table S-3 contains dose estimates for body surface contact with the two types of active particles. Doses are estimated for two different depths below the surface; these correspond to the two depths of human skin cells believed to be the most sensitive to damage.

Table S-3. Dose Rates (Rad per hour) to Subsurface Tissues from Two Types of Active Particles Located on the Surface

Type of exposure	Dose rate at depth ^a	
	Depth of 0.07 mm	Depth of 0.4 mm
1940s active corrosion particle on surface	36	12
1950s active ruthenium particle on surface	2400	1300

^a Dose rates from a “point” source averaged over an area of 1 cm².

With regard to airborne releases of small radioactive particles and gases from Hanford separations plants and reactors, the results of this work indicate that past exposures to onsite

workers were dominated by ^{131}I and the inhalation pathway. Further refinement of past exposures to other radionuclides, beyond what was accomplished by this work, appears unnecessary. The methods developed in this study will provide a tool for CDC for help answer questions raised by past onsite workers about their radiation exposures.

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ACRONYMS

AMAD	Activity Median Aerodynamic Diameter
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
C.P.	“Cutie Pie,” an instrument used to measure radiation exposure rate
CWS	Chemical Warfare Service
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERAMS	Environmental Radiation Ambient Monitoring System
GM	Geometric Mean, the central value in a lognormal distribution
G.M.	Geiger-Müller, a type of radiation detection device or measurement instrument
GSD	Geometric Standard Deviation, the measure of dispersion of a lognormal distribution
HEDR	Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction
H.I.	Health Instruments, one of the organizational divisions in the early years at Hanford
ICRP	International Commission on Radiological Protection
ISC	Industrial Source Complex, a type of EPA atmospheric dispersion code
MP	Military Police
NCRP	National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements
PNL	Pacific Northwest Laboratory
PUREX	Plutonium Uranium Extraction
RAC	<i>Risk Assessment Corporation</i>
REDOX	Reduction Oxidation
TSP	Technical Steering Panel
UN	United Nations

METHODS FOR ESTIMATING RADIATION DOSES FROM SHORT-LIVED GASEOUS RADIONUCLIDES AND RADIOACTIVE PARTICLES RELEASED TO THE ATMOSPHERE DURING EARLY HANFORD OPERATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

This report describes methods that can be used to calculate “worst case” doses from short-lived gaseous radionuclides and radioactive particles released to the atmosphere during the early years of operations at the Hanford Reservation near Richland, Washington. Unlike the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction (HEDR) Project ([Farris et al. 1994](#)), which focused on the doses to members of the public, located offsite, from releases of radionuclides from the Hanford Site, the present work primarily addresses exposures to individuals who lived or worked *within* as well as near the reservation boundaries. As an example, members of military units were located near both the first reactor facilities and fuel processing plants during the early years of operation. Although their numbers decreased dramatically in 1945, construction workers were also present onsite, building reactors, additional processing plants, and other facilities. Development of techniques for estimating potential doses to these groups was conducted as part of a task order agreement between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and *Risk Assessment Corporation (RAC, formerly Radiological Assessments Corporation)*. As a demonstration of the dose evaluation technique, results for example exposure scenarios are presented as part of the report; however detailed evaluation of many scenarios is outside the scope of work.

The role of the Hanford facilities in production and separation of plutonium for use in nuclear weapons has been described in histories of the Manhattan Project ([Smyth 1945](#), [Groves 1962](#), [Jones 1985](#), [Rhodes 1986](#)). [Carlisle and Zenzen \(1996\)](#) have described the importance of the Hanford plutonium production reactors for the United States’ nuclear weapons program. A more detailed local history of Hanford activities and their legacy has been published ([Gerber 1992a,b](#)). The main processes and facilities for plutonium production have been described ([Gerber 1996](#)), and chronicles of individual facilities have been prepared as well ([Gerber 1992b, 1993a, 1993b, 1994](#)).

The main features of the first large-scale plutonium production can be summarized simply. The processes had been developed and demonstrated using pilot facilities at the X-10 site near Oak Ridge, Tennessee and the technologies were successfully scaled up to industrial levels at Hanford. Plutonium-239, which is fissionable, was produced by the activation of ^{238}U in large nuclear reactors built at the Hanford site in the last years of World War II. Chemical processing facilities, constructed at the same time, received the irradiated reactor fuel and separated the plutonium product from the uranium and many fission products that were also produced in the reactors. The plutonium nitrate recovered was shipped to the Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico. There it was converted to metallic form and shaped into the components of the “gadget” that was successfully tested near Alamogordo, New Mexico in July 1945 and the “Fat Man” weapon dropped on Nagasaki, Japan in August of that year.

Initially, three reactors were built along the Columbia River at sites called 100-B, 100-D, and 100-F. These reactors began operations in October 1944, December 1944, and March 1945, respectively. The three sites are shown in Figure 1-1 together with sites of other reactors that

were built following the end of World War II. Plutonium production reactors located at the 100-H and 100-DR sites began operation in October 1949 and October 1950, respectively. Three more production reactors were completed between November 1952 and April 1955; one was built at 100-C and two were built at 100-K, called K East (KE) and K West (KW). Subsequently, a dual purpose plutonium production and electricity production reactor was built at 100-N. It began operation in 1964.

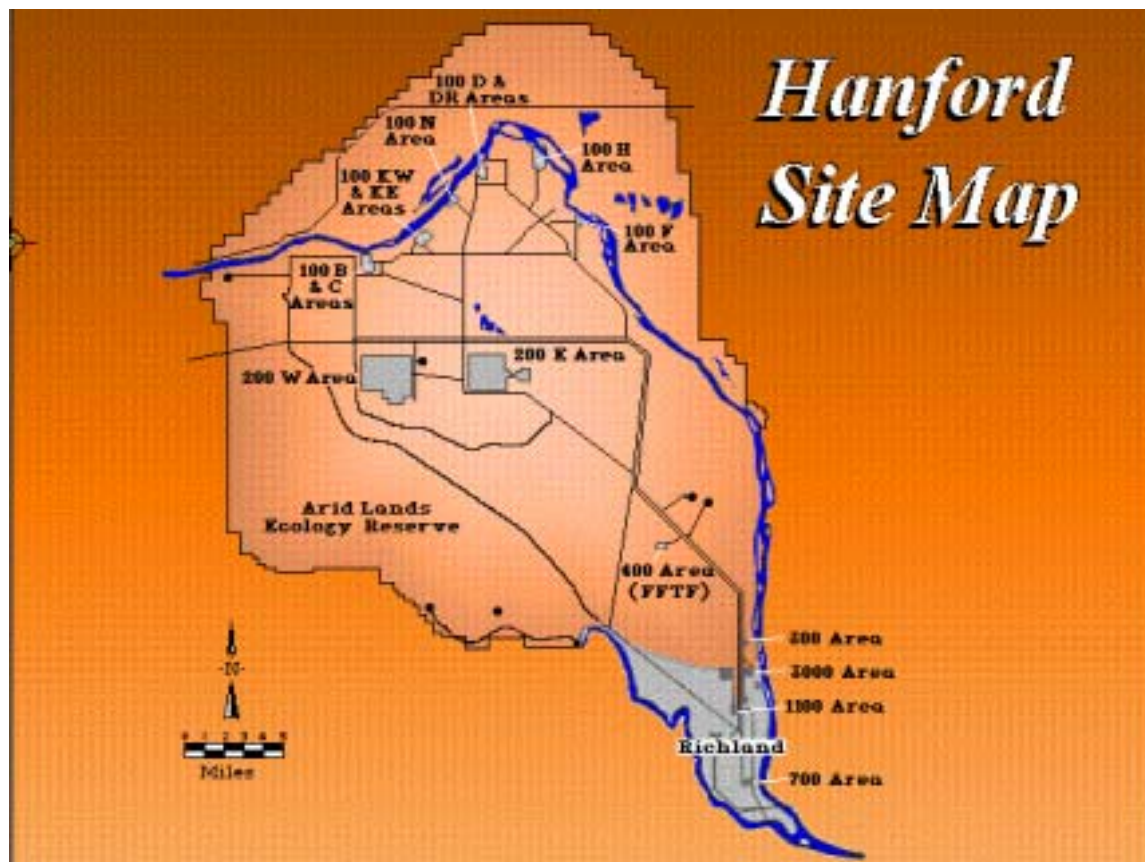


Figure 1-1. Map of the Hanford Reservation. The reactor sites, located along the river, were called “100 Areas” and the processing facilities were located in the “200 Areas” near the center of the Reservation.

Also shown in Figure 1-1 are the locations of the fuel processing facilities, labeled 200-E (east) and 200-W (west). The first processing plant, called T Plant, was located in the 200-W Area and began operations in late December 1944. The second plant, B Plant, was in the 200-E Area, and started dissolving irradiated fuel in April 1945. The B Plant was shut down in 1952, while the T Plant operated until February 1956. Two larger plants were built for processing fuel from the growing number of reactors in later years. The REDOX Plant in 200-W began operations in 1952 and in 1956 the PUREX Plant was started up in 200-E. Figure 1-2 illustrates the locations of the four fuel processing plants in the 200 Areas. Also shown in the figure are the Z Plant and U Plant in 200 W Area. The Z Plant, in which plutonium was processed and

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fabricated, began operation in 1949. The U Plant processed uranium to produce uranium trioxide for recycle to the reactor fuel production system.

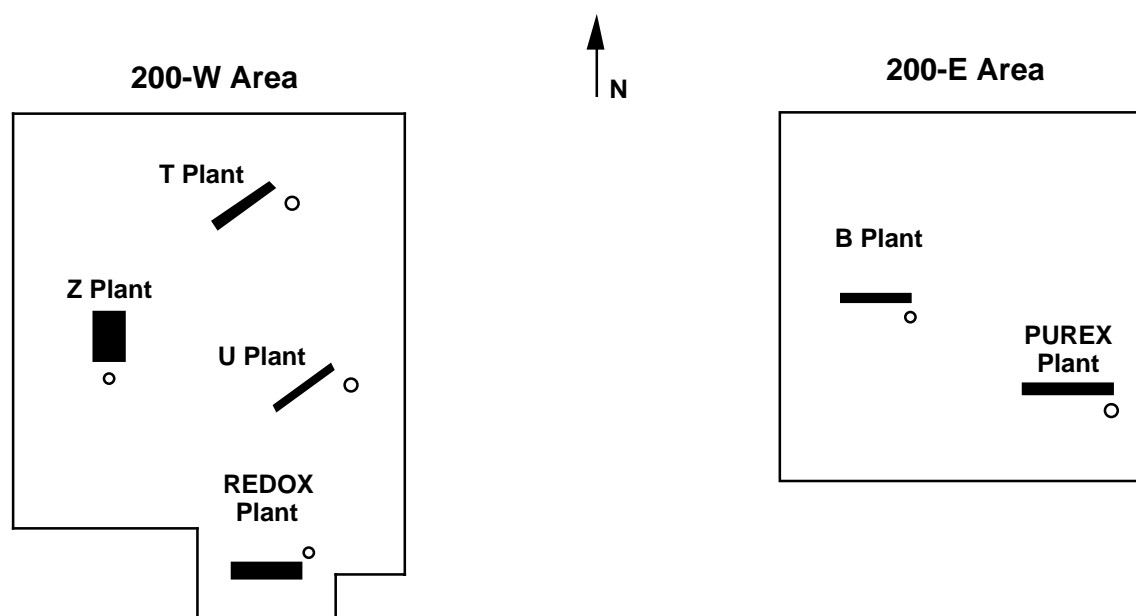


Figure 1-2. Schematic diagram of the 200 Areas at Hanford showing the main fuel processing plants and other large facilities. The drawing is not to scale. The small circular objects are intended to show the approximate locations of the 200-ft (61-m) stacks for each of the facilities.

The fuel processing facilities were the principal sources of radionuclides released to the atmosphere. Releases were highest during the earliest operating periods, when the facilities were first operated and effluent reduction measures had not been implemented. Releases from the reactors were of greater relative importance when the discharges from the processing plants had been brought under control. As the production reactors were closed during the 1960s, processing requirements were reduced. The REDOX Plant was shut down in 1967 and the PUREX plant was shut down in 1972, although it also operated during the 1980s.

This report consists of four main sections, besides this introduction. Atmospheric release estimates for short-lived gaseous nuclides and radioactive particles from the Hanford facilities are considered in [Section 2](#) of this report. Screening calculations to identify the most important radionuclides, the main contributors to human radiation exposure, are described first. Detailed estimates of releases are then presented for that set of radionuclides.

Dose calculation techniques, which include methods for a variety of exposure pathways, are described in [Section 3](#). Computational tools that have been prepared for use by the CDC and the information base that supports them are also described in that part of the report. [Section 4](#) contains descriptions and analyses of the various types of environmental data that were collected during the years of the highest releases from the facilities. Results of both routine monitoring and special studies are discussed and conclusions based upon those measurements are presented.

[Section 5](#) contains results of example dose calculations for exposure scenarios that occurred during the early years of operations at Hanford. These scenarios may well represent some of the

worst situations that occurred because the times chosen were those when unusually large releases of radioactive particles occurred. They should not be considered to be representative of the full range of possible exposures to military, construction, and other personnel who worked onsite.

Detailed supporting information, including a compendium of documents reviewed during the project, is provided in appendices to the report. Information about the set of documents is also stored in an electronic [database](#) that is one of the products of this project.

2. RADIONUCLIDE RELEASES TO THE ATMOSPHERE

2.1 Overview

During the early years of Hanford operations, releases of volatile short-lived radionuclides, particularly ^{131}I , from the processing plants were of greatest concern. Fuel slugs that were irradiated to produce plutonium were removed from the reactors, stored for a time, and then delivered to the processing plants for dissolution and plutonium recovery. In the early years, the time between discharge from the reactor and the start of fuel processing was relatively short. During this period, called the cooling time (or decay time), the amounts of the short-lived nuclides were reduced by radioactive decay so smaller quantities would be present when the fuel was dissolved.

[Figure 2-1](#) shows the average fuel decay times during the first years of plutonium production at Hanford ([Heeb 1994](#)). This figure provides a general picture of fuel cooling practices at the time. During the first year, many of the average cooling times were less than 40 days and all were less than 55 days. In late 1945, cooling times were increased and that general trend continued over the next two years ([Link to Processing Rates.xls](#)). The plot does not reflect cooling times for individual batches of fuel removed from the reactors.

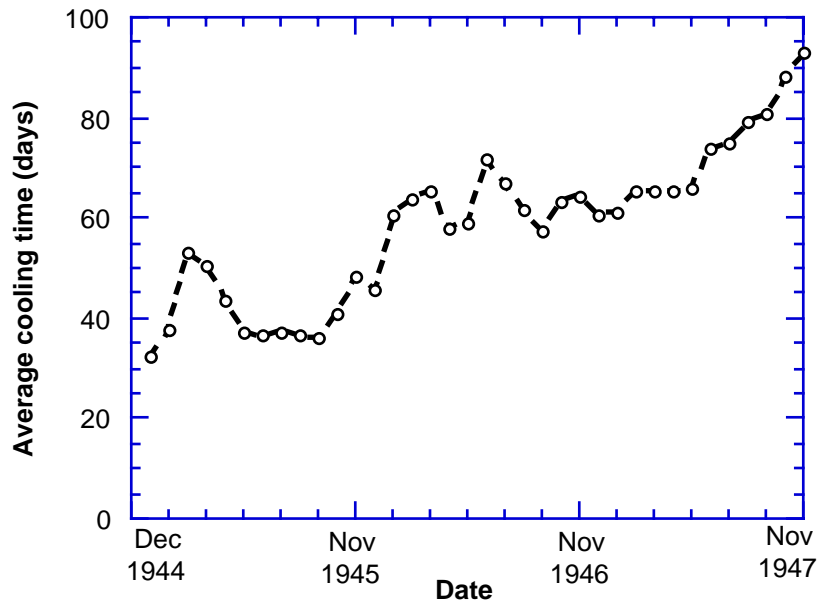


Figure 2-1. Average fuel cooling times prior to processing at Hanford ([Heeb 1994](#)).

Iodine-131 has a radiological half-life of 8.04 days and the half-life of ^{133}Xe , a noble gas, is 5.26 days. The shortest average cooling times correspond to four to five half-lives for ^{131}I , meaning that the ^{131}I radioactivity in the fuel would be reduced by a factor of 16–32 (2^4 – 2^5) during the cooling period. Even after that decay reduction, there were typically tens of thousands of curies (Ci) of ^{131}I in the fuel dissolved each month in 1945. Cooling times of 33 to 38 days diminished the amount of ^{133}Xe in the fuel by a factor that ranged from 32 to 64, but tens of

thousands of curies of ^{133}Xe were also available for release during processing during most months of 1945. Other radioiodines and radioactive noble gases, which can be important contributors to dose when a prompt release of gases from irradiated fuel occurs, have shorter half-lives and were substantially reduced by decay prior to fuel dissolution (see [Section 2.3](#)). The activities of short-lived particulate radionuclides were similarly reduced.

Table 2-1 lists other radioactive fission products (see section 4.2.1). The fission products have intermediate (30–60 day) and longer half-lives that were found in particles released during fuel processing activities at Hanford. The long-lived radionuclide that was the object of Hanford production activities, ^{239}Pu , is also listed. With the exception of ruthenium, which can exist in gaseous form as ruthenium tetroxide (RuO_4), the elements shown in the table are not volatile and were present in waste solutions after fuel dissolution. Various in-plant operations, including steps that oxidized ruthenium, led to releases of these radionuclides. The releases were primarily in particulate form. There were also secondary releases of ruthenium particles from the REDOX Plant stack.

Table 2-1. Radionuclides Found in Particles Released during Hanford Fuel Processing

Elements and radionuclide(s)	Half-life
Strontium	
^{89}Sr	50.5 d
^{90}Sr	29.12 y
Yttrium, ^{91}Y	58.5 d
Zirconium, ^{95}Zr	64 d
Ruthenium	
^{103}Ru	39.3 d
^{106}Ru	368.2 d
Cerium	
^{141}Ce	32.5 d
^{144}Ce	284 d
Cesium, ^{137}Cs	30.0 y
Plutonium, ^{239}Pu	24065 y

Comparison of the half-lives listed with the cooling times discussed above shows that decay of short-cooled fuel would have reduced the amounts of ^{103}Ru and ^{141}Ce by only about a factor of two and had an even smaller effect on the amounts of the other radionuclides. Even long cooling times (~100 days) would have had little effect on the amounts of these radionuclides present in the fuel.

Because the elements listed in [Table 2-1](#) are not volatile, releases of the corresponding radionuclides were not generally expected to be important to plant operations and public health. When the first processing plants began operating, there were no filtration systems to limit the release of radionuclides. The discovery, in 1947, of “active particles” in the environment changed expectations about such releases.

The next section considers the observed characteristics of the particles that were found in 1947 and the later large releases of ruthenium particles from the REDOX Plant. The results of

those measurements help to define the types and magnitudes of exposures to people following releases of radioactivity to the environment.

2.2 Characteristics of Hanford “Active Particles”

The consequences of exposure to radioactive particles depend upon a number of factors. The size of the particle and the chemical form of the radionuclides are both very important, and the amount of radioactivity present is clearly critical to any dose assessment. The studies of “active particles” initially found at Hanford illustrate the types of detective work needed to understand the problem and provide information about important characteristics of those releases. Similar measurements were made in the early 1950s when numerous unexpected releases of radioactive ruthenium particles from the REDOX Plant occurred. Both sets of data help to define the problem of particle exposures.

2.2.1 Characteristics of Particles Released from T Plant and B Plant Stacks

The presence of ground contamination that consisted of many “active particles” or “specks” was discovered near T Plant and B Plant in 1947. Mickelson reported the initial analytical results in late October ([HW-7865](#)).¹ The total activities of individual particles ranged up to 2 μCi (74 kBq). The majority of the activity was due to beta particle emission; beta to alpha activity ratios ranged from 83 to about 4100. The primary contributors to the beta particle emission were identified by element (Ce, Y, Sr), but not by isotope. Soon thereafter, Parker reported that additional investigations were underway ([HW-7920](#)). These included:

- Measurements of the distribution of particles in the environment and the rate of deposition
- Tests to determine the size, chemical makeup, and isotopic composition of the particles
- Estimation of the origin and age of the particles using the test results
- Assays of radioactivity in animals and workers
- Investigation of possible health consequences of exposure to such particles.

Many of the results of these investigations were reported in 1948 by Parker ([HW-8624](#)), Thorburn ([HW-10261](#)), and Healy ([HW-10758](#)). The environmental data have been summarized in [Section 4.2.1](#).

The investigations revealed that the most likely source was release of iron particles from corroding ductwork in the exhaust systems of the two processing facilities. Analysis of the relationships between beta radioactivity and estimated surface areas and volumes of the particles led to the conclusion that the radionuclides were on the surfaces of the iron particles. This finding and the estimated ages of the particles (100–300 d) both suggested that radionuclides in the exhaust gases had been deposited on the blowers and other iron surfaces and were subsequently released when the particles of corroded iron were suspended into the stack exhaust air stream. Tests following replacement of corroded components of the exhaust system with stainless steel (the material originally specified) showed that there were two components of the release, the

¹ Throughout this report, references to historical documents produced by the Hanford contractors employ their HW- numbers. This is the most unambiguous and easily traceable method. [Appendix A](#) contains both a bibliographic list and a list of the Hanford reports sorted by HW-number.

larger corrosion particles and another aerosol composed of smaller diameter particles. It is reasonable to conclude that releases of small particles had been continuous since startup and served as the source of the deposits on the surfaces of the exhaust system ([HW-10261](#)).

Data collected during the investigations provide information on the physical characteristics of the particles that were released. The large particles are described as having physical diameters greater than 100 μm , a size that can be described as fine sand.² The reported size range for the “active” particles was 20–1500 μm . Assuming that this range reflects the 1st and 99th percentiles of the distribution, we find that a consistent lognormal distribution of particle diameters would have a median of about 180 μm and a geometric standard deviation (GSD) of about 2.5.

The average mass of particles segregated for analysis was reported to be 1 mg, with some masses of particles in this group as low as 0.1 mg ([HW-7920](#)). The theoretical density of iron oxide, the principal constituent of these particles, is $\sim 5.2 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$. Raabe³ suggests that actual physical densities are likely only about 70% of the theoretical value. For iron oxide, the effective density would be about 3.6 g cm^{-3} . The physical diameter of a 1-mg iron oxide particle with that density would be $\sim 800 \mu\text{m}$. This compares reasonably well with the diameter of average mass of about 700 μm computed from the count median diameter of 180 μm and a GSD of 2.5 using the Hatch-Choate relationship (Hinds 1982). As the text of Parker’s report ([HW-7920](#)) suggests, the smaller fraction of the distribution was not included in the sample studied in detail.

It must be noted that the observed particles were asymmetrical, rather than spherical, but no estimate of the shape factor was found in the reports. If a default shape factor of 1.5 (ICRP 1993) is assumed and the effective density given above is used, the aerodynamic diameter of a 180 μm particle is estimated to be about 290 μm .

A follow-up report by Parker ([HW-8624](#)) provides a distribution of particle areas. If it is assumed that the particles are spherical, the median physical diameter is estimated to be $\sim 300 \mu\text{m}$. Although it is a censored distribution (based upon the larger particles only), the data suggest that a GSD of about three for the distribution of sizes is not unreasonable.

² The reference here is to the physical diameter of the particle. Other descriptions of particle size are important to the analysis ([Hinds 1982](#), [ICRP 1993b](#)). The equivalent volume diameter (d_v) is the diameter of a spherical particle that has the same volume as the particle considered. The aerodynamic diameter (d_{ae}) of a particle is the diameter of a unit density spherical particle that has the same settling velocity as the particle in question. Two properties of the particle are most important in determining its aerodynamic diameter: its shape and its density. The aerodynamic diameter of a spherical particle with density of 3 g cm^{-3} is about 1.73 (the square root of 3) times larger than its physical diameter. Shape factors for non-spherical particles range between one and two. The aerodynamic diameter of a unit density particle with a shape factor of 1.5 is about 1.22 (the square root of 1.5) times smaller than its equivalent volume diameter. These relationships are approximations because a third factor, the Cunningham slip correction factor, may also affect the aerodynamic diameter, particularly when the equivalent volume diameter is less than 1 μm .

In any natural collection of particles or an aerosol, one typically finds a distribution of particle diameters that covers a broad range. Frequently the distribution is lognormal, which means that the logarithms of the diameters are normally distributed. The two parameters that characterize a lognormal distribution of particle diameters are the geometric mean (or median) diameter and the geometric standard deviation (GSD). These quantities are similar to the more familiar mean and standard deviation that describe the central value and the variability of values in a normal (“bell shaped”) distribution. The lognormal distribution is asymmetric, and a broader range of particle diameters is indicated by a larger GSD.

³ Raabe, O. 2000. Ad-hoc review committee, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Personal communication with P.G. Voilleque, *Risk Assessment Corporation*. Subject: Review of Task Order 3 report. September 11.

The mean particle size of the smaller aerosol or “mist” was reported to be $<5\ \mu\text{m}$ (HW-9864) with some particles $<1\ \mu\text{m}$ (HW-9175). If the mean diameter were $3\ \mu\text{m}$ and the GSD of the distribution were 2.5 (as above), the geometric mean particle diameter would be about $2.0\ \mu\text{m}$. The range of diameters corresponding to the 1st and 99th percentile values would be $0.2\text{--}20\ \mu\text{m}$. The upper tail of this distribution would just reach the lower end of the distribution of the larger particle diameters described above.

The ratio of the surface area for the 95th percentile diameter of the distribution of large particles to the surface area for the 5th percentile diameter of the distribution of small particles is about 2×10^7 . This is broad enough to account for the observed variation in activity per particle of 2.5 pCi to 3.2 μCi (HW-10261). The ratio of those two activities is about 1.3×10^6 .

The data on radionuclide composition of the particles are variable and somewhat incomplete. Healy identified three components of the radioactive decay curves for the particles according to half-lives of 30–60 d, about one year, and many years (HW-10758). Healy’s decay studies were conducted on samples of particles from air collected from separations plant stacks, from ambient outdoor air, and from vegetation samples in 1945–1947 and are discussed in detail in [section 4.2.1](#). The following assignments of activities to the three components are considered to be reasonable and are consistent with Healy’s analysis of the decay curves. For the first component: 13% ^{103}Ru , 14% ^{141}Ce , 6% ^{95}Zr , 14% ^{89}Sr , and 23% ^{91}Y ; the sum of the activities of these radionuclides is 70% of the total. The second component is estimated to consist of 3% ^{106}Ru and 26% $^{144}\text{Ce-Pr}$. Because their fission yields and half-lives are comparable, the isotopes ^{90}Sr and ^{137}Cs should contribute about equally to the 1% of activity associated with the longest lived component.

As noted, the particles were principally composed of beta-emitting radionuclides, and the ratio of beta particle to alpha particle emissions was variable. Most of the alpha particle activity was identified as plutonium (^{239}Pu), which was reported to account for 65–96% of the total (HW-7865). The particle with the largest alpha activity contained about 0.7 nCi; the beta activity of that particle was 2 μCi .

2.2.2 Characteristics of Ruthenium Particles Released from the REDOX Stack

The REDOX Plant began start-up testing in January 1952 and operation in February of that year. Although the effluent monitoring system was not installed until June, discovery of radioactive particles in the environment near the plant began soon after start-up, and a series of unplanned particle releases occurred during the next three years. The predominance of radioactive ruthenium isotopes characterized these releases. In July 1954, Ebright prepared a comprehensive account of the particle releases that had occurred (HW-32473). In August, particles were found in offsite areas. Parker wrote a status report to the AEC on the “ground contamination problem” in September (HW-33068), which includes his assessments of possible consequences of contact with these highly radioactive particles.

In March and April of 1952, particles that contained primarily ruthenium isotopes (^{103}Ru and ^{106}Ru) were found in the environment around the facility. The March release was traced to a scrubber pump failure. The particles found near the end of April were attributed to a release associated with air blown through a process vessel that had been cleaned out. This procedure had been performed several times, and it was concluded that there was environmental evidence for

previous releases as well. Other operational activities were identified as possible contributors to particle releases, but the larger releases to come had a very different cause.

A program was established in May 1952 to monitor deposition routinely around the REDOX Plant. In June, large flaky radioactive particles were found around the facility. Some of the particles were quite large, with diameters greater than 10 μm . The principal chemical component was found to be ammonium nitrate and the principal radionuclides were ^{103}Ru and ^{106}Ru . The flakes were fragile, but the residual contamination persisted on the ground. Over time, the radionuclides remained attached to the residual ammonium nitrate matrix or bonded to soil particles.

Many other releases of particles, crystals or flakes contaminated with ruthenium occurred. The most notable ones were in September 1952; August and September 1953; and January, May, and June 1954. The releases in early January 1954 were estimated to be the largest. These provided many opportunities to study the particles that were found in the environment. The age of the particles was estimated using the activity ratio of ^{103}Ru to ^{106}Ru . The observed lower activity of ^{103}Ru was consistent with deposition and holdup on the walls of the stack and release when flakes of the ammonium nitrate, also deposited there, were resuspended into the stack exhaust. A summary table of characteristics of the particles found in the environment is presented in [Section 4.2.1](#).

Measurements performed inside the stack at the REDOX Plant provided information on the size of the primary aerosol for normal conditions, which consisted of relatively small particles. In May 1953, the first measurements indicated a geometric mean physical diameter of 0.2 μm ([HW-28780](#)). Four later measurements (December) gave geometric mean diameters that were higher, 0.3 to 0.4 μm ([HW-32209](#)). The geometric standard deviations found in the December measurements were also greater, ranging from 2.0 to 2.8, compared to 1.6 and 2.5 found in May. The later measurements were more consistent and are considered more reliable. They serve to define a reference aerosol for normal conditions with a geometric mean diameter of 0.35 μm and a geometric standard deviation of 2.5. Diameters corresponding to the 5th and 95th percentiles of this lognormal distribution are 0.077 and 1.6 μm , respectively.

Aerodynamic diameters of the primary ruthenium dioxide particles would be greater than their physical diameters. The theoretical density of that material is about 7 g cm^{-3} , and the estimated effective density is about 4.9 g cm^{-3} . Assuming a default shape factor of 1.5 ([ICRP 1993](#)), the reference aerodynamic diameter is estimated to be about 0.63 μm . The corresponding 5th and 95th percentile aerodynamic diameters are estimated to be 0.14 and 2.9 μm , respectively.

The distributions of particles collected at the inlet to the sand filter were even broader, geometric standard deviations of 2.8 and 3.2 were determined for two samples ([HW-32209](#)). These particles were likely formed from the droplets that escaped from the scrubber exhaust. The observed average geometric standard deviation of ~ 3 is larger than the estimate made for the primary aerosol in the T Plant and B Plant exhausts (see [Section 2.2.1](#)).

Parker's September 1954 status report suggests that the releases from the scrubber failures consisted of larger particles. The releases of primary and most recent concern at that time were the large ruthenium discharge in January due to a scrubber failure (supplemented by a release during stack flushing) and the May release of particles from the interior surface of the stack. Both releases impacted onsite areas and the exposure of military and other personnel onsite ([Johnson 1954](#)) as well as the offsite public ([HW-33068](#)). The latter reference identifies small particles with typical dimensions of 2 μm , about six times larger than the geometric mean diameter

measured in the REDOX Plant stack. On the basis of measurements cited above, it is reasonable to assume a geometric standard deviation ~ 3 for this particle distribution.

Characteristics of the secondary aerosols, suspended from the interior surface of the stack, were determined from particles collected in the environment. As noted, some of the contaminated ammonium nitrate flakes collected soon after release were quite large. In contrast to the primary aerosol, which consisted entirely of respirable particles, these big flakes were not even inhalable. After the flakes were broken down in the environment, the active particles were smaller, and inhalable, typically about $100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ in diameter. In the absence of information, a geometric standard deviation ~ 3 is assumed for this particle distribution. The largest particles contained up to $200\text{ }\mu\text{Ci}$ ($7.4 \times 10^6\text{ Bq}$) of ruthenium. On a mass basis the weathered particles were found to be mainly inert; either residual ammonium nitrate or sand was the main component. Some large particles that were found close to the facility produced dose rates in “contact” with survey meter probes that were as high as 20 rad h^{-1} (0.2 Gy h^{-1}) ([HW-33068](#)).

Ruthenium particles were measured offsite on several occasions. The release due to the scrubber failure in January 1954 contaminated a narrow strip of land to the northeast, and was detected as far away as Spokane ($\sim 200\text{ km}$). A release in May 1954 that produced a strip of contamination in 100-B Area was detected even further north on Wahluke Slope. The discovery that particles had migrated to Richland and other residential areas in August 1954 triggered a broad survey. By early September, contamination had been measured in Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick, all to the southeast; in and around Benton City to the south; on the Wahluke Slope to the north; in Ringold, Mesa, and Connell to the east; and along the approximately north-south line between Ringold and Pasco. Contamination was not found to the northeast in Othello or Lind or in the southwest-west quadrant (Prosser, Sunnyside, Grandview, Yakima) or far (110 km) to the east in Colfax.

Contemporary soil contamination maps showed particles with diameters greater than $100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to be within 4 km of the plant. Maximum deposition densities occurred within about 400 m and were $2\text{--}5$ particles per 100 m^2 . Particles with diameters in the range $3\text{--}100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ were more numerous and were distributed over a much larger area. Near the stack, surface deposition densities were in the range $100\text{--}1000$ particles per 100 m^2 for particles of that size. Offsite deposition densities were on the order of one particle per 100 m^2 ([Parker 1956b](#), [HW-33068](#)).

Particles found offsite were characterized according to contact dose rate, as measured by instruments. Parker presented results for 288 such particles ([HW-33068](#)). Contact dose rates for about two-thirds (65.6%) of the particles were in the range $5\text{--}50\text{ mrad h}^{-1}$. About 6% of the measured particle dose rates were lower ($1\text{--}5\text{ mrad h}^{-1}$) and about 30% were higher. The percentages of particles exhibiting higher dose rates were: 16% in the range $50\text{--}100\text{ mrad h}^{-1}$; 9.7% in the range $100\text{--}200\text{ mrad h}^{-1}$; 1.7% in the range $200\text{--}300\text{ mrad h}^{-1}$; and 1% greater than 300 mrad h^{-1} . The three most radioactive particles each exhibited a different dose rate: one reading was between 300 and 400 mrad h^{-1} ; one reading was 700 mrad h^{-1} ; and the last reading was 1400 mrad h^{-1} .

The physical size of these offsite particles is not readily determined from the dose rate measurements because the amount of inert material in particular particles is unknown. In general, the particles most likely to be carried great distance by the wind are sufficiently small that they would be in the respirable size range. This generality applies both to stack releases and to particles resuspended from areas of contaminated soil.

2.3 Screening Calculations to Identify the Most Important Radionuclides

It is apparent from the previous section that the ruthenium isotopes are quite important to onsite human exposure to radioactive particles released to the atmosphere from Hanford plants. The relative importance of other radionuclides is less clear, in part because they received less detailed attention and because measurement capabilities in the early years did not include gamma spectrometry, which would have been a great aid to the particle characterization and other analytical work.

A screening procedure was used to determine the radionuclides that were the most important contributors to radiation dose from early Hanford releases. Historical experience, illustrated by the particle releases discussed above, indicated that processing plant releases would be of greatest interest, the potential for radionuclide releases from the production reactors must also be considered. The screening process, described below, employed screening factors developed by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) in Report No. 123 ([NCRP 1996](#)). For exposure pathways associated with atmospheric releases, the screening factors are the estimated committed effective dose (Sv) per unit air concentration (Bq m^{-3}).

There were four primary pathways by which persons living and working at various locations on the Hanford Reservation were exposed to plant releases. These were inhalation of radionuclides, direct radiation from the plume of airborne material, direct radiation from radionuclides deposited on the ground following plume passage, and direct radiation from particles that were retained on the body. Exposures via the first three pathways are addressed in the NCRP screening report, but the skin exposure pathway is not. Recommendations regarding “hot particle” exposures were given in NCRP Report No. 106 ([NCRP 1989](#)) and, more recently, in NCRP Report No. 130 ([NCRP 1999](#)). Both ^{106}Ru and ^{144}Ce decay to unstable radionuclides (rhodium-106 [^{106}Rh] and praseodymium-144 [^{144}Pr], respectively) that emit high-energy beta particles. These radionuclides are primarily responsible for the high dose rates associated with some of the radioactive particles from the fuel processing plants. Yttrium-90 (^{90}Y), produced by the decay of ^{90}Sr , also emits high-energy beta particles, but the contribution was smaller due to the smaller amounts of ^{90}Sr in the particles.

Our screening calculations consider early Hanford radionuclide releases from the production reactors and from the fuel processing facilities. Only very volatile elements, noble gases and halogens, have a substantial potential for release from the operating reactors during normal operations and minor upsets (such as fuel cladding failures). Isotopes of the noble gases krypton and xenon and the halogen iodine are of greatest interest. All of these isotopes are produced by fission of uranium fuel. Another noble gas isotope, argon-41 (^{41}Ar) was produced by neutron activation of stable argon in air and discharged from the reactor stacks. Other radionuclides released from the reactors were tritium (^3H), which is produced by ternary fission and activation and can be present in hydrogen gas or in water vapor, and the neutron activation product carbon-14 (^{14}C), which also can be present in gaseous forms. Releases from the fuel processing facilities included ^{131}I , ^{133}Xe , and the radionuclides associated with the “active particles” released during Hanford operations. Preliminary screening of releases from the production reactors is described in the next section.

2.3.1 Preliminary Screening of Releases from Production Reactors

Several radioisotopes of the noble gas elements krypton and xenon are produced by nuclear fission. Most of these radionuclides reach equilibrium inventories in reactor fuel quickly and could be significant radiation sources in the event of a severe reactor accident. [Table 2-2](#) lists the radionuclides of interest, their half-lives, and relative inventories and dose coefficients. The latter parameters are expressed in relative terms, with the abundant and relatively long-lived isotope ^{133}Xe used as the reference radionuclide.

The information in [Table 2-2](#) shows that the potential doses from several of the radionuclides would exceed that of ^{133}Xe if these gases were released to the environment without delay after reactor shutdown. Such a release could have occurred if there had been a massive reactor accident at Hanford, but that did not happen. Releases of noble gases from fuel element cladding failures were limited by fuel design. Many small fuel slugs were used to charge the reactors. [Gerber \(1996\)](#) notes that about 64,000 fuel slugs were loaded in each of the first six Hanford production reactors. Each of the slugs was individually clad. This approach limited releases due to a cladding failure. The frequency of fuel slug cladding failures was low. [Gydesen \(1993\)](#) identified only 2000 cladding failures in 28 years (1944–1971) of Hanford reactor operations. The exact number is unknown, but simple calculations show that more than ten million slugs had been used in the Hanford reactors by the end of 1961. Thus, it can be seen that the cladding failure rate was quite low.

The last column of [Table 2-2](#) shows that for cooling times as short as one day only ^{135}Xe has a dose potential comparable to ^{133}Xe . For the average fuel cooling times employed at Hanford (>30 days, see [Figure 2-1](#)) these calculations show that ^{133}Xe is the only noble gas fission product having significant potential to contribute to human radiation exposure after release to the environment. Releases of ^{133}Xe occurred when the fuel was dissolved at the fuel processing facilities.

[Heeb \(1994\)](#) estimated releases of other radionuclides (^{41}Ar , ^3H , and ^{14}C) from the eight Hanford production reactors on the basis of limited historical measurements. Those estimates, shown in [Table 2-3](#), are used for preliminary screening of these reactor releases. The screening factors for the pathways of concern for onsite exposure, inhalation plus direct radiation from airborne radioactivity, are also given in the table. For these nuclides there is no contribution due to direct radiation from surface deposition. The relative importance of these three radionuclides can be estimated by comparing the products of the release rate and the corresponding screening factor. The estimated dose contribution from the noble gas ^{41}Ar is seen to be about 10,000 times greater than that from ^3H and about 3,000 times greater than that from ^{14}C .

It is interesting to compare the noble gas releases from the reactors with the noble gas releases from the fuel processing facilities. The release estimate for ^{41}Ar in [Table 2-3](#) applies only to the period when all eight reactors were operating. Releases of ^{41}Ar increased with time as new reactors were brought online. This contrasts with the release history of ^{133}Xe , which decreased over time because longer fuel cooling times were employed. The ^{133}Xe releases were highest in the fall of 1945 (see [Section 2.3.2](#)). At that time, there were three reactors operating at three different locations. [Heeb \(1994\)](#) estimated the daily release of ^{41}Ar from each site to be 155 Ci (5.7 TBq).⁴ For a reactor operating 90% of the time, the monthly release of ^{41}Ar would be about

⁴ One terabecquerel (TBq) equals 10^{12} Bq; one petabecquerel (PBq) equals 10^{15} Bq.

4200 Ci (155 TBq). The relative importance of that release rate can be compared to the peak monthly ^{133}Xe release rate of 1.6 PBq⁴ ([Section 2.3.2](#)). The screening factor for ^{41}Ar is about 35 times larger than that for ^{133}Xe , so a simple comparison suggests that the ^{41}Ar release was more important. The comparison is complicated by the fact that the releases occurred at different locations. There may not have been persons exposed at comparable locations downwind from the two locations.

Table 2-2. Fuel Inventories and Dose Potential of Radioactive Noble Gas Fission Products in Reactor Fuels Compared to ^{133}Xe

Radionuclide	Half-life ^a	Relative fuel inventory (10 m after reactor shutdown)	Ratio of screening dose coefficients ^b	Relative potential radiation dose at t = 1 d
$^{83\text{m}}\text{Kr}$	1.83 h	0.077	0.0026	<<0.0001
^{85}Kr	10.7 y	<0.001	0.065	<0.0001
$^{85\text{m}}\text{Kr}$	4.48 h	0.17	4.6	0.020
^{87}Kr	76.3 m	0.32	23	<0.0001
^{88}Kr	2.86 h	0.47	130	0.18
^{89}Kr	3.18 m	0.70	^c	^d
$^{131\text{m}}\text{Xe}$	11.8 d	0.005	0.26	0.0014
^{133}Xe	5.25 d	1	1	1
$^{133\text{m}}\text{Xe}$	2.19 d	0.031	0.86	0.029
^{135}Xe	9.10 h	0.24	7.0	1.8
$^{135\text{m}}\text{Xe}$	15.7 m	0.17	8.6	0.11
^{137}Xe	3.82 m	0.16	^c	^d
^{138}Xe	14.2 m	0.56	51	<<0.0001

^a Time abbreviations used: y = years, d = days, h = hours, m = minutes.

^b Screening factors from NCRP Report No. 123 ([NCRP 1996](#)) divided by the screening factor for ^{133}Xe . The principal environmental exposure mode is irradiation by the airborne plume of radioactivity.

^c Not estimated in ([NCRP 1996](#)), presumably because of the short half-life.

^d Not computed, but clearly very small because of the short half-life (<4 minutes) of this nuclide.

Table 2-3. Estimated Release Rates from Hanford Reactors and Air Pathway Screening Factors for ^{41}Ar , ^3H , and ^{14}C

Radionuclide	Estimated release from all reactors (Bq d ⁻¹) ^a	Screening factor for inhalation and direct radiation exposure (Sv per Bq m ⁻³) ^b
^{41}Ar	1.5×10^{13}	1.5×10^{-6}
^3H	5.2×10^{10}	1.4×10^{-7}
^{14}C	4.8×10^9	4.5×10^{-6}

^a Release estimates from [Heeb \(1994\)](#).

^b Screening factors from Appendix B of [NCRP \(1996\)](#).

Releases of ^{41}Ar were much more important than other releases from the production reactors and appear to be the most important of all noble gas releases in 1945. Because the ^{41}Ar release rates increased with time and the release rate for ^{133}Xe dropped by more than a factor of ten in 1946 (and further after that; see below), the ^{41}Ar releases are considered the most important noble gas releases throughout the period of interest.

2.3.2 Comparison of Radioactive Gas Releases from Fuel Processing Facilities

The largest radioactivity releases from the fuel processing facilities were of the halogen ^{131}I (Heeb 1994), and it has received the most attention in the studies of past Hanford operations. It serves as a useful point of reference for other radionuclides that were released from the same facilities. The noble gas inventory and potential dose comparisons in the previous section show that ^{133}Xe was the most important noble gas released from the fuel processing plants.

The relative importance of the releases of these two gaseous radionuclides can be assessed in a straightforward way. It is reasonable to expect that nearly all of the ^{133}Xe present in the fuel elements was released during fuel dissolution. Estimated ^{133}Xe releases are shown in Figure 2-2 for the early years of operation when they were highest. In making the estimates, it was assumed that the average fuel cooling time was appropriate for all the fuel processed. This assumption could lead to an underestimate of releases if the fuel cooling times were highly variable and included significantly shorter cooling periods for some fuel. The increase in fuel element cooling time that began in 1946 caused substantial reductions in the ^{133}Xe releases.

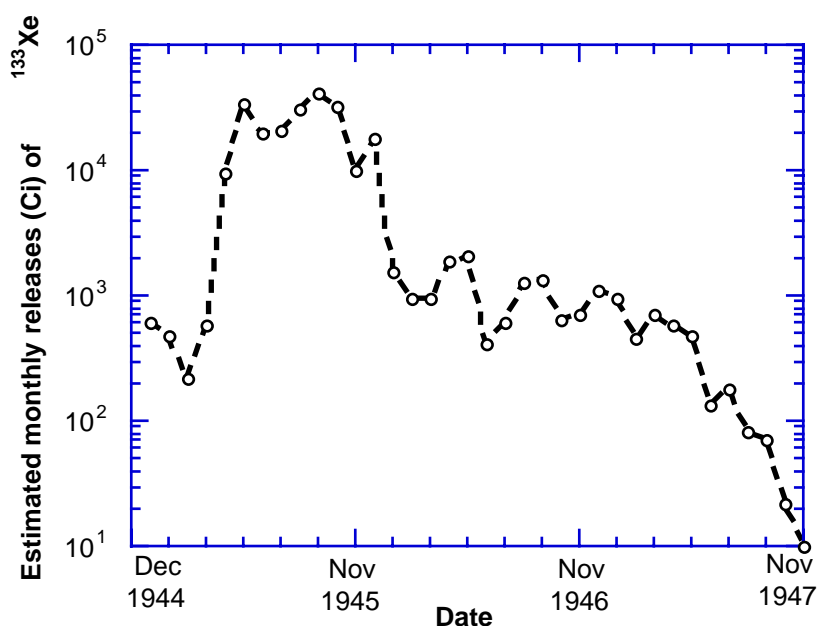


Figure 2-2. Estimated monthly releases of ^{133}Xe during fuel processing at Hanford.

The estimated monthly ^{133}Xe release was highest, about 42,000 Ci (1.6 PBq), in September 1945. In that same month, the release of ^{131}I was estimated (Heeb 1994) to be about 89,000 Ci (3.3 PBq). Screening factors for exposure to atmospheric releases by the inhalation and direct radiation pathways (from the plume and ground deposition) for ^{133}Xe and ^{131}I are 4.3×10^{-8} and 2.4×10^{-4} Sv per Bq m^{-3} , respectively (NCRP 1996). The ratio of the screening factor for ^{133}Xe to the comparable factor for ^{131}I is about 1.8×10^{-4} . The relative dose contributions can be estimated by simply comparing the products of the release amounts and the screening factors. The conclusion is that, at the peak of the ^{133}Xe releases, its contribution to the dose was more than 10,000 times smaller than that from ^{131}I .

In the next section, we consider the relative importance of the several radionuclides (^{89}Sr , ^{90}Sr , ^{91}Y , ^{95}Zr , ^{103}Ru , ^{106}Ru , ^{137}Cs , ^{141}Ce , ^{144}Ce , and ^{239}Pu) associated with “active particles” from Hanford operations. Those releases are compared with production reactor releases of ^{41}Ar . The estimated releases of ^{131}I from the processing facilities serve as a point of comparison for the screening, which is performed using the NCRP (1996) screening factors.

2.3.3 Screening Comparisons for Fuel Processing and Reactor Releases

In addition to estimating the releases of ^{131}I , Heeb (1994) made estimates of the releases of several of the radionuclides that were associated with the highly radioactive particles that were found in the Hanford environment. Those radionuclides were ^{103}Ru , ^{106}Ru , ^{144}Ce , ^{90}Sr , and ^{239}Pu . Estimates were based upon computed radionuclide inventories in the fuel being processed and upon nuclide specific release fractions. The release fraction for any isotope in a given period is simply the ratio of the amount released to the amount processed. Values used by Heeb were based upon historic effluent measurements and processing data for the periods of measurement. For some radionuclides, there was only one estimate of the release fraction.

A different approach was adopted for the screening comparisons described here. The set of all release fractions was considered together and examined to determine whether there were common features. In general, it is reasonable to expect that the isotopes did not selectively attach to particles independently and that release fractions for the several isotopes should be similar. An exception to this general rule may be releases of ruthenium from the REDOX Plant, where oxidation of ruthenium to RuO_4 occurred. In fact, most of the measured release fractions appeared to form a consistent lognormal distribution, which is shown in Figure 2-3. The plotted distribution does not include some of the data for REDOX ruthenium releases. Some ruthenium release fractions were not representative of processing activities because they were associated with releases of material that had been deposited on the wall of the stack. Ruthenium release fractions that exceeded 2×10^{-6} were considered to be in that category and were excluded. Also excluded from the distribution were ruthenium release fractions that were lower than 1×10^{-8} .

The provisional median release fraction of about 10^{-7} was used to compute releases of particulate radionuclides for use in the screening calculations. The ^{41}Ar releases estimated by Heeb (1994) were adjusted for an operating fraction of 0.9 for these calculations. For comparison, the mean ^{131}I release estimates made by Heeb (1994) were used in the screening calculations.

Because the radionuclide releases changed dramatically with time as cooling times were increased and effluent treatment systems were added, the screening considered eight times during

the period from the war years to February 1956, at which time T Plant was shut down. Each of the radionuclides was ranked in each period, and then an overall score was computed for each radionuclide.

[Table 2-4](#) contains the release estimates for the eight times that were considered in the screening calculations. These estimates reflect provisional estimates of the effectiveness of effluent treatment equipment that was installed. The estimates for ^{41}Ar considered only the reactor site with the maximum release at each time. Because the releases of ^{41}Ar occurred at differing locations, there is some lack of comparability among the results of the screening calculations, but those differences do not substantially affect the conclusions obtained.

The screening factors used in the calculations to determine the most important radionuclides are shown in [Table 2-5](#). The values listed are derived from screening factors developed by the [NCRP \(1996\)](#) for exposure to airborne radionuclides. The NCRP report considers seven exposure pathways. Three pathways are considered here. They are inhalation, direct radiation from the plume, and direct radiation from radionuclides deposited on the ground during plume passage. Of the exposure routes considered by the NCRP, these are most relevant for persons who lived and worked within the reservation boundaries.

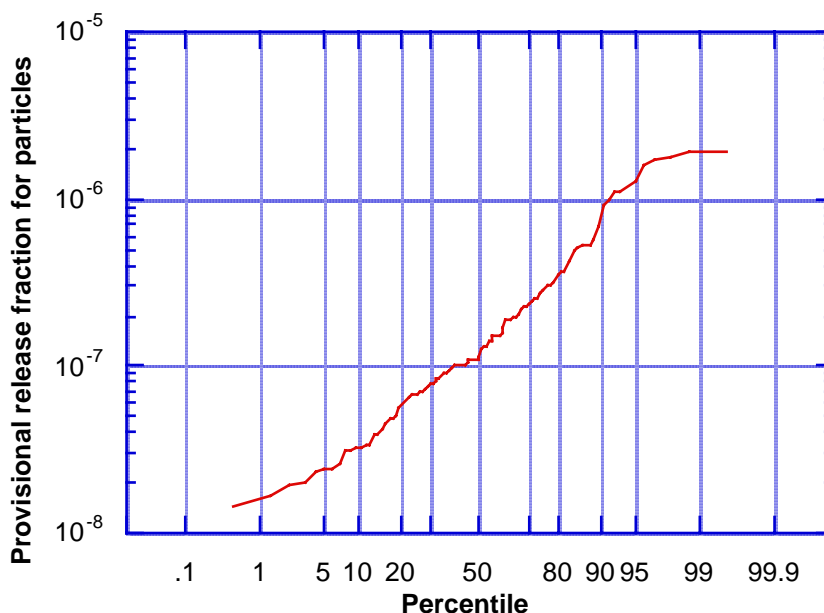


Figure 2-3. Provisional composite distribution of release fraction estimates for fuel processing facilities. The distribution includes estimates for cerium, plutonium, and strontium, and most estimates for ruthenium (see text).

Table 2-4. Radionuclide Release Rates Used for Screening Calculations

Radio-nuclide	Monthly release rate (GBq) ^a used for screening calculations							
	October 1945	April 1947	October 1948	April 1950	October 1951	April 1953	October 1954	February 1956
⁴¹ Ar	1.5 × 10 ⁵	1.5 × 10 ⁵	1.5 × 10 ⁵	2.4 × 10 ⁵	2.4 × 10 ⁵	3.5 × 10 ⁵	3.5 × 10 ⁵	4.1 × 10 ⁵
⁸⁹ Sr	3.6 × 10 ³	1.1 × 10 ³	6.3 × 10 ⁰	7.0 × 10 ⁰	3.2 × 10 ¹	4.1 × 10 ¹	6.3 × 10 ¹	4.8 × 10 ¹
⁹⁰ Sr	1.1 × 10 ²	5.2 × 10 ¹	4.4 × 10 ⁻¹	6.3 × 10 ⁻¹	1.4 × 10 ⁰	1.9 × 10 ⁰	3.7 × 10 ⁰	2.0 × 10 ⁰
⁹¹ Y	4.1 × 10 ³	1.3 × 10 ³	7.4 × 10 ⁰	8.9 × 10 ⁰	3.6 × 10 ¹	5.2 × 10 ¹	7.8 × 10 ¹	6.3 × 10 ¹
⁹⁵ Zr	4.1 × 10 ³	1.4 × 10 ³	8.1 × 10 ⁰	9.6 × 10 ⁰	3.7 × 10 ¹	5.6 × 10 ¹	8.9 × 10 ¹	7.4 × 10 ¹
¹⁰³ Ru	2.6 × 10 ³	7.4 × 10 ²	3.4 × 10 ⁰	4.1 × 10 ⁰	2.2 × 10 ¹	2.6 × 10 ¹	3.4 × 10 ¹	2.7 × 10 ¹
¹⁰⁶ Ru	3.2 × 10 ²	1.4 × 10 ²	1.1 × 10 ⁰	1.7 × 10 ⁰	4.8 × 10 ⁰	6.3 × 10 ⁰	1.3 × 10 ¹	5.6 × 10 ⁰
¹³¹ I	3.3 × 10 ⁶	1.8 × 10 ⁵	6.3 × 10 ³	3.7 × 10 ³	4.8 × 10 ⁴	8.9 × 10 ³	5.2 × 10 ³	8.5 × 10 ²
¹³⁷ Cs	9.6 × 10 ¹	4.4 × 10 ¹	4.1 × 10 ⁻¹	5.6 × 10 ⁻¹	1.2 × 10 ⁰	1.7 × 10 ⁰	3.3 × 10 ⁰	1.7 × 10 ⁰
¹⁴¹ Ce	5.2 × 10 ³	1.4 × 10 ³	5.6 × 10 ⁰	6.7 × 10 ⁰	4.4 × 10 ¹	4.4 × 10 ¹	5.6 × 10 ¹	3.7 × 10 ¹
¹⁴⁴ Ce	2.8 × 10 ³	1.3 × 10 ³	9.6 × 10 ⁰	1.3 × 10 ¹	3.4 × 10 ¹	4.4 × 10 ¹	8.1 × 10 ¹	5.2 × 10 ¹
²³⁹ Pu	3.1 × 10 ⁰	1.5 × 10 ⁰	1.2 × 10 ⁻²	1.7 × 10 ⁻²	3.7 × 10 ⁻²	5.6 × 10 ⁻²	9.6 × 10 ⁻²	5.6 × 10 ⁻²

^a One gigabecquerel (1 GBq) equals 10⁹ Bq.

Table 2-5. Radionuclide Screening Factors

Radionuclide	Screening factor (Sv per Bq m ⁻³) ^a
⁴¹ Ar	1.5 × 10 ⁻⁶
⁸⁹ Sr	9.4 × 10 ⁻⁵
⁹⁰ Sr	2.8 × 10 ⁻³
⁹¹ Y	1.1 × 10 ⁻⁴
⁹⁵ Zr	3.4 × 10 ⁻³
¹⁰³ Ru	7.2 × 10 ⁻⁴
¹⁰⁶ Ru	3.8 × 10 ⁻³
¹³¹ I	2.4 × 10 ⁻⁴
¹³⁷ Cs	6.6 × 10 ⁻³ ^b
¹⁴¹ Ce	1.2 × 10 ⁻⁴
¹⁴⁴ Ce	1.3 × 10 ⁻³
²³⁹ Pu	5.5 × 10 ⁻¹

^a The screening factor for each radionuclide is the sum of the screening factors for the inhalation and direct radiation from the plume and ground deposition ([NCRP 1996](#)).

^b Includes modified screening factor for direct radiation due to ground deposition; see text.

The NCRP calculations assume a 30-y period of continuous deposition to account for buildup of radionuclides in the soil for pathways, including direct radiation exposure, that depend upon the soil contamination level. That assumption distorts the importance of the long-lived nuclide ^{137}Cs for the Hanford situation, where release rates were generally declining with time. The external exposure component of the screening factor was adjusted for a shorter buildup period (3 y) for ^{137}Cs . If ^{90}Sr and ^{239}Pu contributed to external exposure from the soil, a similar adjustment would have been required for those radionuclides. The other depositing radionuclides in Table 2-5 reach equilibrium levels in the soil in shorter times and no changes were made to their screening factors.

For each time considered, a screening index was computed for each radionuclide. That index was the product of the release rate and the screening factor. The importance of each radionuclide at each time was determined by ranking the values of the screening indices computed for that time. The rankings are presented in Table 2-6 for all of the eight time periods. An overall score (S_i) for each radionuclide was derived from the rankings; the score was computed using the following equation.

$$S_i = 100 - \sum_j r_{ij} \quad (2-1)$$

where r_{ij} is the rank of the i^{th} radionuclide for the j^{th} time period.

Table 2-6. Radionuclide Rankings Obtained from Screening Calculations

Isotope	Rank among all nuclides for each time period							
	October 1945	April 1947	October 1948	April 1950	October 1951	April 1953	October 1954	February 1956
^{41}Ar	12	7	2	2	2	2	2	1
^{89}Sr	10	12	12	12	12	12	12	11
^{90}Sr	11	11	8	8	9	10	9	10
^{91}Y	9	10	10	10	11	9	10	9
^{95}Zr	8	8	9	9	10	8	8	8
^{103}Ru	3	5	7	7	6	6	6	6
^{106}Ru	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5
^{131}I	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
^{137}Cs	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7
^{141}Ce	7	9	11	11	8	11	11	12
^{144}Ce	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
^{239}Pu	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4

The lowest possible sum of the rankings was 8, so the highest possible score was 92. The lowest possible score was 4. Table 2-7 shows the overall score for each of the radionuclides. The score for ^{131}I , used as a reference point, was close to the maximum possible. Cerium-144 received the highest score (78) of the other radionuclides screened, followed by ^{41}Ar with a score of 70. Other radionuclides whose scores were above or near 50 were: ^{239}Pu , ^{106}Ru , ^{103}Ru , and ^{137}Cs . Those nuclides, together with ^{144}Ce were judged most important particle releases and were

selected for detailed source term evaluation. Strontium-90 was arbitrarily added to the list because those releases were included in the earlier report by [Heeb \(1994\)](#).

Table 2-7. Overall Scores for the Radionuclides

Radionuclide	Overall score for screening procedure
⁴¹ Ar	70
⁸⁹ Sr	7
⁹⁰ Sr	24
⁹¹ Y	22
⁹⁵ Zr	32
¹⁰³ Ru	54
¹⁰⁶ Ru	61
¹³¹ I	91
¹³⁷ Cs	48
¹⁴¹ Ce	20
¹⁴⁴ Ce	78
²³⁹ Pu	69

The screening calculations effectively assumed that there were exposed persons at locations with comparable atmospheric dispersion for all of the sources. In fact, persons were located closer to the processing facilities in the 200 Areas than to the various 100 Areas where the ⁴¹Ar releases were highest at the times considered. This simplification may have led to overestimation of the contribution of ⁴¹Ar and a higher score. On the other hand, only releases from a single site were considered and there are some wind directions that would carry the releases from multiple sites in the same direction. In any case, ⁴¹Ar was clearly the most important of the reactor releases and was included in the list of most important nuclides.

The screening calculations also assumed that the releases of particles were from a single location in the 200 Areas. For the times considered, there were two stack release points at different locations; however, the screening was designed to select the most important radionuclides released, not the most important release point(s). It should be noted that differences in release locations are considered explicitly in the dose estimation method ([Section 3](#)) because military personnel were exposed at locations close to the facilities. For those calculations, proper location of the release point(s) is important.

2.4 Source Term Development for the Most Important Radionuclides

Each of the radionuclides judged to be among the most important atmospheric releases was discharged at more than one location. The noble gas ⁴¹Ar was released from each of the reactor stacks, all located near the Columbia River. The particulate radionuclides were released from facilities in the 200 Areas near the center of the reservation. In the following subsections, the procedures used to estimate releases for the important radionuclides at the individual reactors and processing facilities are described. Monthly information was available for many of the radionuclides of interest ([Heeb 1994](#)). Because the duration of exposure for military and other persons on the reservation did not include the entire period considered, monthly processing data were used when available and monthly release estimates were made for all radionuclides.

Uncertainties associated with each of the release estimates were incorporated into the calculations and Monte Carlo procedures were used to obtain distributions of release estimates that can be used in subsequent calculations. Icosatiles (the 5th, 10th, 15th, ...100th percentiles) of the distributions of monthly releases were tabulated for use in dose calculations.

The first subsection deals with releases of ⁴¹Ar from the reactors. Later subsections deal with releases from the processing facilities.

2.4.1 Releases of ⁴¹Ar from Production Reactors

[Paas \(1953\)](#) presented data, obtained in late 1952 and early 1953, on the concentrations of ⁴¹Ar in stack effluents from the six production reactors. The limited information from those measurements is presented in Table 2-8. The data reported for C Reactor were considered suspect at the time and have not been used in this analysis. The average ⁴¹Ar concentrations found in the effluents from the first three reactors constructed (B, D, and F) are quite similar. Their stack exhaust flow rates were also the same. Higher concentrations were measured in the effluent of DR Reactor, which also had the lowest stack flow rate. The average concentration measured in the H Reactor exhaust was intermediate between the observations at the first reactors and those at DR Reactor. The K Area reactors were not operating at the time of the measurements, but are included in the table to show their stack effluent flow rates, which are similar to those for C Reactor and H Reactor.

Table 2-8. ⁴¹Ar Concentrations Measured in and Effluent Flow Rates for Production Reactor Stacks

Reactor	Measured concentration ($\mu\text{Ci m}^{-3}$) of ⁴¹ Ar ^a		Stack effluent flow rate ($\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$) ^b
	Average	Maximum	
B	20	39	47
D	23	39	47
F	17	27	47
DR	80	110	40
C	<4	<4	64
H	48	66	76
KE	^c	^c	67
KW	^c	^c	64

^a ⁴¹Ar concentration data from [Paas \(1953\)](#).

^b Based on flow rates given in [Heeb \(1994\)](#).

^c The reactor was not operating at the time of the measurements.

The releases from B, D, and F reactors were estimated using a uniform distribution of concentrations between 1 and 39 $\mu\text{Ci m}^{-3}$. That distribution has a mean of 20 $\mu\text{Ci m}^{-3}$, which was the average value measured in the effluents of those three reactors. Releases from DR Reactor were estimated using a uniform distribution with a mean of 80 $\mu\text{Ci m}^{-3}$, the measured average concentration, and bounds of 60 and 100 $\mu\text{Ci m}^{-3}$. The concentrations measured in the H Reactor effluent were used as the basis for estimating releases from the four other reactors (C, H, KE, and KW). A uniform distribution of concentrations between 30 and 66 $\mu\text{Ci m}^{-3}$, which has a mean of 48 $\mu\text{Ci m}^{-3}$, was selected.

In this procedure, effluent concentrations that were measured only for a brief time are used to estimate ^{41}Ar releases over a period of many years. The reactors did not operate continuously, but may have operated throughout any particular month. Examination of detailed reactor operating histories was not attempted. For the calculations of monthly releases, an average on-line fraction of 0.9 was represented as a triangular distribution with bounds of 0.8 and 1. Reactor power levels were lower prior to 1951 ([Carlisle and Zenzen 1996](#)) and that may have affected the amount of activation (of ^{40}Ar in the air) that occurred. Stack exhaust flow rates also can vary with time and may have been lower during some periods. The concentrations measured in 1952–1953 may have been higher or lower than the long term average values. To reflect these uncertainties, an extrapolation factor was introduced into the calculation. A triangular distribution was assumed with bounds of 0.5 and 1.5 and a mode of 1.

Percentiles from the distributions of monthly releases of ^{41}Ar are presented in Table 2-9. The complete set of icosatiles is contained in an Excel® spreadsheet (Link to [Ar-41 Releases.xls](#)). Although all of the reactors had individual stacks, three of the 100 Areas had two operating reactors during some periods. Percentiles for the distribution of the sums of release rates for those sites are included in the table and in the spreadsheet.

Table 2-9. Distributions of Monthly Release Estimates for ^{41}Ar from Reactors and Areas

Reactor	Percentiles of distributions of release estimates (Ci month ⁻¹) for individual reactors and areas with two reactors				
	5 th	25 th	50 th	75 th	95 th
B, D, or F	320	1200	2200	3300	4100
C	4000	5600	7000	8700	11000
B and C ^a	5600	7600	9300	11000	14000
DR	5900	6600	7600	8500	9400
D and DR ^b	7100	8600	9800	11000	13000
H	5700	7000	8600	10000	12000
KE	4200	5900	7400	9100	12000
KW	4100	5600	6700	8700	11000
KE and KW ^c	10000	13000	15000	17000	20000

^a Both reactors operated in the same area after November 1952.

^b Both reactors operated in the same area after October 1950.

^c Both reactors operated in the same area after April 1955.

2.4.2 Releases of Particulate Radionuclides from Fuel Processing Facilities

Two types of particle releases were considered. The first was for what may be considered to be “routine” operations, although the magnitudes of these routine releases were substantially higher during the early years of operations because there were no effluent treatment systems. The second situation may be called unusual release conditions. These were times, most notably during the early 1950s at the REDOX Plant, when quite large releases, which were not related to processing, occurred. These two conditions are discussed separately below, followed by estimates of the releases for each of the fuel processing plants.

Routine Operational Releases. Under normal operating conditions, releases of the particulate radionuclides (^{90}Sr , ^{103}Ru , ^{106}Ru , ^{137}Cs , ^{144}Ce , and ^{239}Pu) from the fuel processing plants are considered to be generally proportional to the rates at which the material entered the plant in irradiated fuels that had been discharged from the reactors. Those fuels had been held for varying times to reduce the amounts of short-lived nuclides by radioactive decay. As was illustrated in [Figure 2-1](#), the average fuel cooling times were not constant. The amounts of most of the radionuclides considered here are not greatly affected by changes in the cooling times because their half-lives are relatively long ([Table 2-1](#)). Fuel inventories of ^{103}Ru were most affected by the longer cooling times that were used after mid-1946. Estimates of the amounts of these radionuclides entering the processing plants are also much less affected (when compared with ^{133}Xe and ^{131}I) by wide variability in periods for which individual batches of fuel were stored before processing.

[Heeb \(1994\)](#) made estimates of radionuclide input to the fuel dissolution process and those are tabulated in his report. The input of ^{103}Ru to the dissolvers during the first 11 years of operations is shown in Figure 2-4. The T Plant operated throughout this period. The B Plant operated until June 1952 and the REDOX Plant began operations that year. The general decline in ^{103}Ru input from mid-1946 until the end of 1947 is due, in part, to longer fuel cooling times and to a general decline in fuel processing rates.

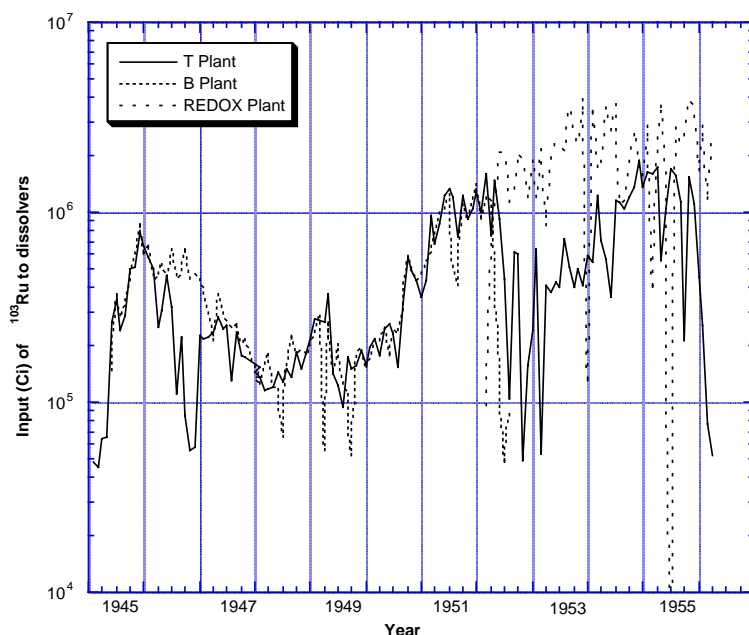


Figure 2-4. Input of ^{103}Ru to the dissolvers at Hanford from startup until closure of T Plant.

An average fuel cooling time of 456 d led to the sharp drop in the estimated ^{103}Ru input to the REDOX Plant dissolver in May 1955. The same decrease in input rate is seen for ^{106}Ru in

[Figure 2-5](#), although it is not as large. The decline due to longer cooling after mid-1946 is also not as dramatic in that figure because of the half-life of ^{106}Ru is much longer than that of ^{103}Ru .

For the other radionuclides considered here, the inputs to the fuel dissolution process were similar to those shown in Figure 2-5. The half-life of ^{144}Ce is somewhat shorter than, but comparable to, that for ^{106}Ru , and the other nuclides were not substantially affected by radioactive decay.

Monthly listings of the inputs of ^{90}Sr , ^{103}Ru , ^{106}Ru , ^{144}Ce , and ^{239}Pu to the dissolvers of the Hanford fuel processing plants were compiled for the years 1944–1961 from tables given in the report by [Heeb \(1994\)](#). Those estimates, together with the estimates of fuel processing rates and average fuel decay times, are contained in an Excel® spreadsheet (Link to [Processing Rates.xls](#))

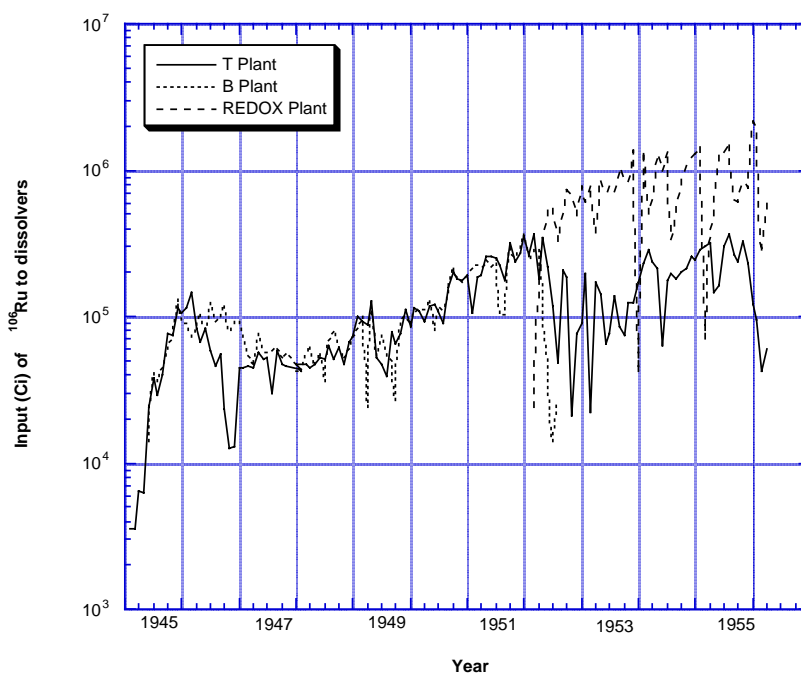


Figure 2-5. Input of ^{106}Ru to the dissolvers at Hanford from startup until closure of T Plant.

The inputs of ^{137}Cs to the dissolvers can be estimated from the values for ^{90}Sr . Their fission yields differ somewhat (5.5% vs 5.9%) as do their half-lives (30.0 y vs 29.1 y). The neutron capture cross section for ^{90}Sr is higher, 0.8 compared with 0.1. As a first approximation that is considered adequate for the present purposes, the inputs of ^{137}Cs are estimated to be the same as those for ^{90}Sr . The difference between inputs of the two nuclides to the dissolvers is estimated to be less than 10%.

In general, it is expected that a common process led to formation of particles that became airborne during fuel processing and were carried in the process vessel exhaust air streams. The notable exception, mentioned earlier, is releases of gaseous ruthenium (RuO_4) from the REDOX

Plant. There were some sparging operations at the REDOX Plant that also appeared to increase the ruthenium releases there. Nonetheless, with this general principle in mind, the data on release fractions for the particulate radionuclides were reviewed. For the planned calculations, it is most desirable to have release fractions for monthly periods. When feasible, results for shorter periods were combined to determine values more appropriate for monthly release calculations. Most available estimates were for ^{239}Pu and ruthenium isotopes, with very limited data for ^{90}Sr and ^{144}Ce . For periods after the scrubbers were installed in T Plant and B Plant and for PUREX Plant, a single lognormal distribution with a geometric mean of 1.4×10^{-7} and a geometric standard deviation of 3.2 was selected for use in the calculation of releases. The corresponding mean release fraction is 2.8×10^{-7} . For the early years of operation of T Plant and B Plant, when there was no effluent treatment, the release factor was increased by an average factor of 150, the mean of a uniform distribution with bounds of 100 and 200.

The same release fraction was used for the REDOX Plant particulate radionuclide releases, except for those of ruthenium isotopes, for which higher release fractions were adopted. For routine operations, a median release fraction of 1×10^{-6} was adopted. To provide a high upper bound, the geometric standard deviation of the distribution was taken to be three. The corresponding mean release fraction would be 1.8×10^{-6} . This may lead to consistent overprediction of typical releases of ^{103}Ru and ^{106}Ru after 1955. Release fractions for the unusual ruthenium releases are described [below](#).

[Heeb \(1994\)](#) identified uncertainties in the fuel processing rates, the calculations of radionuclide inventories in the fuel, and in the average fuel cooling times. For the nuclides considered here, the uncertainty in decay time is most important for ^{103}Ru . The uncertainty distributions for these factors given by [Heeb \(1994\)](#) were propagated using Monte Carlo methods and the distributions that resulted were employed in the release calculations. These uncertainties are relatively small, typically <20%.

Monte Carlo calculations of routine releases were made for each month from December 1944 through December 1961 for each of the fuel processing plants in operation during the month of interest. For most months, two plants were operating; however, during the first half of 1952 three facilities (T Plant, B Plant, and REDOX Plant) were operating. Distributions of monthly total releases were also computed by summing the distributions of release estimates for the individual plants.

Unusual Release Conditions. Unusual release conditions were typified by discharges that were unrelated to the fuel processing throughput of the plants. Large releases of ruthenium-contaminated particles from the REDOX Plant, mainly in 1952–1954, exemplified these conditions. In qualitative terms, it is clear what led to the unusual releases, in which ^{106}Ru was the most important radioactive component.

Releases of ammonia and nitrous oxides from different plant operations were mixed in the exhaust flow and deposits of ammonium nitrate formed on interior surfaces of the plant stack. In addition, ruthenium releases from the REDOX Plant were elevated due to plant design and operation. An oxidation step in the process yielded the volatile ruthenium oxide, RuO_4 . When passing through the offgas lines and the stack, the radioactive ruthenium also deposited on the same surfaces, perhaps simultaneously with the ammonium nitrate under some conditions. Other process activities, such as vessel sparging, led to increased releases of ruthenium particles that also deposited on stack walls and other surfaces as the exhaust gas was transported out of the

plant. As a result, there was a deposit of radioactive ammonium nitrate on the walls of the stack. Flakes of this material were resuspended into the stack gas flow and carried to the environment where they caused substantial surface contamination. The particles released were described in [Section 2.2.2](#).

The processes of deposition and resuspension that led to the unusual ruthenium releases occur in other situations as well. Airborne particles in the atmosphere deposit on the ground or vegetation, either by sedimentation or turbulent diffusion. Part of the deposit can be resuspended, particularly under high wind conditions. There is no indication that it was a change in the stack flow rate that caused resuspension of the contaminated ammonium nitrate, and the event(s) that caused flakes of material to be released are not known. Rough calculations showed that the secondary particle releases could be accounted for by these mechanisms, and the measurements of the $^{103}\text{Ru}/^{106}\text{Ru}$ activities in the secondary particles clearly showed the aging effect of holdup on the stack wall. Attempts to model the process were hampered by the fact that the releases from the stack wall appeared to be random events. In addition, an empirical deposition velocity, the parameter needed to describe the transfer of gaseous RuO_4 from air to surfaces, was not available.

A similar, though much less extreme, situation occurred in T Plant and B Plant in the early years of operation. The particles released at that time were described in [Section 2.2.1](#). They were much less radioactive than the ruthenium-contaminated particles that were released later. Deposition of radionuclides on iron-based equipment and ductwork provided the source of radioactivity. Subsequent corrosion of the metal by acidic gases, which had also deposited on the surfaces, made contaminated iron oxide particles available for resuspension. Again, the conceptual picture is the same, but the process could not be reliably modeled.

There were two main categories of unusual ruthenium releases, those caused by scrubber failure and the release of secondary particles formed on the walls of the stack. For the first, a scrubber pump failure in March 1952, a median release fraction of 2×10^{-5} was estimated based on information about the second scrubber failure. A GSD of 3 was chosen to include substantially higher release fractions in the distribution. That problem occurred in early January 1954 and was followed by a release from stack cleaning soon after. Releases for the month were modeled using a median release fraction of 7×10^{-4} . A geometric standard deviation of 3 was chosen for the reason stated above. During months when major releases of contaminated flakes of ammonium nitrate were reported, the releases were modeled using a release factor that was 20 times the normal value for REDOX Plant ruthenium releases. Based on the available information we consider that a cautious approach is to assume a lognormal distribution, with a median value of 2×10^{-5} , and a geometric standard deviation of 3 was chosen for the reason stated above. Months to which this release factor was applied were June 1953, and April–June 1954.

Releases from T Plant. Monthly releases were estimated throughout the period of operation of T Plant, from late 1944 to early 1956. The results for ^{144}Ce are illustrated in [Figure 2-6](#). Plots of results for other radionuclides are similar, except for greater decay of ^{103}Ru . There is a marked drop in the estimated releases after installation of the scrubbers in 1948. The ^{144}Ce source terms for worst case dose estimates, which include the 95th percentile and median values of the monthly releases, are contained in an Excel® spreadsheet (Link to [Ce-144 Releases.xls](#)). The ^{144}Ce source term files from all four processing plants are contained in the spreadsheet.

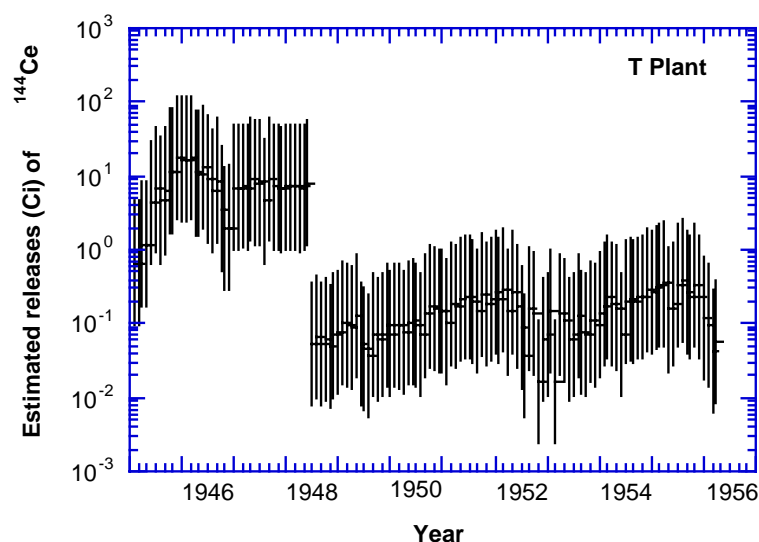


Figure 2-6. Estimated monthly releases of ¹⁴⁴Ce from T Plant. The darker horizontal bars are the median estimates and the length of the vertical lines reflects the 5th to 95th percentiles of the distribution.

Releases from B Plant. Monthly releases were estimated throughout the period of operation of B Plant, from April 1945 through June 1952. The results for ²³⁹Pu are illustrated in [Figure 2-7](#). As for T Plant, there is a large decrease in the estimated release rate in 1948. Plots of results for other radionuclides are similar, except for greater decay of ¹⁰³Ru.

The ²³⁹Pu source terms for worst case dose estimates, which include the 95th percentile and median values of the monthly releases, are contained in an Excel® spreadsheet (Link to [Pu-239 Releases.xls](#)). The ²³⁹Pu source term files from all four fuel processing plants are contained in this worksheet.

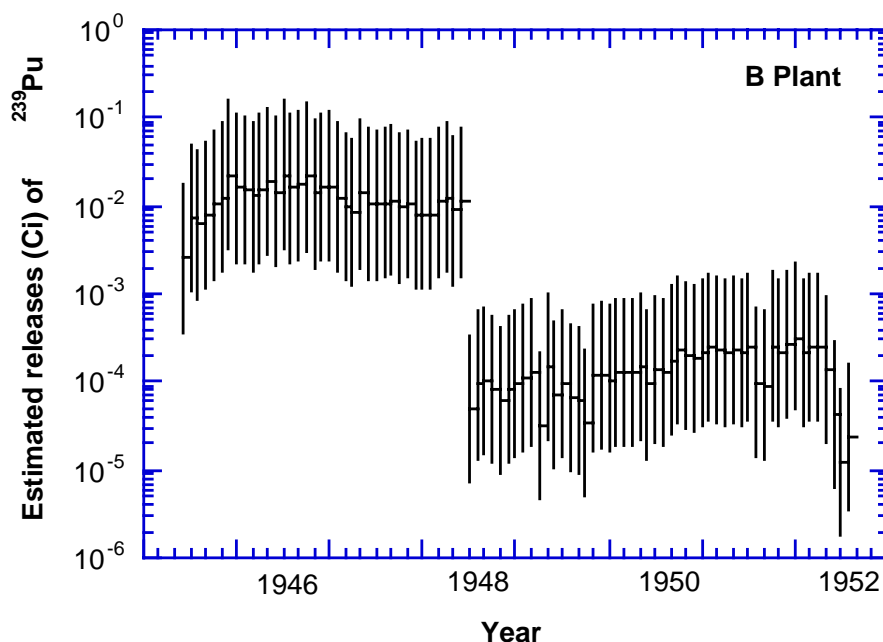


Figure 2-7. Estimated monthly releases of ^{239}Pu from B Plant. The darker horizontal bars are the median estimates and the length of the vertical lines reflects the 5th to 95th percentiles of the distribution.

Releases from REDOX Plant. Monthly releases were estimated throughout the period of operation of REDOX Plant, from 1952 through 1961. The results for ^{106}Ru are illustrated in Figure 2-8. The unusual releases of ^{106}Ru caused by scrubber failures and secondary particles in several months during 1952–1954 releases stand out.

The ^{106}Ru source terms for worst case dose estimates, which include the 95th percentile and median values of the monthly releases are contained an Excel® spreadsheet (Link to [Ru-106 Releases.xls](#)). The ^{106}Ru source term files from all four fuel processing plants are contained in this worksheet.

The pattern of ^{103}Ru releases from the REDOX Plant is similar to that shown for ^{106}Ru , although the unusual releases were lower due to radioactive decay while the material resided on the inside surface of the stack. The ^{103}Ru source terms for worst case dose estimates, which include the 95th percentile and median values of the monthly releases are contained an Excel® spreadsheet (Link to [Ru-103 Releases.xls](#)). The ^{103}Ru source term files from all four fuel processing plants are contained in this worksheet.

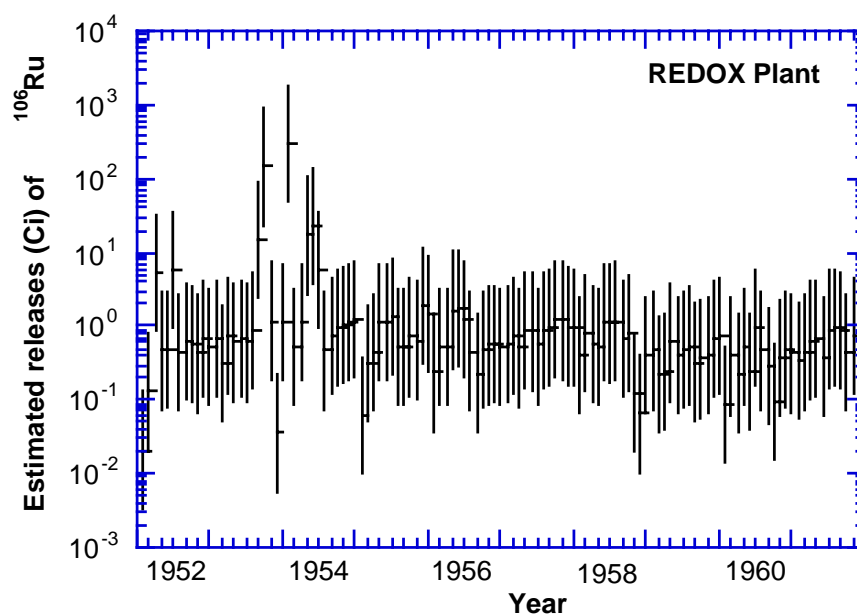


Figure 2-8. Estimated monthly releases of ^{106}Ru from REDOX Plant. The darker horizontal bars are the median estimates and the length of the vertical lines reflects the 5th to 95th percentiles of the distribution.

Releases from PUREX Plant. Monthly releases were estimated throughout the period of operation of PUREX Plant, from 1956 through 1961. The results for ^{137}Cs are illustrated in Figure 2-9. The ^{137}Cs source terms for worst case dose estimates, which include the 95th percentile and median values of the monthly releases are contained an Excel® spreadsheet (Link to [Cs-137 Releases.xls](#)). The ^{137}Cs source term files from all four fuel processing plants are contained in this worksheet.

The results of release calculations for ^{90}Sr are similar to those for ^{137}Cs illustrated in Figure 2-9. The ^{90}Sr source terms for worst case dose estimates, which include the 95th percentile and median values of the monthly releases are contained an Excel® spreadsheet (Link to [Sr-90 Releases.xls](#)). The ^{90}Sr source term files from all four fuel processing plants are contained in this worksheet.

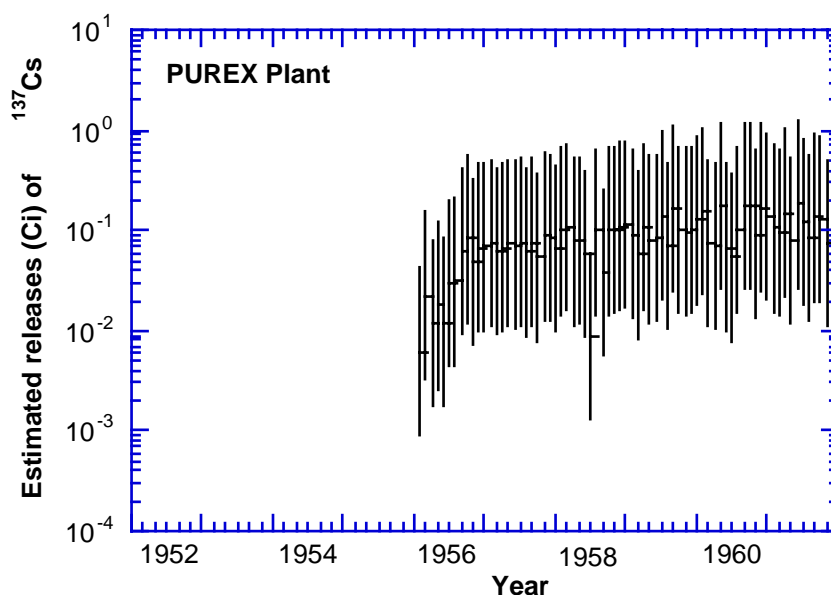


Figure 2-9. Estimated monthly releases of ^{137}Cs from PUREX Plant. The darker horizontal bars are the median estimates and the length of the vertical lines reflects the 5th to 95th percentiles of the distribution.

2.4.3 Releases of ^{239}Pu from Z Plant

One of the radionuclides assigned to the most important category for fuel processing plant releases, ^{239}Pu , was also released from Z Plant. Work in that plant consisted of producing and fabricating metallic plutonium from plutonium nitrate that was recovered by the fuel processing plants. The facility began operation in 1949.

Effluents from the plant were passed through high-efficiency particle collection filters, originally the Chemical Warfare System (CWS) type CWS-6. These filters were later replaced by less flammable filters.

The effluent was sampled on a daily basis. Sampling data for the earliest years of operation have not been located. Postma and Schwendiman ([HW-61082](#)) evaluated the Z Plant effluent sampling system in April 1959. They found that the plutonium particles were small, mostly less than 1 μm , and that the sampling system was adequate for particles of that size. Their estimates of the daily release were ~30% lower than those reported by the plant staff for the three days of sampling.

Estimates of monthly releases of ^{239}Pu from Z Plant were located for several months in each of four years, 1957–1960 (Operations Managers [1957a, b, c](#); Operations Managers [1958a, b, c, d, e](#); Operations Managers [1959a, b, c, d, e, f](#); Operations Managers [1960a, b, c, d, e](#)) and for all months in 1961 ([HW-69205](#)). Production data for Z Plant have been deleted from the monthly reports, except for some coded values. As a surrogate, the monthly ^{239}Pu processing rates for the

operating facilities, lagged by two months, were used to estimate the Z Plant processing rates. These monthly release data and surrogate monthly production amounts were used to estimate ^{239}Pu release factors for the Z Plant. Table 2-10 shows the number of estimates and the minimum, maximum, and average values for each year.

Table 2-10. Release Fractions for ^{239}Pu Estimated for Z Plant and Distributions Used in Calculations of Z Plant Releases

Year	Number of estimates	Release fraction estimates			Distribution of release factors used in calculations
		Minimum	Maximum	Average	
1957	4	8.3×10^{-8}	2.8×10^{-7}	1.6×10^{-7}	Lognormal ^a
1958	5	2.0×10^{-8}	3.7×10^{-7}	2.2×10^{-7}	Lognormal ^a
1959	7	1.2×10^{-8}	1.0×10^{-7}	3.5×10^{-8}	Loguniform ^b
1960	5	1.1×10^{-8}	1.9×10^{-7}	7.5×10^{-8}	^c
1961	12	1.1×10^{-8}	3.2×10^{-8}	2.2×10^{-8}	Uniform ^d

^a A lognormal distribution with geometric mean of 2×10^{-7} and geometric standard deviation of 1.8 was used for 1957 and 1958.

^b A loguniform distribution with bounds of 1.2×10^{-8} and 1.0×10^{-7} was used.

^c A piecewise uniform distribution that covered the range of estimates and returned an average value of 7.2×10^{-8} was used.

^d A uniform distribution with bounds of 1.1×10^{-8} and 3.2×10^{-8} was used.

The release fractions estimated from monthly effluent releases during 1957 and 1958 were distinctly higher than the estimates for months in the three subsequent years. The distributions of release fractions used in calculating Z Plant releases were based upon the available estimates and are described in the last column and footnotes of Table 2-10. The lognormal distribution given for 1957–1958 was assumed to be representative of early operations and was also used to compute releases for the years 1949–1956. The distributions shown for the years 1959–1961 were used to estimate releases for those individual years. A cautious uncertainty factor was included in the calculations. A triangular distribution with bounds of one and three was used to represent this factor; the mean and mode for this distribution were both two.

Results of the release calculations for the years 1949–1961 are shown in Figure 2-10. A gradual increase in releases with time reflects the increasing plutonium processing rate. The processing rates used in the calculations may be too high because of losses in fuel processing and possible inability for Z Plant to process plutonium at the rate it was provided. This is offset by the fact that the estimated release factors were also computed using processing rates that may also be too high. Any real differences are likely to fall within the uncertainty bounds indicated in Figure 2-10. Uncertainties in the monthly releases are higher than those indicated for the annual releases. As a point of reference, 0.1 Ci of ^{239}Pu is about 1.6 g of plutonium.

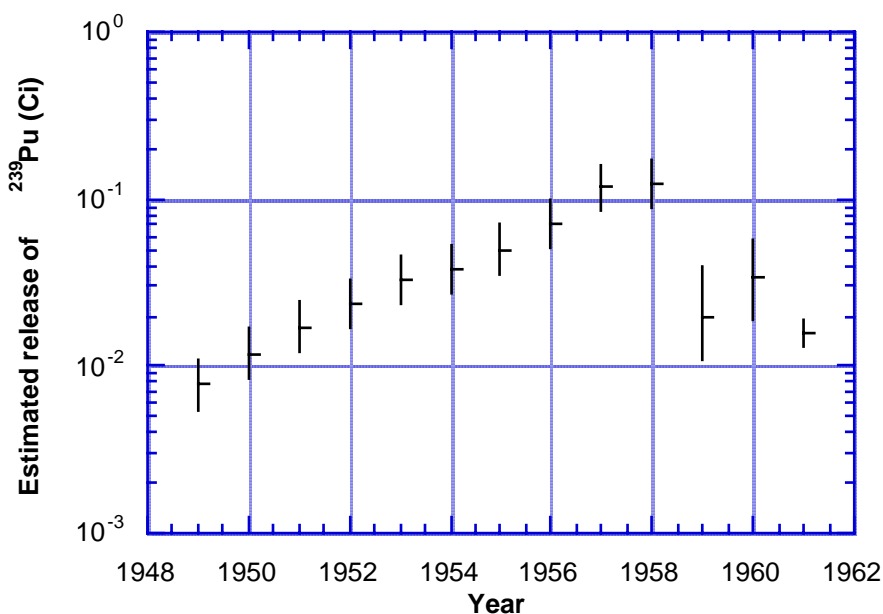


Figure 2-10. Estimated annual releases of ^{239}Pu from Z Plant. The horizontal bars are the median estimates and the length of the vertical lines reflects the 5th to 95th percentiles of the distribution.

The Z Plant ^{239}Pu source terms for worst case dose estimates, which include the 95th percentile and median values of the monthly releases, are contained in an Excel® spreadsheet (Link to Z Plant Releases.xls).

Mishima and Schwendiman ([BNWL-B-309](#)) conducted another investigation of the Z Plant effluent in parts of 1972 and 1973. At that time, they found that the plutonium activity was associated with larger particles having mass median diameters of 3–9 μm . The releases appeared to be uncorrelated with plant operations, so these particles may have been resuspended from surfaces in the ventilation system. In 1972–1973, Mishima and Schwendiman also found that the effluent release estimates made by the plant staff were substantially (2–20 times) lower than those indicated by their own measurements. It was noted in the 1959 investigation ([HW-61082](#)) that the sampling system would not be reliable for large aerosols. Also, large particles of iron oxide were found in the effluent air stream in 1959 ([HW-61082](#)).

It is not clear what occurred during the interval between 1959 and 1973, but indications are that the deposition-resuspension phenomenon, discussed earlier in the context of the fuel processing plant releases, may also have been a factor affecting releases from the Z Plant. The environmental monitoring data indicate some elevated concentrations of ^{239}Pu close to the 200 Areas ([Section 4](#)). It appears that these were due to releases that occurred after the time period of interest in this study.

2.4.4 Releases of ^{131}I from Fuel Processing Plants

[Heeb](#) (1994) estimated releases of ^{131}I from the Hanford fuel processing facilities. Those estimates were used in our screening calculations, in which ^{131}I provided a point for comparison. The screening calculations indicated that ^{131}I was a very important component of the exposure, even when all the particulate radionuclides were included.

We noted earlier that variability in cooling times for individual batches of fuel that were processed in a month could affect the inventory estimated using the average fuel cooling time for that month. It was not within the scope of this project to reconstruct those calculations, which would have involved detailed tracing of all fuel processing at Hanford for the years of interest. [Warren](#) (1961) reports a broad range of cooling times for fuel processed in 1959–1960. That report also differs from [Heeb](#) (1994) in the amounts of ^{131}I charged to the dissolvers, particularly for the REDOX Plant. There is no simple way to reconcile these differences.

Revised estimates of ^{131}I releases began with the estimates prepared for T Plant and B Plant by [Heeb](#) (1994). For releases prior to 1949, a generic uncertainty of 10% (one standard deviation) was applied to the estimates; this is consistent with the estimates given by [Heeb](#) (1994) for that time period. For later times, a release factor uncertainty with a median of one and a geometric standard deviation of two was applied. In addition, a subjective uncertainty factor, described by a uniform distribution with bounds of 1.0 and 1.8, was incorporated to reflect the failure to measure organic iodide releases and losses in sampling lines. It is believed that the resulting estimates can be used for the purpose of making cautious estimates of doses to persons who were exposed to ^{131}I from T Plant and B Plant while working and living on the reservation in the early years.

Because of the differences in cooling times and ^{131}I processing rates between [Heeb](#) (1994) and [Warren](#) (1961), a different approach was adopted for the REDOX and PUREX plants. Examination of the calculations of silver reactor efficiencies given in [Warren](#) (1961) shows that there were releases not included in the calculations because they occurred on days when no fuel was dissolved. (Examples of unusual operations noted in monthly reports that led to increased releases of ^{131}I include a boilover of a dissolver, decontamination of equipment, and a fire in a dissolver. It was also known that some of the ^{131}I release occurred after fuel dissolution.) Ratios of the ^{131}I release to the ^{131}I content of the fuel dissolved were computed on a monthly basis for the REDOX and PUREX plants using the data presented by [Warren](#) (1961). On the basis of those estimates, three of which (two for REDOX Plant and one for PUREX Plant) were considered extreme, distributions of release factors for the two plants were constructed. For the PUREX Plant, a loguniform distribution was employed with bounds of 0.00083 and 0.0052 to estimate monthly releases during 1956–1961. For the REDOX Plant, a piecewise uniform distribution, which ranged between 0.0064 and 0.15 and returned a mean of 0.032, was used to estimate monthly releases between 1952 and 1961. The reduced ranges were chosen because inclusion of the highest values would lead to large overestimates of the ^{131}I releases in many months.

Another factor, not known at the time, is important when considering the estimates of ^{131}I releases from the REDOX and PUREX plants in 1959–1960. It is the presence of organic iodides in the effluents. These species would not have been included in the measurements used by [Warren](#) (1961), but would have contributed to inhalation and direct plume exposure of persons who were onsite. In a small number of samples, [Perkins et al.](#) (1964) found that 50–70 percent of the ^{131}I released from the plants was in organic form. Later, more detailed, measurements were reported by [Haller and Perkins](#) (1967). In a series of 16 measurements of 1- to 2-d duration, the

average organic iodide fraction was 25 percent of the total, with a range from 11 percent to 60 percent. Most (12) of the results indicated organic iodide fractions of less than 25 percent. It may be expected that the largest releases, during dissolution, were associated with the smaller organic fractions, but that is not known because the amounts of ^{131}I released were not reported for any of the sampling periods. The effects of elemental iodine deposition in the sampling system were not estimated during the years when the measurements of interest were performed. Loss of ^{131}I from the samples would also lead to an underestimate of the release fractions. Limited information suggests that losses of 30–40 percent could have occurred.

Calculations of release estimate for the REDOX and PUREX plants employed the amounts of ^{131}I in fuel charged to the dissolvers estimated by [Heeb](#) (1994) for years other than 1959 and 1960. For those years, the estimates given in [Warren](#) (1961) were used. Measured ^{131}I releases reported in [Junkins et al.](#) (1960) and by [Foster and Nelson](#) (1961) indicate that the assignment of little ^{131}I activity to the PUREX Plant processing during those years was incorrect. The release estimates cited do not validate the estimates of [Warren](#) (1961) for the amount of ^{131}I in the fuel, but they do agree very well with his estimates of releases. That agreement suggests that Warren had access to both the detailed processing information and effluent release data. The cooling time estimates of [Warren](#) (1961) are also more consistent with the release data.

[Figure 2-11](#) shows results of ^{131}I release calculations for REDOX Plant for four years, including the period that served as the basis for the monthly release factors. Both [Warren](#) (1961) and [Heeb](#) (1994) estimated that very small amounts entered the dissolvers in early 1959 and late 1960. [Heeb](#) (1994) also estimated small quantities for late 1958. At those times, the measured releases, while low, substantially exceed the predicted values. Releases in late 1960 appear to be residuals from earlier processing and that may be true for early 1959 as well.

[Figure 2-12](#) illustrates the estimated total releases of ^{131}I from the four fuel processing plants over the period between 1945 and 1961. During the early years, the releases were from T Plant and B Plant; after 1956, the releases were from the REDOX Plant and the PUREX Plant. [Figure 2-11](#) showed that there are discrepancies between predicted values and contemporary measurements for individual months. In contrast, comparison of the predicted total releases for 1959–1960 with measurements ([Junkins et al.](#) 1960, [Foster and Nelson](#) 1961) shows that the observations, with revisions for sampling losses, lie within the range of estimated releases.

The ^{131}I source terms for worst case dose estimates, which include the 95th percentile and median values of the monthly releases for each facility, are contained an Excel® spreadsheet (Link to [I-131 Releases.xls](#)).

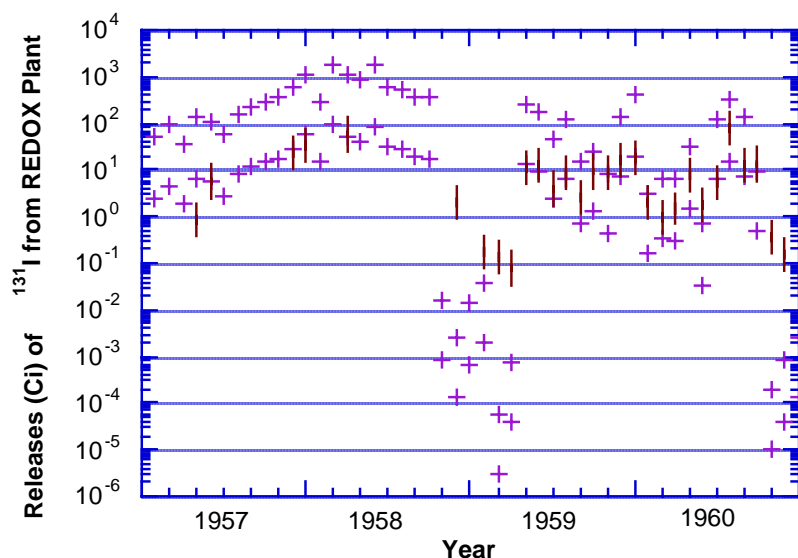


Figure 2-11. Estimated and measured releases of ^{131}I from the REDOX Plant. The crosses indicate the 5th and 95th percentiles of the estimated releases and the vertical bars show a range for measured releases that includes estimated corrections for sampling losses.

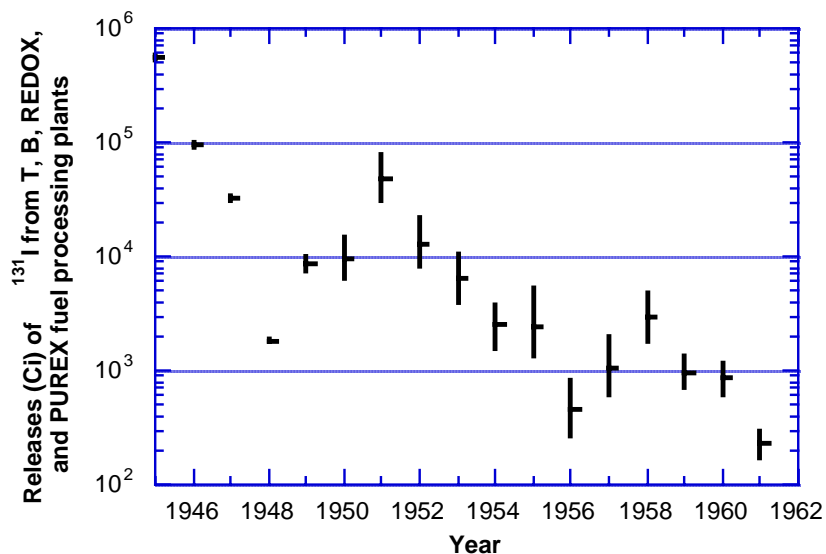


Figure 2-12. Estimates of releases of ^{131}I from T, B, REDOX, and PUREX fuel processing plants. The horizontal bars indicate the median estimates and the length of the vertical line shows the range between the 5th and 95th percentiles.

3. DOSE CALCULATION METHODS

This section presents the methods used to calculate doses from short-lived gaseous radionuclides and radioactive particles released to the atmosphere from past Hanford operations. Once released to air, radioactivity is dispersed into the environment. Exposure pathways describe how the released radioactivity travels from the release point to places where people are located and how those people could have been exposed. An exposure scenario is a description of a person's behavior and location that is used to define parameters needed to calculate dose. Our goal is to describe methods for estimating radiation dose and risk to hypothetical individuals defined by exposure scenarios. Computation of collective dose to a population is outside the scope of this study.

Results of dose calculations for example scenarios are given in [Section 5](#) of this report. Other scenarios may be defined by changing the input to the calculational tools developed for this study. In this way, the estimates of doses for other scenarios can be made.

3.1 Pathways and Exposure Scenarios Considered

The scope of this task is the examination of atmospheric releases and pathways. No waterborne releases or pathways are addressed. Atmospheric pathways include direct inhalation of air containing radioactivity, external exposure to radioactivity in air and deposited on the ground, and direct contact of the skin by a radioactive particle. Pathways that result in ingestion of contaminated food are considered for persons who resided offsite, but not for those who lived and worked on the reservation.

3.1.1 Exposure Locations for General Public

As discussed in [Section 2](#), the release points of greatest concern are five fuel processing plants, T Plant, B Plant, Z Plant, the REDOX Plant, and the PUREX Plant, all in the 200 Areas. The 200 Areas were also the source of the highest atmospheric releases of radioiodine, ^{131}I . Based on results of the HEDR project, the location of the maximally exposed member of the public, off the Hanford Site, was at Ringold, Washington. Ringold is across the Columbia River from the Hanford Site, about 22–29 km (14–18 mi.) in an east to southeast direction from the three release points in 200 Areas. We have used Ringold as the offsite location in one of the example calculations in [Section 5](#) of this report. A map is also included there that shows the relative exposure at other locations.

3.1.2 Exposure Locations for Onsite Personnel

There is no precedent from the HEDR project for defining exposure locations for people on the Hanford Site. The largest radioactive particles released from Hanford facilities were deposited most densely within several kilometers of the release points. Therefore, onsite exposures via direct pathways (such as inhalation) were highest. The scope of this task does not include exposure to workers inside Hanford buildings from releases to the environment; only people outside the buildings are considered. Military forces, construction workers, and contractor security guards are examples of the types of workers that would have been exposed outside. In addition, there were personnel involved in environmental monitoring and research projects.

It is not within the scope of this project to define where and when various workers or military personnel actually were exposed during Hanford's history. Our charge is to develop a tool to compute dose at a variety of locations where people might have been exposed. However, in order to define the boundaries necessary for that tool, it was useful to review where some of the known exposure locations were. We have chosen known military and construction locations to illustrate the dose results in example calculations in [Section 5](#).

Military Locations. Three army camps were positioned along Army Loop Road within 10 km to the south and west of 200 Areas (Figure 3-1). In addition, a fourth army site (PSN 330, or B Battery) was located about 1 km from the southeast corner of 200-East Area, south of Route 4S (Figure 3-1). PSN 330 was about 4 km from the B Plant stack in 200-East Area.

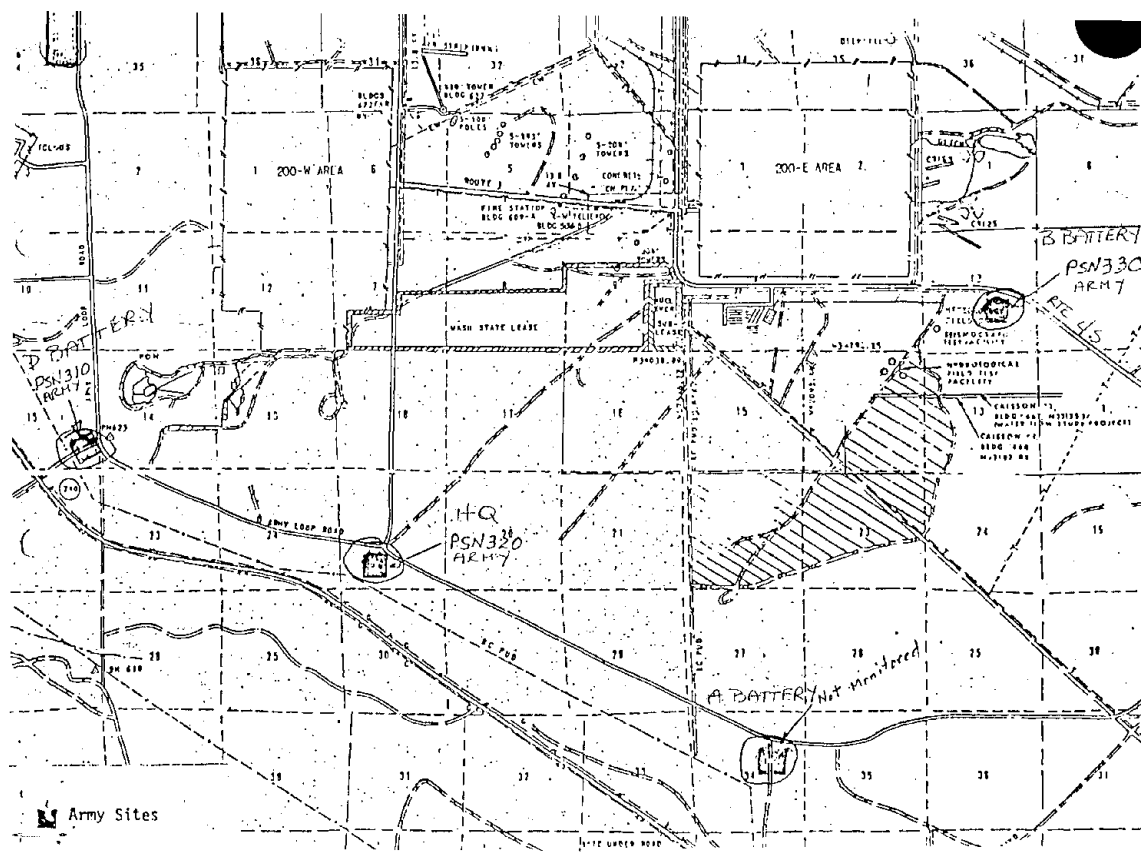


Figure 3-1. Map from unknown source with hand-written names for four army sites: PSN 330 (also known as B Battery), just southeast of 200-East, and three other sites south of 200 Areas along Army Loop Road.

An atlas of the Hanford Site is available on the internet at <http://www.bhi-erc.com/dm/hgis/hgis.htm>. The old army camps are identified on the atlas maps as antiaircraft sites. Figure 3-2 shows the locations of these antiaircraft sites on a portion of the index map for the atlas. The numbers designating the camps are different (e.g. the old PSN 330 is H-40), but the locations are the same as shown in Figure 3-1. A fifth antiaircraft site, H-61, is shown NW of 200-West. Using more detailed maps from the atlas, the geographic coordinates of these military locations as well as the release points were obtained.

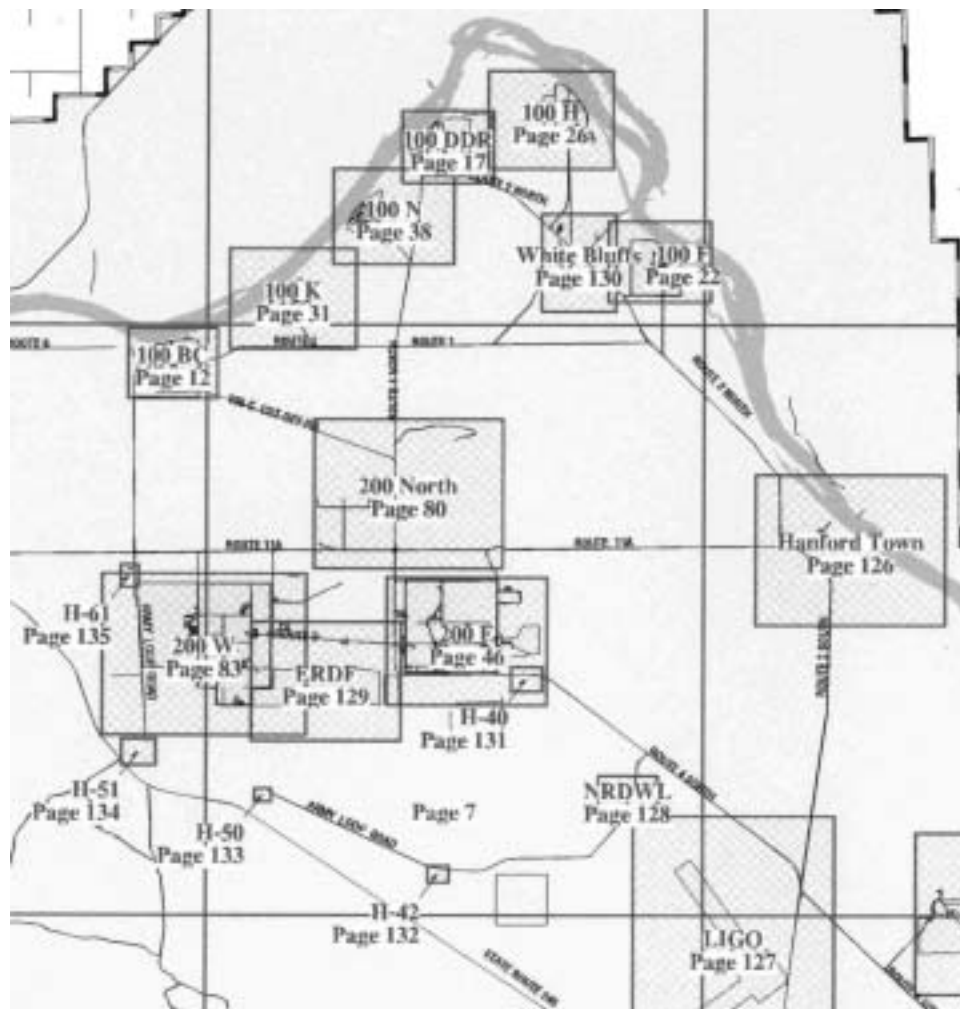


Figure 3-2. Section of index map from the Hanford Site Atlas (Internet site <http://www.bhi-erc.com/dm/hgis/hgis.htm>) showing locations of old military encampments as “antiaircraft sites,” H-40, H-42, H-50, H-51, and H-61. The “Hanford Town” site was also a location where workers lived in the early years. Reference to pages on this map note sections of the Hanford Atlas that contain more detailed maps.

[Gerber](#) (1992) describes the conditions and general locations of military units assigned to the Hanford Reservation in the early years. Those involved in constructing and manning the antiaircraft defenses slept out overnight in tents or hastily built huts and barracks. A small force of Military Police (MPs) and Military Intelligence (Army G-2) personnel guarded the Hanford Site at the start-up of plutonium manufacturing in late 1944. In June 1945, the MP numbers were increased to 40 soldiers. Army MPs remained at Hanford until April 1947, when the new Atomic Energy Commission assigned guard duties to company patrolmen of the site contractor, General Electric. In late 1947, with the large production expansion, security concerns increased, and army

troops were sent from Fort Lewis near Tacoma to the Hanford complex on prolonged maneuvers. In March 1950, a large convoy arrived at the Hanford Site from Fort Lewis bringing antiaircraft guns and machine guns. Their headquarters and temporary housing was at North Richland. In 1951, “Camp Hanford,” also called the Hanford town site, was officially designated by the army. Antiaircraft guns were replaced by Nike missiles in the next few years. The 1st and 83rd missile battalions, along with support services groups, served at Camp Hanford until the late 1950s, when intercontinental ballistic missiles rendered Hanford’s missiles obsolete. The Camp was deactivated in 1960, and the North Richland offices were transferred to the Atomic Energy Commission in 1961.

[Gerber](#) (1992) summarizes life at Camp Hanford as described in an army brochure dated April 1955 and titled “83rd AAA Missile Battalion, Camp Hanford Washington” as well as from veterans’ accounts. In the earliest years, troops were driven to the sites in vehicles that were open to the air on unpaved roads. After the initial few months of building the gun emplacements, they moved into tents near the gun bunkers. Soldiers did calisthenics in the open every morning and were required to stay out of their tents, near the guns, all day. Conditions could be extremely dusty. There was no protective equipment or clothing issued. Army personnel in the early years got three days leave every 15 days (restricted to the Tri Cities area) and 30 days per year of unrestricted furlough ([Gerber](#) 1992).

Exposure pathways for military personnel on the Hanford Site in 1951 are discussed in a message from the Richland Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) office to the AEC in Washington DC ([Shaw](#) 1951). As far as exposure to radioactive emissions from the plant, active particles and atmospheric ¹³¹I were their primary concern. According to Shaw, food sources and handling were under satisfactory control. Drinking water was from plant sanitary water source and contained only background amounts of radioactive substances. A previous recommendation that military spend no more than a third of the time “in-plant” arose from a desire to follow usual Hanford Plant practice and did not represent a real limitation. The philosophy at the time of early considerations was to permit military personnel to be exposed to airborne particles to the same or lesser degree as Plant personnel. Shaw indicates that most active particles were water soluble and that the number and size of particles had been reduced compared to earlier times.

Construction Personnel Locations. The main residence location for construction workers in the early years of Hanford operations was the Hanford Town Site, also called “Camp Hanford” or “Hanford Camp” ([Figure 3-2](#)). In his diaries during work on the Manhattan Project, G.T. [Seaborg](#) (1996) describes a visit to the Hanford Site in May 1944 and the Hanford Camp “where the construction workers live in rows of barracks, tents, and trailers stretched out in all directions. We ate in the largest mess hall I have ever been in...there are some 40,000 residing at Hanford.” Seaborg also describes all site roads then as “secondary.”

The work locations for construction workers sometimes resulted in close proximity to the important release points for radioactive gases and particles. As opposed to military personnel, however, the construction work force would have spent less time per day near the 200 Areas. There were other construction sites, but 200 Areas probably represent worst-case conditions. For example, the construction site for the PUREX Plant, which began operating in 1956, was about 2 km from the B Plant stack in 200-East Area and 8 km from T Plant and REDOX in 200-West Area. The PUREX work location and Hanford Town Site are used in an example calculation for a construction worker in [Section 5](#).

3.2 Descriptions of Models

3.2.1 Models of Atmospheric Transport

The models chosen to simulate the transport of released radionuclides through the atmosphere are based on the well-known Gaussian plume model for an elevated point source. The implementation is adapted, in part, from the basic models used in the ISC3 atmospheric dispersion programs ([EPA 1995](#)). The fundamental formula, which relates the release rate at the source to the concentration at a receptor location (x, y, z) , is

$$C(x, y, z) = \frac{QVD}{2\pi\sigma_y\sigma_z u} \exp\left(-y^2/(2\sigma_y^2)\right) \quad (3.2.1-1)$$

where

- C = concentration (pCi m⁻³) at receptor location z m above ground level
- Q = release rate (pCi s⁻¹)
- V = vertical term to account for confinement of the plume between the ground and the mixing lid (see Equation (3.2.1-4))
- D = term to adjust for radioactive decay of a released radionuclide or to account for the amount of a radioactive decay product (daughter) formed in transit
- σ_y, σ_z = horizontal and vertical Gaussian dispersion coefficients, respectively (m); each parameter is a function of the distance from the source to the receptor location
- u = wind speed (m s⁻¹)
- h = effective release height (m), which may include plume rise from buoyancy or momentum, or entrainment of the plume into a wake cavity in the lee of a building
- x = distance coordinate from source (m) along plume centerline
- y = perpendicular crosswind distance (m) from plume centerline at x to the receptor location at which the concentration is evaluated; if $y = 0$, x is the distance from the source to the receptor.

The horizontal and vertical distributions of concentration about the centerline of the plume are Gaussian, with standard deviations σ_y and σ_z , respectively. These dispersion parameters vary with the horizontal distance from the source to the receptor location, and they are specific to atmospheric stability categories labeled A–F, according to the Pasquill-Gifford scheme ([Gifford 1976](#)). For calculating σ_y and σ_z , we have used the parameters and formulas from the ISC3 models ([EPA 1995](#)) that approximate the Pasquill-Gifford curves. For σ_y , the equations are

$$\sigma_y(x) = 465.11628 x \tan(0.017453293(c - d \ln x)) \quad (3.2.1-2)$$

where the downwind distance x is in km and the coefficients c and d are taken from [Table 3-1](#). The equation for σ_z is the power formula

$$\sigma_z(x) = ax^b \quad (3.2.1-3)$$

with coefficients a and b shown in [Table 3-2](#). Tables 3-1 and 3-2 correspond to Tables 1-1 and 1-2, respectively, of [EPA \(1995\)](#) and the data in them are reprinted here for the convenience of readers.

Table 3-1. Coefficients for Calculating Pasquill-Gifford σ_y (m)
As a Function of Distance x (km) ^a

Pasquill-Gifford stability category	c	d
A	24.1670	2.5334
B	18.3330	1.8096
C	12.5000	1.0857
D	8.3330	0.72382
E	6.2500	0.54287
F	4.1667	0.36191

^aSource: [EPA 1995](#). The formula is given by $\sigma_y(x) = 465.11628 x \tan(0.017453293(c - d \ln x))$.

The mixing phenomenon represented by the dispersion parameters σ_y and σ_z is assumed to be confined between the ground surface and a mixing height H , which increases as energy is added to the system and decreases as the turbulence subsides.

The vertical factor V shown in Eq. (3.2.1-1) uses the assumption of reflecting barriers at the mixing lid height H and at ground level, so that the plume is confined to the region between, provided the release height h is less than H (since we use an annual average value of H , the release heights considered are all less than H). A representation of this scheme is given by an infinite sequence of virtual sources above and below ground level. The result is an infinite series, which may be replaced by a uniform vertical concentration at sufficiently large source-to-receptor distances:

$$V(x, z; h, H) = \exp\left(-\frac{(z-h)^2}{2\sigma_z^2}\right) + \exp\left(-\frac{(z+h)^2}{2\sigma_z^2}\right) + \sum_{p=1}^4 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} T_{pk} \quad \text{if } \sigma_z < 1.6H \quad (3.2.1-4)$$

$$= 1/H \quad \text{otherwise}$$

where

$$T_{1k} = \exp\left(-\frac{(H - (2kz - h))^2}{2\sigma_z^2}\right), \quad T_{2k} = \exp\left(-\frac{(H + (2kz - h))^2}{2\sigma_z^2}\right),$$

$$T_{3k} = \exp\left(-\frac{(H - (2kz + h))^2}{2\sigma_z^2}\right), \quad \text{and} \quad T_{4k} = \exp\left(-\frac{(H + (2kz + h))^2}{2\sigma_z^2}\right) \quad (3.2.1-5)$$

With $y = 0$, Eqs. (3.2.1-4) and (3.2.1-5) give the concentration C at height z and distance x along the plume centerline. The dichotomy of Eq (3.2.1-4) expresses the approach of the vertical concentration to a constant value at sufficiently great distances from the source; the breakpoint occurs when the vertical dispersion coefficient σ_z (which increases with distance from the source) equals 1.6 times the mixing height.

**Table 3-2. Coefficients for Calculating Pasquill-Gifford σ_z (m)
as a Function of Distance x (km) ^{a, b}**

Pasquill-Gifford stability category	x (km)	a	b
A	<.10	122.8	0.9447
	0.10 - 0.15	158.08	1.0542
	0.16 - 0.20	170.22	1.0932
	0.21 - 0.25	179.52	1.1262
	0.26 - 0.30	217.41	1.2644
	0.31 - 0.40	258.89	1.4094
	0.41 - 0.50	346.75	1.7283
	0.51 - 3.11	453.85	2.1166
	>3.11	c	c
B	<.20	90.673	0.93198
	0.21 - 0.40	98.483	0.98332
	>0.40	109.3	1.0971
C	All	61.141	0.91465
D	<.30	34.459	0.86974
	0.31 - 1.00	32.093	0.81066
	1.01 - 3.00	32.093	0.64403
	3.01 - 10.00	33.504	0.60486
	10.01 - 30.00	36.65	0.56589
	>30.00	44.053	0.51179
E	<.10	24.26	0.8366
	0.10 - 0.30	23.331	0.81956
	0.31 - 1.00	21.628	0.7566
	1.01 - 2.00	21.628	0.63077
	2.01 - 4.00	22.534	0.57154
	4.01 - 10.00	24.703	0.50527
	10.01 - 20.00	26.97	0.46713
	20.01 - 40.00	35.42	0.37615
	>40.00	47.618	0.29592
F	<.20	15.209	0.81558
	0.21 - 0.70	14.457	0.78407
	0.71 - 1.00	13.953	0.68465
	1.01 - 2.00	13.953	0.63227
	2.01 - 3.00	14.823	0.54503
	3.01 - 7.00	16.187	0.4649
	7.01 - 15.00	17.836	0.41507
	15.01 - 30.00	22.651	0.32681
	30.01 - 60.00	27.074	0.27436
	>60.00	34.219	0.21716

^a Source: [EPA](#) 1995.

^b If the calculated value of F_z exceeds 5000 m, F_z is set to 5000 m.

^c F_z is equal to 5000 m.

When longer-term averages of concentration are the object, it is common practice to average the concentration over the width of the *wind sector* at distance x and use this sector average in place of the centerline value. Wind data are commonly recorded for a fixed number of directions, or sectors; 16 is the number that corresponds to the data used for these calculations (see section “[Meteorological Data](#)” below). The directions are measured clockwise from north and abbreviated according to the compass points N, NNE, NE, ENE, etc. This scheme limits the precision of the wind direction to an angle of 22.5° . Thus, when such wind data are used, the sector average considers variation of the wind direction within the sector, whereas the centerline value would correspond to a wind direction that is always along the sector’s centerline. It is usual to specify the sector *from* which the wind blows, so that specifying a wind direction of SW would mean the wind is blowing from the source *toward* the northeast.

Application of the sector averaging procedure to Eq. (3.2.1-1) leads to the following formula:

$$C_j(x, z) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{8QD}{\pi x \sigma_z u} \cdot V_j(x, z; h, H) \quad (3.2.1-6)$$

where the index j indicates the stability category (A–F) and (as before) x represents the distance (m) from the source to the receptor. The function V_j (Eq. (3.2.1-4)) depends on the stability category through the vertical dispersion coefficients σ_z . We can now estimate the sector average concentration averaged over all stability classes at distance x from the source and in sector i as

$$\bar{C}_i(x, z) = \sum_{j=A}^F f_{ij} \cdot C_j(x, z) \quad (3.2.1-7)$$

where f_{ij} is the fraction of the time (frequency) for which the wind blows into sector i (or from the sector opposite sector i , in the conventional parlance) during stability conditions of class j . The concentration $C_j(x, z)$ is the sector-averaged value obtained from Eq. (3.2.1-6). The values of the f_{ij} are discussed in the section “[Meteorological Data](#)” below.

The factor D of Eq. (3.2.1-1) accounts for radioactive decay of a released radionuclide during its travel from the point of release to the receptor location. In the case of a decay product that is formed during plume travel, D adjusts Eq. (3.2.1-1) so that the concentration represents the decay product. If the travel time is $t = x/u$, where x is the source-to-receptor distance (m) and u is the mean wind speed (m s^{-1}), the factor is

$$D = e^{-\lambda_1 t} \quad (3.2.1-8a)$$

for the released radionuclide, and

$$D = \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1} \left(e^{-\lambda_1 t} - e^{-\lambda_2 t} \right) \quad (3.2.1-8b)$$

for the decay product. The symbols λ_1 and λ_2 (s^{-1}) represent the radioactive decay rate coefficients for the released radionuclide and the decay product, respectively. More complex decay schemes exist, but they are not needed for the Hanford source term.

3.2.2 Models for Deposition

Equation (3.2.1-1) does not account for the depletion of radioactivity concentration in the plume by deposition of material from the air to the ground, or to objects such as plants and buildings. Particles or gas molecules come into contact with the ground as a result of gravitational fall, air turbulence, or molecular diffusion (dry deposition), or as a result of their association with

falling raindrops (wet deposition). These processes are modeled in ways similar to those used in the ISC3 programs ([EPA 1995](#)).

Dry Deposition. The total rate of dry deposition is represented by the product of the concentration of radioactivity in the air (Bq m^{-3}) at a reference height (usually 1 m) and a deposition velocity v_d (m s^{-1}). The deposition velocity is interpreted (by analogy with electrical circuit theory) as the reciprocal of a total resistance to deposition. The total resistance is given in terms of component resistances by the formula

$$v_d = \frac{1}{r_{\text{total}}} = \frac{1}{r_a + r_s + r_a r_s v_t} + v_t \quad (3.2.2-1)$$

where

- r_a = momentum flux resistance associated with atmospheric turbulence above the surface layer (s m^{-1})
- r_s = resistance of the surface layer (s m^{-1})
- v_t = terminal velocity of particle in gravitational fall (m s^{-1}).

The momentum flux resistance is given by the equation

$$r_a = u / u_*^2 \quad (3.2.2-2)$$

where u (m s^{-1}) is the mean horizontal wind speed at the reference height (usually 1 m) and u_* (m s^{-1}) is the friction velocity. The square of the friction velocity is proportional to the slope of the vertical wind speed profile, with a constant of proportionality that varies with atmospheric stability. Empirical representations of the vertical wind speed profile are given for stable, neutral, and unstable air, and these formulas are used to calculate u_* in Eq. (3.2.2-2) ([Seinfeld 1986](#)). The same formulas affect the equation for the surface layer resistance,

$$r_s = \left[u_* (\text{Sc}^{-2/3} + 10^{-3/\text{St}}) \right]^{-1} \quad (3.2.2-3)$$

where the Stokes number St is an increasing function of the particle diameter, and thus the term $10^{-3/\text{St}}$ increases with particle diameter, representing inertial effects. The Schmidt number Sc tends to zero with the particle diameter, and thus the term $\text{Sc}^{-2/3}$ increases without bound as the particle diameter tends to zero. This term expresses deposition by molecular diffusion of the smaller particles. The background for exact definitions of the Stokes and Schmidt numbers is somewhat complicated, and we refer the reader to [Seinfeld \(1986\)](#).

The basic theory of gravitational fall is expressed by Stokes's law, which expresses the terminal gravitational velocity:

$$v_t = \frac{d^2 g \rho}{18 \mu_{\text{air}}} \quad (3.2.2-4)$$

where d is the physical diameter of the particle (cm), g is the gravitational acceleration constant (cm s^{-2}), ρ is the particle density (g cm^{-3}), and μ_{air} is the dynamic viscosity of air ($\text{g s}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2}$). Stokes's law is modified with a so-called slip correction factor to account for the increased mobility of radioactive particles with diameter less than the mean free path of the air molecules. Further detail can be found in [Seinfeld \(1986\)](#). Moreover, the formula is not adequate for particles larger than about 20 μm . In this range, our computer routines use a digitized version of Fig. 10.1 from [Hanna et al. \(1982\)](#) (but note that the horizontal axis of the reference is mislabeled: "Radius" should be "Diameter"). Equation (3.2.2-4), adjusted with a slip correction factor, is used

for particles of physical diameter less than 10 μm , and logarithmic interpolation is used to smooth the transition between 10 and 20 μm .

Wet Deposition. The model for wet deposition is expressed by a scavenging rate coefficient Λ (s^{-1}), which is expressed in terms of rainfall rate R (mm h^{-1}) by the formula

$$\Lambda = \lambda R \quad (3.2.2-5)$$

where the factor λ ($\text{s}^{-1} (\text{mm h}^{-1})^{-1}$) depends on the particle diameter. Our program represents this dependence with a table with entries estimated from the graph of Fig. 1-11 in [EPA](#) (1995). [Table 3-3](#) shows the numbers that the program interpolates. With the assumption that the source of the rain is above the plume, the loss rate of radioactivity ($\text{Bq m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$) from the plume at distance x from the source and off-centerline distance y is

$$F_{\text{wet}}(x, y) = \Lambda \int_0^{\infty} C(x, y, z) dz \quad (3.2.2-6)$$

where the concentration $C(x, y, z)$ is given by Eq. (3.2.1-1). With $y = 0$, and using the first two terms of the vertical component V (Eq. (3.2.1-2)), Eq. (3.2.2-6) can be integrated to give

$$F_{\text{wet}}(x) = \frac{QD\Lambda}{\sqrt{2\pi}u\sigma_y} \quad (3.2.2-7)$$

This centerline flux is a conservative estimate of wet deposition rate at distance x from the source.

Table 3-3. Scavenging Rate Parameter ($\text{s}^{-1} (\text{mm h}^{-1})^{-1}$) as a Function of Particle Diameter ^a

Diameter (mm)	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	1	1.5	2	3	4	6	8	10
λ ($\text{s}^{-1} (\text{mm h}^{-1})^{-1}$)	1.7	1.3	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.45	0.4	1.4	2.2	2.8	4.2	5.1	6.8

^aEstimated from Fig. 1-11 in [EPA](#) 1995.

Plume Depletion. Loss of radioactivity from the plume from deposition processes results in reduced concentrations in air (plume depletion). For both wet and dry deposition, we have applied a technique of source depletion, in which the release rate parameter Q is allowed to decrease with the downwind distance to account for the loss of radioactivity from the plume. In the case of dry deposition, this procedure is based on the differential equation

$$\frac{dQ}{dx} = -v_d \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} C(x, y, z=0) dy \quad (3.2.2-8)$$

where the integrand is given by Eq. (3.2.1-1). Making the substitution, with only the first two terms of the vertical component V , we may solve the differential equation and compute the depletion factor as

$$\frac{Q(x)}{Q_0} = \left[\exp \int_0^x \frac{D}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_z \exp(h^2/(2\sigma_z^2))} \right]^{-v_d/u} \quad (3.2.2-9)$$

with notations as explained after Eq. (3.2.1-1); Q_0 is the radioactivity release rate at the source ([Van der Hoven](#) 1968). The integral is computed numerically. A similar factor for wet deposition is

$$\frac{Q(x)}{Q_0} = e^{-\Lambda x} \quad (3.2.2-10)$$

(EPA 1995). For long-term application, this wet depletion fraction would be replaced by

$$\frac{Q(x)}{Q_0} = 1 - f_{\text{precip}} + f_{\text{precip}} e^{-\Lambda x} \quad (3.2.2-11)$$

where f_{precip} is the fraction of the time precipitation occurs.

Our computer program will optionally apply the factors of Eqs. (3.2.2-9) and (3.2.2-11) to the prediction of Eq. (3.2.1-7). Not doing so is conservative practice, which will overestimate the air concentration at the receptor location and also the surface soil content from cumulative deposition at that location. In calculations of dose from routine releases, we have followed this conservative practice.

3.2.3 Models for Food Chain Transfer (Vegetables and Animal Products)

Dose from ingestion of radionuclides in garden and animal products as the result of deposition on soil, growing produce, and pasture grass is based primarily on models and parameters of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) screening models (NCRP 1996). These models and parameters are deliberately conservative, in the sense that they deliberately bias the dose estimates upward. These food pathways are primarily applicable to people living off the Hanford Site, although some incidental ingestion of soil may be assumed for workers on the site. Only atmospheric deposition is considered as a source of radioactivity.

Concentrations in vegetation (vegetables and forage) are estimated by the steady state equation

$$C_{\text{veg},i} = C_{a,i} V_{d,i} \text{CF}_{\text{veg},i} \Delta_{\text{veg},i}(t_h) \quad (3.2.3-1)$$

where

$C_{\text{veg},i}$ = concentration of radionuclide i on the surface and in the tissues of garden vegetables or forage (Bq kg^{-1}),

$C_{a,i}$ = concentration of radionuclide i in the air at surface level (Bq m^{-3}),

$V_{d,i}$ = deposition velocity for radionuclide i (m s^{-1}),

$\text{CF}_{\text{veg},i}$ = concentration of radionuclide i in vegetation per unit deposition on agricultural land (Bq kg^{-1} per $\text{Bq m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$), and

$\Delta_{\text{veg},i}(t_h)$ = factor for radioactivity depletion due to holdup time (t_h) between harvest and consumption of product.

The concentration factor for vegetation is computed as

$$\text{CF}_{\text{veg},i} = \frac{f}{Y} \text{VC}(\lambda_{E,i}, t_e) + \frac{(B_v)_i}{P} \text{BC}(\lambda_{B,i}, t_b) \quad (3.2.3-2)$$

where

$\text{VC}(\lambda_{E,i}, t_e)$ = radiological buildup (Bq d Bq^{-1}) of parent or daughter radionuclide on plant surface, corresponding to effective removal coefficient $\lambda_{E,i}$ (d^{-1}) during growing period t_e (d),

- $BC(\lambda_{B,i}, t_b)$ = radiological buildup (Bq d Bq⁻¹) of parent or daughter radionuclide in soil, corresponding to effective removal coefficient $\lambda_{B,i}$ (d⁻¹) during deposition period t_b (d),
- f = interception fraction (dimensionless), i.e., the fraction of deposited radioactivity per unit area of agricultural land that is deposited on and retained by the edible portion of the crop,
- Y = crop biomass at harvest (kg m⁻²),
- $\lambda_{E,i}$ = effective rate coefficient for removal of deposited radionuclide i from plant surfaces (d⁻¹); $\lambda_{E,i} = \lambda_{R,i} + \ln 2 / t_w$,
- t_w = weathering half-life for loss of deposited material from plant surfaces (d),
- $(B_v)_i$ = element-dependent concentration factor for transfer of the element of radionuclide i to the edible portion of the crop from dry soil (Bq kg⁻¹ plant per Bq kg⁻¹ soil), and
- P = soil mass per unit area of the plow layer (kg m⁻²),
- $\lambda_{B,i}$ = effective removal coefficient for radionuclide i from soil (d⁻¹); $\lambda_{B,i} = \lambda_{R,i} + \lambda_{HL}$,
- λ_{HL} = rate coefficient for radioelement removal from soil layer by harvesting and leaching (d⁻¹).

The radiological buildup factors VC and BC have the same mathematical form:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{VC or BC} &= \phi(L) = L^{-1} (1 - e^{-Lt}) \quad \text{for parent nuclide} \\ &= \phi(\lambda_2, L_1, L_2) = \frac{\lambda_2}{L_2 - L_1} \left(\frac{1 - e^{-L_1 t}}{L_1} - \frac{1 - e^{-L_2 t}}{L_2} \right) \quad \text{for daughter nuclide} \end{aligned} \quad (3.2.3-3)$$

In the case of a decay chain, indices 1 and 2 corresponding to parent and daughter, respectively. For the parent, L corresponds to whichever of the effective removal rate coefficients λ_E or λ_B is applicable; t corresponds to whichever of t_e or t_b is applicable (Eq. (3.2.3-2)). For the daughter, the subscripts on L indicate parent and daughter, and again, L_i corresponds to the appropriate element dependent removal coefficient $\lambda_{E,i}$ or $\lambda_{B,i}$ (plant surface or soil, respectively).

Concentration of radionuclides in locally produced animal products is given by the equation

$$C_{\text{animal},i} = F_{\text{animal},i} C_{\text{forage},i} Q_f \Delta_{\text{animal},i}(t_h) \quad (3.2.3-4)$$

where

- $C_{\text{animal},i}$ = concentration of radionuclide i in the animal product (Bq L⁻¹ for milk or Bq kg⁻¹ for meat),
- $F_{\text{animal},i}$ = fraction of the animal's daily intake of radionuclide i that transfers to the milk (d L⁻¹) or meat (d kg⁻¹),
- Q_f = feed (kg d⁻¹) consumed by the animal,
- $C_{\text{forage},i}$ = concentration of radionuclide i in forage (Bq kg⁻¹) and water (Bq L⁻¹), respectively, that are consumed by the animal; computed with Eqs. (3.2.3-1) and (3.2.3-2),
- $\Delta_{\text{animal},i}(t_h)$ = radioactivity depletion factor corresponding to holdup time t_h (d) between milking or slaughter and consumption of the product.

The radioactivity depletion factors $\Delta_{\text{veg},i}(t_h)$ and $\Delta_{\text{animal},i}(t_h)$ take into account the decay chain kinetics for the parent and daughter radionuclides, according to the following scheme:

$$\Delta_1(t) = e^{-\lambda_{R,i}t}$$

$$\Delta_2(t) = e^{-\lambda_{R,2}t} + \frac{\lambda_{R,2}}{\lambda_{R,1} - \lambda_{R,2}} \left(e^{-\lambda_{R,2}t} - e^{-\lambda_{R,1}t} \right) \quad (3.2.3-5)$$

where $\lambda_{R,i}$ denotes the radioactive decay rate (d^{-1}) for parent ($i = 1$) and daughter ($i = 2$) radionuclides.

The values of the parameters introduced with Eqs. (3.2.3-1)–(3.2.3-5) are shown in Tables 5.1 and 5.2 of [NCRP](#) (1996). Tables 3-4 and 3-5 of this report present the relevant values for the Hanford assessment. Table 3-4 gives element-independent parameters; [Table 3-5](#) presents element-dependent parameters for those radioelements included in the data base for this assessment.

Table 3-4. Element-Independent Parameters for Local Crops and Animal Products ^a

Parameter		Footnote	Units	Vegetables	Milk	Beef
V_d	Deposition velocity	b	$m\ d^{-1}$	1000	1000	1000
f/Y	Interception fraction /harvest biomass		$m^2\ kg^{-1}$	0.12	2.1	2.1
t_w	Weathering half-life		d	14	14	14
t_e	Exposure time in growing season		d	60	30	30
t_h	Holdup time between production and consumption		d	1	2	7
λ_{HL}	Soil removal coefficient	c	d^{-1}	2.70×10^{-5}	2.70×10^{-5}	2.70×10^{-5}
t_b	Buildup time in soil	d	d	11,000	11,000	11,000
P	Soil mass in root zone		$kg\ m^{-2}$	225	225	225
Q_{mf}	Feed for milk cow		$kg\ d^{-1}\ dry$	—	16	—
Q_{ff}	Feed for beef cow		$kg\ d^{-1}\ dry$	—	—	12
F_{ir}	Irrigation rate	e	$m\ d^{-1}$	0.002	0.002	0.002

^a Based on Table 5.1 of [NCRP](#)1996.

^b Deposition velocity for noble gases is assumed to be zero.

^c Represents 70-year removal half-time for by harvesting and leaching.

^d Represents 30-year buildup in soil root zone.

^e $5\ L\ m^{-2}\ d^{-1}$ for 150 days per year.

Table 3-5. Element Dependent Transfer Factors for Vegetables, Forage, Milk, and Meat ^a

Element	Fresh vegetables ^b	Dry forage ^c	Milk (d L ⁻¹)	Beef (d kg ⁻¹)
Ba	0.01	0.1	0.0005	0.0002
Ce	0.0002	0.1	3×10 ⁻⁵	2×10 ⁻⁵
Cs	0.2	1	0.01	0.05
I	0.02	0.1	0.01	0.04
Nb	0.01	0.1	2×10 ⁻⁶	3×10 ⁻⁷
Pr	0.002	0.1	6×10 ⁻⁵	0.002
Pu	0.001	0.1	1×10 ⁻⁶	0.0001
Rh	0.03	0.2	0.0005	0.002
Ru	0.03	0.2	2×10 ⁻⁵	0.002
Sr	0.3	4	0.002	0.01
Y	0.002	0.1	6×10 ⁻⁵	0.002
Zr	0.001	0.1	6×10 ⁻⁷	1×10 ⁻⁶

^a Extracted from [NCRP1996](#).

^b Minimum set at 0.001 to allow for soil ingestion from unwashed vegetables.

^c Minimum set at 0.1 to account for soil intake by animals.

3.2.4 Uncertainties

At the present stage of this assessment, estimates of dose are calculated with deliberate overbiasing to provide conservative overestimates. This approach complies with the requests of the Task Order. In general, probability distributions of dose related to parametric uncertainties have not been calculated, except in the estimation of radionuclide releases ([Section 2.4](#)). Should such uncertainty distributions of estimated dose be required in the future, scripting methods are available, which would work at the operating system level, repeatedly executing the Hcalc program with randomly generated input files and collecting the desired outputs in special files for statistical analysis. Such scripting is beyond the scope of the present document.

Examples of conservative overbiasing are

- (1) neglecting plume rise at the point of release of radionuclides to the atmosphere; this leads to increased estimates of radionuclides in the air and consequently increased deposition on vegetation and soil
- (2) neglecting plume depletion caused by wet and dry deposition of airborne radionuclides; this increases estimates of air concentration and deposition
- (3) collecting deposited radionuclides in a shallow surface soil layer (5 cm) and neglecting removal by leaching; this predicts higher concentrations of radioactivity in resuspended soil and increases external dose from radioactivity in the soil and from air submersion in the resuspended component (this approach is applied only when the ingestion pathways for local produce and animal products are absent)
- (4) assuming a 12-year buildup of radioactivity in the root zone of soil supporting food and forage crops; this period corresponds to the temporal scope of the assessment (the default

buildup period of NCRP 1996 is 30 years) and simulates initial levels in the soil commensurate with a fictitious 12-year prior release.

Generic predictions of atmospheric dispersion from a point source using a Gaussian plume model are inherently uncertain when they are applied to specific times and locations. [Miller and Hively](#) (1987) give persuasive indications that predictions of annually-averaged air concentrations may be in error by factors of 2 to 10, depending on the distance from the source, the terrain, and the regional meteorology. Should the more pessimistic error apply to this assessment, in the form of an underprediction, it is possible even with overbiasing of the kind reported that some underestimation of dose could occur. In general, we expect that estimates of dose computed by this methodology, given the parameters that determine each specific scenario, are higher than actual doses would be for real individuals under the specified conditions of exposure.

3.3 Supporting Information

3.3.1 Meteorological Data

The meteorological data embedded in the calculation tool are based on continuous monitoring at the Hanford Site during the period 1955–1980. The data were published as joint frequency tables for stabilities unstable, neutral, stable, and very stable ([Stone et al.](#) 1983, Table 50). The tabulated frequencies correspond to the fractions f_{ij} in Equation (6), where i refers to one of 16 wind-direction sectors and j refers to one of the four stability classes that the tabulation provides. We used the value of vertical diffusion coefficient σ_z for Pasquill-Gifford stability class B to correspond to the unstable frequencies in the tabulation (B is thus a surrogate for classes A, B, and C). The tabulated frequencies are also broken down according to six discrete wind speeds, each representing an interval. These wind speeds, converted from the recorded miles per hour to m s^{-1} , are 0.9, 2.7, 4.7, 7.2, 9.6, and 10.7. The last value is based on a greater-than category, but its frequencies are sufficiently small that quibbles about what the best representative value might be can be ignored without fear of significant bias.

The joint frequency tables were based on readings taken at a 60-m instrumentation height, with stabilities based on the temperature gradient between ground level and 60 m. The computer program adjusts the wind speeds to release height for calculating diffusion as a function of plume travel; for deposition calculations, the program adjusts the wind speeds to a 1-m reference height. The profile model used for the adjustments is a simplified power-function version given by [Hanna et al.](#) (1982).

3.3.2 Dosimetric Factors

In calculating estimates of equivalent dose to the body organs of exposed individuals on and near the Hanford Site, we have considered several modes of exposure. Dose from radionuclides taken into the body by inhalation of airborne material and ingestion of contaminated soil and foodstuffs constitutes internal dose. Dose coefficients for these two modes have been tabulated by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) in the ICRP Database of Dose Coefficients, Workers and Members of the Public, Version 1.0 (distributed by Elsevier Science Ltd). This collection is an extension of ICRP Publications 68 and 72 ([ICRP](#) 1994 and [ICRP](#) 1996). The dose coefficients for inhalation and ingestion are presented in units of

Sv Bq⁻¹ (sieverts to the target organ per becquerel of radioactivity taken into the body by inhalation or ingestion).

Dose from beta and (principally) gamma radiation from airborne radionuclides (air submersion) and from exposure to radioactively contaminated surface soil are the modes of external dose considered here. Dosimetric data for these external exposure modes are given by [Eckerman and Ryman](#) (1993) in Federal Guidance Report No. 12. For both modes, the dose rate conversion factors are presented in units of Sv s⁻¹ per Bq m⁻³. In the case of exposure to contaminated ground, the factors correspond to radioactivity in the top 5 cm of the soil.

Highly-contaminated (usually relatively large) individual particles that come into prolonged contact with the skin, or that enter the eye or ear, or that might be ingested or inhaled define a special category of exposure modes that are of interest for the Hanford Site. We refer to these modes collectively as hot particle exposures. Dosimetric information and discussion of so-called deterministic (non-malignant) symptoms that occur soon after exposure are taken from Report No. 130 of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) ([NCRP](#) 1999). Further discussion of hot particle methods is given in Sections [3.6](#) and [5.2](#).

We note that doses to specific organs given in this report are absorbed dose, with units gray (Gy). These doses exclude the alpha modifying factor of 20, which occurs only for plutonium among the radionuclides considered here. For ²³⁹Pu, absorbed dose in Gy ≈ equivalent dose in Sv divided by 20. Effective dose is presented in Sv; this tissue-risk-weighted measure would be undefined for absorbed dose.

3.4 Description of the Hanford Calculator

The Hanford Calculator (Hcalc) is a computer program designed specifically for estimating dose from radionuclides released to the atmosphere from the Hanford Site. It is less elaborate than general purpose dose or risk estimation programs for radionuclides or chemicals. It contains a limited data base of radionuclides that were selected by screening methods specific to the Hanford Site, and by making some conservative approximations, it avoids extra options and code. It is not provided with a graphic user interface, although it could be fitted with one. It can be compiled and executed in Unix or Windows environments, and it is easily adapted to being executed under the control of script programs (written in Unix shell languages or higher level scripting languages, such as Perl or Python). Appropriate scripts can be developed to introduce Monte Carlo calculations for estimating uncertainty in results that propagate from uncertainties in the source term or in certain parameters. However, many parameters, such as those taken from [NCRP](#) (1996), are internal to the program and cannot be replaced by uncertainty distributions.

3.4.1 User's Manual

Hcalc is primarily controlled by a user-prepared ASCII input (.dat) file, which specifies the exposure scenario for an individual on or near the Hanford Site. The program writes its results to an output file (.prt or .out), which is also ASCII and which may be printed, inspected in a text editor, imported into a spreadsheet, or read by a script program. The extensions .dat, .prt, and .out are merely suggestive; the files can be given any names that the operating system permits.

Hcalc is executed from the command line as follows:

```
>hcalc sample.dat sample.prt
```

where ">" indicates the prompt. The file sample.dat is the following (comment lines, starting with "#" can also be used for documentation):

```
# Scenario definition file for the Hanford Calculator (command line
# version). The # symbol introduces a comment. Lines beginning with this
# symbol are ignored by the program. Blank lines are also ignored.
# Separators may be tabs or spaces.

# Keywords are indicated in boldface in this example
# (but the user need not try to indicate boldface).
# Keywords are generally necessary in the indicated order; exceptions are
# the four ingestion specifiers, Vegetables, Meat, Milk, Soil, which may
# be omitted individually or collectively if they are not applicable.

# Begin scenarios (receptors) here. "New_scenario" starts each scenario and
# ends the previous one (except for the first). This example shows only
# one scenario.

# "Title" is required, followed by characters to identify the scenario.

#-----
New_scenario
#-----

Title Offsite home east of reactors

# Receptor location (WSP coordinates in meters)
#           East      North
#           -----
Location    591800  146300

# Exposure duration
Duration    Jan 1945    Feb 1956

# Breathing rate (m^3 day^(-1))
Breathing_rate 23

# Hours per day spent outdoors at location
# Note: times outdoors and indoors may add to less than 24 hours, as they
# normally would if the individual spends part of the day
# at an unexposed location.
Outdoors    8
# Hours per day spent indoors at location
Indoors 16

# Contaminated diet (may be omitted if not applicable)
# kg/year for vegetables and meat, and ingested soil, and L/year for milk
Vegetables 200 # kg/y
Meat      100 # kg/y
Milk      300 # L/y
Soil      365 # g/y

End_scenario

End_file
```

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The Hcalc output file corresponding to the input file shown above is too large to exhibit in a single table in this report. Instead, we will extract some individual parts for discussion. The output file begins with names and values of several environmental parameters that can be set by the user in an auxiliary file, hcalc.env. Following this tabulation is a list of the radionuclides released from the plants.

Next is a list of release sources with name, radionuclide, and Washington State Plane coordinates. Here are the first few lines of the table:

Table of sources, radionuclides, and coordinates

Source ID	Nuclide	Easting (m)	Northing (m)
B-Plant	Sr-90	573576	136383
B-Plant	Y-90	573576	136383
B-Plant	Ru-103	573576	136383
B-Plant	Rh-103m	573576	136383
B-Plant	Ru-106	573576	136383
B-Plant	Rh-106	573576	136383

Notice that each of these lines has the same name (B-Plant) and location, but a different radionuclide. Each source is specified in its own data file, and the file contains data for a single name, location, and radionuclide. Each line in this file corresponds to a single source data file, or four files in all. Farther down in the table, we find lines for the same radionuclides but a different plant:

T-Plant	Sr-90	567696	136877
T-Plant	Y-90	567696	136877
T-Plant	Ru-103	567696	136877
T-Plant	Rh-103m	567696	136877
T-Plant	Ru-106	567696	136877
T-Plant	Rh-106	567696	136877

These lines correspond to four more source data files for T-plant. The same radionuclides happen to be released from both plants (though not necessarily in the same amounts). The complete table shows which radionuclides are released from which locations.

The next information in the file is shown in the following display:

Scenario #1:

Offsite home east of reactors

Washington State Plane coordinates (meters):

East 591800, North 146300

Source-to-receptor distances (m) and directions (deg)

Source	Distance	Direction (deg)	Wind direction
B-Plant	20748	61	WSW
T-Plant	25880	69	WSW
REDOX	27194	63	WSW
PUREX	19797	57	WSW

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Z-Plant	27494	67	WSW
Reactor-B	26578	86	W
Reactor-C	26537	85	W
Reactor-D	18789	106	WNW
Reactor-DR	18706	105	WNW
Reactor-F	11483	97	W
Reactor-H	15406	114	WNW
Reactor-KE	22573	91	W
Reactor-KW	23113	90	W

Exposure duration: from Jan 45 through Feb 56

Breathing rate: 23 m³ day⁽⁻¹⁾

Hours per day in location and outdoors: 8

Hours per day in location and indoors: 16

Vegetable consumption: 200 kilograms per year

Meat consumption: 100 kilograms per year

Milk consumption: 300 liters per year

Soil ingestion: 365 grams per year

Most of these entries are echoes of data from the .dat file. The table provides information about the location of the exposed individual (the receptor) relative to the release sources. The angle represents an angle measured clockwise from north about the source location, for example 61° from B-Plant to the receptor. The receptor is downwind from the source when the wind blows *from* the WSW direction. But note that the receptor is located ENE from B-Plant.

The next table in the Hcalc output file is too long to be shown here in its entirety. But its features can be illustrated with the first few lines, which are given below:

Table of chi/Q and deposition/Q for scenario

Source ID	Nuclide	s m ⁽⁻³⁾	m ⁽⁻²⁾
B-Plant	Sr-90	6.306E-08	1.24E-11
	Y-90	2.435E-09	1.053E-13
B-Plant	Y-90	6.062E-08	1.194E-11
B-Plant	Ru-103	6.289E-08	1.237E-11
	Rh-103m	4.966E-08	2.301E-12
B-Plant	Rh-103m	1.312E-08	2.861E-12
B-Plant	Ru-106	6.304E-08	1.239E-11
	Rh-106	6.304E-08	3.122E-12
B-Plant	Rh-106	3.158E-29	9.699E-33

The tabulated quantities, chi/Q and deposition/Q, are, respectively, radionuclide outdoor air concentration and deposition rate, each normalized to the release rate Q of the radionuclide (with an exception that will be explained). These quantities take into account radioactive decay as the material moves from the source to the receptor location; they also reflect material loss from the plume if the plume depletion option has been requested. Thus, in the first line of the table, if we assume a release rate for ⁹⁰Sr from B-plant of $Q = 1 \text{ Bq s}^{-1}$, the outdoor air concentration at the receptor location is $6.31 \times 10^{-8} \text{ Bq m}^{-3}$, and the deposition rate is $1.24 \times 10^{-11} \text{ Bq m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

The exception mentioned above is illustrated by the second line, which does not repeat the name of the plant. This indicates that the ^{90}Y is a decay product of the ^{90}Sr , and this requires a different interpretation of chi/Q and $\text{deposition}/Q$. In this case, each quantity is normalized to the release of the parent radionuclide, ^{90}Sr , and these quantities refer only to the amount of ^{90}Y that forms from the decay of ^{90}Sr *during plume travel*. For example, if the release rate for ^{90}Sr from B-plant is again $Q = 1 \text{ Bq s}^{-1}$, the outdoor air concentration of ^{90}Y that formed during plume travel from the source to the receptor is $2.44 \times 10^{-9} \text{ Bq m}^{-3}$, and the deposition rate of that component is $1.05 \times 10^{-13} \text{ Bq m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

Notice that in the third line of the table, we have another entry for ^{90}Y . This component represents the amount of the decay product that was assumed to be in equilibrium with the ^{90}Sr at the point of release. Thus we have included a separate source for this radionuclide that was released at the same rate as the parent. Notice that the sum of this component and the amount that formed during plume travel ($2.44 \times 10^{-9} + 6.06 \times 10^{-8} = 6.30 \times 10^{-8} \text{ Bq m}^{-3}$) is approximately the amount of the parent radionuclide, as it should be if the equilibrium is preserved during plume travel.

The same relationships exist with the chains $^{103}\text{Ru} \rightarrow ^{103\text{m}}\text{Rh}$ and $^{106}\text{Ru} \rightarrow ^{106}\text{Rh}$ as shown. Notice that in the last three lines of the table, the component of the decay product ^{106}Rh that formed during plume travel is the same as the parent ^{106}Ru , to the numeric precision shown, and the released component of ^{106}Rh , assumed to be in equilibrium with the parent at the point of release, has decayed to a value many orders of magnitude less than the parent. Rhodium-106 has a half-life of 29.92 s, and thus it quickly approaches secular equilibrium with the parent ^{106}Ru during plume travel, and the released component rapidly decays away.

The next output group begins as follows:

Duration of exposure for the scenario: 3.52152E+08 s (134 months)

Exposure matrix for the scenario

Time-integrated radionuclide concentrations						
Radionuclide	Primary air (Bq s m ⁻³)	Resuspended Air (Bq s m ⁻³)	Surface soil (Bq s m ⁻²)	Fresh vegetables (Bq s kg ⁻¹)	Milk (Bq s L ⁻¹)	Meat (Bq s kg ⁻¹)
Sr-90	6.66E+04	5.26	2.63E+09	5.46E+03	1.29E+07	6.43E+07
Y-90	6.66E+04	0.00852	4.26E+06	80.2	958	8.22E+03
Ru-103	4.01E+06	7.88	3.94E+09	6.74E+04	1.73E+06	1.59E+08
Rh-103m	4E+06	0.00296	1.48E+06	5.61E+04	5.61E+04	5.61E+04
Ru-106	1.15E+06	17.7	8.87E+09	3.02E+04	7.37E+05	7.3E+07
Rh-106	1.15E+06	4.91E-06	2.45E+03	3.02E+04	3.02E+04	3.02E+04

The exposure matrix presents time-integrated concentrations of the indicated radionuclides in air and surface soil. For food products, the quantities represent cumulative intake of radionuclides per unit intake rate (kilogram or liter per second) of the food product. The entries for inhalation (primary air and resuspended air) reflect the breathing rate but do not take into account attenuation of exposure as a result of time spent indoors.

Dose presentation begins with a table of effective dose estimates, broken down by radionuclide and exposure pathway:

Table of committed EFFECTIVE dose (Sv)

		Ingestion:		External exposure:	
Radionuclide	Inhalation	Food	Soil	Air	Ground

Sr-90	5.11E-07	9.14E-06	1.7E-08	3.34E-13	1.03E-10
Y-90	1.99E-08	9.64E-11	2.66E-12	8.44E-12	4.72E-12
Ru-103	2.05E-06	3.79E-07	6.66E-10	6.01E-08	4.52E-07
Rh-103m	2.13E-09	4.05E-12	1.3E-15	2.15E-11	2.57E-14
Ru-106	6.89E-06	1.67E-06	1.44E-08	0	0
Rh-106	0	0	0	8.01E-09	1.29E-13

The term “committed” means that the dose rate is integrated from the time of exposure over a period of 50 years; this integration is implicit in the ICRP effective dose coefficients. The entries in the table also represent integration over the period of exposure (134 months in this example), and they take into account the varying levels of exposure during this period.

The zeros for ^{106}Ru in the external exposure columns indicate that this radionuclide is not a gamma emitter, and that external radiation is considered negligible. For ^{106}Rh , however, the zeros are in the inhalation and ingestion columns. Strictly speaking, these columns should contain very small nonzero entries, but the ICRP data base provides no dose coefficients for ^{106}Rh for these exposure modes. With a half-life of about 30 s, very little of the ^{106}Rh in the ambient air would survive the processes of uptake and translocation in the body, whereas the ^{106}Ru taken into the body would rapidly produce an amount of ^{106}Rh corresponding to secular equilibrium of the two radionuclides. Thus, the dose entries for ^{106}Ru (which were computed to include the amount of the daughter that formed within the body) adequately account for ^{106}Rh .

Effective dose is a measure of radiation energy absorbed by all of the body’s organs, with the component for each organ weighted by a factor proportional to an estimate of fatal radiogenic cancer risk for irradiation of that organ. Committed absorbed dose (units: gray or Gy) for individual organs and tissues is also tabulated in the output. For effective and equivalent dose, a modifying factor assigns greater weight (a factor of 20) to alpha emissions. This factor is omitted in absorbed dose. For the radionuclides considered in this report, only ^{239}Pu is an alpha emitter and would thus be affected by the distinction. For the other radionuclides, Sv and Gy would be numerically equivalent. The following excerpt from the table of committed absorbed dose to organs omits all columns after the one for ^{106}Rh . If all columns were present, the last one would be a column of totals.

Table of organ absorbed dose (Gy) for each radionuclide

Organ	Sr-90	Y-90	Ru-103	Rh-103m	Ru-106	Rh-106
Adrenals	2.2E-07	6.3E-11	8.4E-07	1.9E-11	1.1E-06	7.4E-09
Bladder Wall	5.0E-07	2.5E-10	7.1E-07	3.1E-11	1.2E-06	7.4E-09
Bone Surface	1.4E-04	1.4E-09	1.0E-06	5.8E-11	1.0E-06	1.3E-08
Brain	2.2E-07	6.3E-11	5.8E-07	1.8E-11	9.8E-07	7.4E-09
Breast	2.2E-07	6.6E-11	8.8E-07	6.7E-11	1.1E-06	8.9E-09
Oesophagus	2.2E-07	6.3E-11	8.7E-07	1.8E-11	1.1E-06	7.4E-09
St Wall	3.0E-07	3.0E-09	8.7E-07	3.4E-09	1.5E-06	7.4E-09
SI Wall	3.7E-07	7.3E-09	1.1E-06	2.2E-09	2.2E-06	7.4E-09
ULI Wall	1.9E-06	3.9E-08	2.4E-06	1.2E-09	8.2E-06	7.4E-09
LLI Wall	7.3E-06	9.1E-08	5.3E-06	2.1E-10	2.2E-05	7.4E-09
Colon	4.3E-06	6.2E-08	3.7E-06	7.9E-10	1.4E-05	7.4E-09
Kidneys	2.2E-07	6.3E-11	7.0E-07	1.8E-11	1.0E-06	7.4E-09
Liver	2.2E-07	1.4E-09	8.0E-07	2.0E-11	1.1E-06	7.4E-09
Muscle	2.2E-07	6.3E-11	7.1E-07	2.2E-11	1.0E-06	7.4E-09
Ovaries	2.2E-07	6.4E-11	1.0E-06	4.7E-11	1.1E-06	7.8E-09
Pancreas	2.2E-07	6.3E-11	8.0E-07	2.3E-11	1.1E-06	7.4E-09
Red Marrow	6.0E-05	1.4E-09	7.8E-07	1.6E-11	1.0E-06	7.5E-09
ET Airways	3.4E-07	1.4E-08	3.4E-06	3.6E-09	2.2E-06	7.4E-09
Lungs	3.2E-06	9.9E-08	1.6E-05	1.4E-08	5.0E-05	7.8E-09

Skin	2.2E-07	3.4E-09	6.3E-07	1.3E-10	9.8E-07	8.4E-08
Spleen	2.2E-07	6.3E-11	7.8E-07	2.0E-11	1.0E-06	7.4E-09
Testes	2.2E-07	6.4E-11	6.6E-07	4.2E-11	1.0E-06	7.8E-09
Thymus	2.2E-07	6.3E-11	8.7E-07	1.8E-11	1.1E-06	7.4E-09
Thyroid	2.2E-07	6.4E-11	6.7E-07	3.1E-11	1.0E-06	7.9E-09
Uterus	2.2E-07	6.3E-11	7.5E-07	2.0E-11	1.0E-06	7.4E-09
Remainder	2.2E-07	2.3E-10	7.1E-07	6.7E-11	1.0E-06	7.4E-09

The “remainder” is not an organ, but rather it consists of all tissues in the body not accounted for by the explicitly tabulated organs.

Although it is not a requirement of the task order, we have included in the program a table of lifetime risk estimates, based on the recent tabulation of factors for a large data base of radionuclides and different exposure pathways in Federal Guidance Report No. 13 ([Eckerman et al. 1999](#)). Several lines of this table follow:

Table of mortality risk by exposure pathway

Radionuclide	Inhalation	Ingestion: Food	Soil	External exposure: Air	Ground	Total
Sr-90	3.76E-08	5.29E-07	9.86E-10	5.51E-14	9.82E-12	5.7E-07
Y-90	2.1E-09	1.41E-11	3.91E-13	6.79E-13	6.59E-13	2.1E-09
Ru-103	1.81E-07	4.41E-08	7.73E-11	3.05E-09	6.25E-08	2.9E-07
Rh-103m	1.75E-10	2.74E-13	8.81E-17	5.79E-13	9.38E-16	1.8E-10
Ru-106	5.95E-07	2.23E-07	1.92E-09	0	0	8.2E-07
Rh-106	0	0	0	4.13E-10	1.85E-14	4.1E-10

Similar remarks to those given previously apply to the zero entries for ^{106}Ru and ^{106}Rh .

This completes our discussion of the output file for this sample calculation.

As it is currently implemented, Hcalc can consider only simple scenarios, with the location and indoor/outdoor parameters referring to the entire period of exposure. However, the program can be executed for multiple input files that are constructed to represent different components of exposure, such as fractions of time spent in different locations on and off the site. The results can then be added to give a composite set of doses. Such multiple runs can be developed into scripts if a large number of calculations are needed for which a uniform pattern can be given. Such extensions are beyond the scope of this report.

The Hcalc program requires some additional files to those already described in order to be executed. The first is a file that must be named `hcalc.env`, and it must be present in the subdirectory that contains the program’s executable module `hcalc.exe`. The following listing shows the version of `hcalc.env` used in the sample calculation:

```
# hcalc.env -- database variables for the Hanford Calculator

# Note: For Windows operating systems, if FILEPATH or METFILE requires
# a path with named directories, use two backslashes where you normally
# would use one (e.g., "\\data\\source\\srclist.dat"). With Unix-type
# systems, use one forward slash (e.g., "/data/source/srclist.dat").

# The variable FILEPATH contains the filename of a list of files that
# define the release sources.
FILEPATH    srclist.dat

# The variable METFILE names the file with meteorological data
# in the format required for HCALC.
METFILE     hanford.met
```



```
# The variable Z0 is the roughness length (m) for resuspension.
# The value .05 m = 5 cm corresponds to uncut grass. The value of Z0
# is roughly one-tenth of the average height of the objects that
# constitute the "roughness."
Z0 .05

# The variable ZI is the height of the mixing layer. The value is
# an annual average for the location.
ZI 1500

UR SETTING_RURAL

DEplete_PLUME NO

# Parameters for wet deposition. If DEplete_PLUME is set to NO,
# these parameters have no effect. PRECIP_MM_PER_H is the average intensity
# of precipitation during periods of measured precipitation.
# PRECIP_H_PER_Y is the average number of hours of
# measurable precipitation per year.
# The figures given were estimated from data in Stone et al.,
# Climatological Summary for the Hanford Area, Rep. PNL-4622 (1983).
PRECIP_MM_PER_H 0.333
PRECIP_H_PER_Y 531

# Parameters for the soil. SURFACE_LAYER_DEPTH must be given in meters
# and represents what is considered resuspendable soil. It also
# affects the estimates of soil ingestion. The BULK_DENSITY parameter
# applies to this layer and is in g cm(-3). MASS_LOADING_FACTOR
# represents the airborne dust concentration resuspended from soil
# in the near vicinity of the receptor; it is in micrograms m(-3).
# The value given was suggested for generic use
# by Anspaugh, Shinn, Phelps, and Kennedy, Health Physics
# 29: 571-582 (1975).
SURFACE_LAYER_DEPTH 0.05
BULK_DENSITY 1.0
MASS_LOADING_FACTOR 100

# Parameters for building shielding. BLDG_PARTICLE_FRACTION is the fraction
# of airborne particle concentration indoors relative to outdoors.
# BLDG_GAMMA_FRACTION is the fraction of exposure to gamma rays from
# air submersion indoors relative to outdoors.
BLDG_PARTICLE_FRACTION 0.7
BLDG_GAMMA_FRACTION 0.5
```

As with the other input files, “#” indicates a comment (the line is ignored). The file `hcalc.env` sets values of specific “environment” variables for Hcalc. The names of the variables must be exactly as shown (all capital letters, with the underline character “_” joining words). The value is separated from the name of the variable with one or more spaces or tabs. The comments in the file explain the entries. Notice that two more files are pointed to from within `hcalc.env`: first is `srclist.dat` and second is `hanford.met`. These latter two files, unlike `hcalc.env`, may have any names that conform to operating system conventions (the names given in `hcalc.env`

must the same as the actual names in the operating system directory). If the files are not in the same directory as the executable module, path strings may be indicated, but note the conventions about slash (“/”) and backslash (“\”) characters noted in the comments.

The file `srclist.dat` points to the numerous files that contain the source term, that is, the release history of each radionuclide from each location. These files also contain information about release height and particle size distribution. The following display shows `srclist.dat` as it was for the sample calculation:

```
srcdat\\sr90b.txt
srcdat\\y90b.txt
srcdat\\ru103b.txt
srcdat\\rh103mb.txt
srcdat\\ru106b.txt
srcdat\\rh106b.txt
srcdat\\i131b.txt
srcdat\\xe131mb.txt
srcdat\\cs137b.txt
srcdat\\ba137mb.txt
srcdat\\ce144b.txt
srcdat\\pr144b.txt
srcdat\\pu239b.txt
srcdat\\sr90t.txt
srcdat\\y90t.txt
srcdat\\ru103t.txt
srcdat\\rh103mt.txt
srcdat\\ru106t.txt
srcdat\\rh106t.txt
srcdat\\i131t.txt
srcdat\\xe131mt.txt
srcdat\\cs137t.txt
srcdat\\ba137mt.txt
srcdat\\ce144t.txt
srcdat\\pr144t.txt
srcdat\\pu239t.txt
srcdat\\sr90x.txt
srcdat\\y90x.txt
srcdat\\ru103x.txt
srcdat\\rh103mx.txt
srcdat\\ru106x.txt
srcdat\\rh106x.txt
srcdat\\i131x.txt
srcdat\\xe131mx.txt
srcdat\\cs137x.txt
srcdat\\ba137mx.txt
srcdat\\ce144x.txt
srcdat\\pr144x.txt
srcdat\\pu239x.txt
srcdat\\sr90p.txt
srcdat\\y90p.txt
srcdat\\ru103p.txt
srcdat\\rh103mp.txt
srcdat\\ru106p.txt
```

```
srcdat\\rh106p.txt  
srcdat\\i131p.txt  
srcdat\\xe131mp.txt  
srcdat\\cs137p.txt  
srcdat\\ba137mp.txt  
srcdat\\ce144p.txt  
srcdat\\pr144p.txt  
srcdat\\pu239p.txt  
srcdat\\pu239z.txt  
srcdat\\ar41rb.txt  
srcdat\\ar41rc.txt  
srcdat\\ar41rd.txt  
srcdat\\ar41rdr.txt  
srcdat\\ar41rf.txt  
srcdat\\ar41rh.txt  
srcdat\\ar41rke.txt  
srcdat\\ar41rkw.txt
```

All source term files are contained in the subdirectory `srcdat`, which is immediately below the subdirectory containing the executable module. Note that under Windows, the double backslash is necessary. In naming the files, we have adopted the scheme of using the element name and mass number (followed possibly by “m” for metastable, in the case of ^{103m}Rh , ^{131m}Xe , and ^{137m}Ba), followed by one or more characters indicating the plant releasing the material (the same radionuclide may be released by more than one plant). The codes are the following:

b	B-Plant
t	T-Plant
x	REDOX
p	PUREX
z	Z-Plant
rb	Reactor B
rc	Reactor C
rd	Reactor D
rdr	Reactor DR
rh	Reactor H
rke	Reactor KE
rkw	Reactor KW

This scheme is quite arbitrary, and these meanings are unknown to the program. It is information in each individual file that informs Hcalc of the name and location of the facility and which radionuclide data the file contains. And each line in `srclist.dat` tells the program where to find the corresponding source term file. At present, there is a limit of 100 source term files (we are using 61).

We show part of the source term file `.\srcdat\sr90b.txt` (the dot indicates the subdirectory containing the executable module):

```
B-Plant  
Sr-90  
573576  
136383
```

```

61
1
4
11/44    0    0
12/44    0    0
1/45     0    0
2/45     0    0
3/45     0    0
4/45     8.6E-02 6.1E-01
5/45     2.5E-01 1.8E+00
6/45     2.2E-01 1.5E+00

```

The first seven lines of a source term file must be in the order indicated. The name “B-Plant” in the first line indicates the name of the plant. It should be shown exactly the same in all files for this plant (including capitalization and presence or absence of the hyphen), because the program groups the plants on the basis of this name. If some are written differently, the output will show a larger number of plants than there really are, corresponding to the number of spelling variants (although the calculated doses will still be correct). In the second line, the name of the radionuclide must be as shown, including capitalization and hyphen. A mistake here will terminate the run if the name is not recognized. The third and fourth lines give the easting and northing coordinates, respectively, of the point of release, in the Washington State Plane (WSP) system (m). The coordinates should be the same for files with the same plant name. If multiple points of release at a given plant are to be considered, variant names should be used to distinguish releases from different locations (this has not been done in the sample calculation). The fifth line gives the release height, for which we use the physical stack height, 61 m. Lines six and seven contain the geometric mean (1 μm) and geometric standard deviation (4), respectively, of the particle size distribution. These parameters are used in the calculation of dry deposition for particulate radionuclides. The program does not use these parameters for noble gases (Ar and Xe) that occur in the source term.

Beyond the seven preliminary lines just discussed are the release entries for the months when the release operated (only eight lines are shown). The date is indicated by the month/year abbreviation. The remaining two numbers per line in this file are, from left to right, the monthly median (50th percentile) and 95th percentile. Only the number in the second column — whatever its interpretation — is read by the program and used as the release. Although the data in the third column are not read by the program, this is a convenient way of storing the additional information. If one were to perform a short-term calculation, using only the 95th percentiles, a new file would have to be prepared with 95th percentiles in the second column (rather than the third).

Note that the lines with zero entries could have been omitted. Similarly, if a line is included with a date outside of the assessment’s temporal scope (Oct-45 through Dec-61), the program ignores it. The lines beyond the first seven are not required to be in temporal order, but we recommend preparing the files that way.

We return finally to the file `hanford.met`, which contains the joint frequency table (JFT) used in the sample calculation and for the assessment generally ([Section 3.3.1](#)). The file is as follows:

```
6      // nwsp -- number of windspeed categories
```

```

0.894 // windspeed of class 1 (m/s)
2.682 // windspeed of class 2 (m/s)
4.6935 // windspeed of class 3 (m/s)
7.152 // windspeed of class 4 (m/s)
9.6105 // windspeed of class 5 (m/s)
10.728 // windspeed of class 6 (m/s)
61 // height at which windspeed was measured (m)
6 // nstab -- number of stability categories
16 // ndir -- number of directional sectors
A 0 // Relative frequency of Class A stability
N 0 0 0 0 0 0
NNE 0 0 0 0 0 0

[ Zeros for all directions NE through WNW ]

NW 0 0 0 0 0 0
NNW 0 0 0 0 0 0
TOTAL 0 0 0 0 0 0
B 0.3125 // Relative frequency of Class B stability
N 0.0205 0.04188 0.01568 0.00448 0.00096 0.00032
NNE 0.01986 0.03292 0.01568 0.008 0.00224 0.00064
NE 0.02178 0.02876 0.00992 0.00416 0.0016 0.00096
ENE 0.01378 0.01948 0.00416 0.00128 0.00032 0.00032
E 0.01474 0.02108 0.00384 0.00064 0 0
ESE 0.01218 0.01916 0.0032 0.00032 0 0
SE 0.0109 0.02172 0.0048 0.00064 0 0
SSE 0.00578 0.01308 0.00384 0.00128 0.00032 0
S 0.00674 0.01532 0.00512 0.00192 0.00064 0.00032
SSW 0.00514 0.01436 0.00992 0.00608 0.0032 0.00256
SW 0.00642 0.01628 0.01728 0.01664 0.00992 0.01184
WSW 0.00514 0.0134 0.01792 0.02176 0.0128 0.01024
W 0.00642 0.01372 0.01184 0.01056 0.00416 0.00288
WNW 0.00674 0.01692 0.0192 0.01984 0.01056 0.0064
NW 0.00994 0.03516 0.0448 0.03136 0.0192 0.01472
NNW 0.01378 0.03836 0.01984 0.00416 0.00096 0.00032
TOTAL 0.17984 0.3616 0.20704 0.13312 0.06688 0.05152
C 0 // Relative frequency of Class C stability
N 0 0 0 0 0 0
NNE 0 0 0 0 0 0

[ Zeros for all directions NE through WNW ]

NW 0 0 0 0 0 0
NNW 0 0 0 0 0 0
TOTAL 0 0 0 0 0 0
D 0.13 // Relative frequency of Class D stability
N 0.030961538 0.013894231 0.005384615 0.003846154 0.002307692 0.000769231
NNE 0.023269231 0.008509615 0.003846154 0.004615385 0.001538462 0.000769231
NE 0.024038462 0.009278846 0.003076923 0.001538462 0.000769231 0.000769231
ENE 0.020192308 0.007740385 0.002307692 0.000769231 0 0
E 0.024807692 0.008509615 0.002307692 0.000769231 0 0
ESE 0.026346154 0.013125 0.003076923 0.000769231 0 0
SE 0.031730769 0.017740385 0.005384615 0.001538462 0 0

```

3-28 Methods for Estimating Radiation Doses from Short-lived Gaseous Radionuclides and
Radioactive Particles Released to the Atmosphere during Early Hanford Operations

SSE	0.019423077	0.010048077	0.004615385	0.003076923	0.000769231	0
S	0.014807692	0.006971154	0.003076923	0.003846154	0.002307692	0.001538462
SSW	0.010961538	0.005432692	0.004615385	0.005384615	0.005384615	0.004615385
SW	0.010192308	0.006201923	0.006153846	0.01	0.010769231	0.013076923
WSW	0.010961538	0.007740385	0.01	0.016153846	0.012307692	0.006923077
W	0.015576923	0.012355769	0.011538462	0.011538462	0.004615385	0.002307692
WNW	0.015576923	0.018509615	0.031538462	0.033076923	0.019230769	0.013846154
NW	0.024038462	0.036971154	0.056153846	0.041538462	0.024615385	0.022307692
NNW	0.028653846	0.023894231	0.012307692	0.005384615	0.000769231	0
TOTAL	0.331538462	0.206923077	0.165384615	0.143846154	0.085384615	0.066923077
E	0.3158	// Relative frequency of Class E stability				
N	0.010548607	0.01080589	0.00569981	0.003483217	0.000633312	0.000316656
NNE	0.006748733	0.005422736	0.003483217	0.003166561	0.001266624	0.000316656
NE	0.006432077	0.004472768	0.002216593	0.001583281	0.001266624	0.000316656
ENE	0.006432077	0.004156111	0.001266624	0.000633312	0.000316656	0
E	0.007698702	0.005422736	0.002216593	0.000633312	0	0
ESE	0.010231951	0.007006016	0.003166561	0.000633312	0	0
SE	0.013081856	0.011439202	0.006333122	0.001899937	0.000633312	0.000316656
SSE	0.007698702	0.007006016	0.006016466	0.004116529	0.001583281	0.000633312
S	0.007065389	0.006056048	0.004433186	0.004749842	0.003166561	0.002216593
SSW	0.005165453	0.004472768	0.006333122	0.007283091	0.006649778	0.009499683
SW	0.004848797	0.006372704	0.009816339	0.015516149	0.015832806	0.015199493
WSW	0.005798765	0.007322673	0.015199493	0.027232426	0.015832806	0.007283091
W	0.007698702	0.013655795	0.032298923	0.042431919	0.01139962	0.002216593
WNW	0.008332014	0.016189044	0.045915136	0.095946802	0.050348322	0.017732742
NW	0.009915294	0.020938885	0.046548448	0.068714376	0.046548448	0.023749208
NNW	0.009281982	0.015555731	0.013932869	0.007283091	0.001266624	0
TOTAL	0.126979101	0.146295123	0.204876504	0.285307156	0.156744775	0.07979734
F	0.2409	// Relative frequency of Class F stability				
N	0.0168379	0.017927563	0.00913242	0.00207555	0	0
NNE	0.011026359	0.008795143	0.00498132	0.00249066	0	0
NE	0.010196139	0.006719593	0.0041511	0.00124533	0	0
ENE	0.008120589	0.005474263	0.00332088	0.00083022	0	0
E	0.010611249	0.007134703	0.00290577	0.00083022	0	0
ESE	0.0126868	0.008795143	0.00290577	0	0	0
SE	0.0168379	0.012946243	0.00456621	0.00124533	0	0
SSE	0.012271689	0.012116023	0.0083022	0.00373599	0.00041511	0
S	0.011856579	0.012531133	0.00539643	0.00124533	0.00041511	0
SSW	0.010196139	0.010040473	0.00456621	0.00166044	0.00041511	0.00041511
SW	0.010611249	0.014606683	0.00996264	0.00373599	0.00083022	0.00041511
WSW	0.011441469	0.020833333	0.02241594	0.00996264	0.00124533	0.00041511
W	0.01766812	0.041173724	0.054379411	0.01867995	0.00124533	0
WNW	0.01517746	0.044494604	0.080946451	0.0498132	0.00290577	0
NW	0.01766812	0.039513284	0.070983811	0.061851391	0.00747198	0
NNW	0.01725301	0.027475093	0.02615193	0.0083022	0	0
TOTAL	0.210460772	0.290577003	0.315068493	0.167704442	0.01494396	0.00124533

This file is shown in its near entirety because of the format and the normalization pattern. The frequencies are normalized to add to 1.0 within each stability category, and the frequency for the category as a whole is given at the beginning of the data for the category. For example, Class F occurs with frequency 0.2409. Given that the category is F, the probability that the wind is from the north and the wind speed is in the lowest group (represented by 0.894 m s^{-1}) is 0.0168. But

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the relative frequency of that stability, direction, and wind speed in general is $0.2409 \times 0.0168 = 4.047 \times 10^{-3}$.

The source of the frequency data ([Stone et al. 1983](#)) presented only a single category for “unstable” air. We have assumed that this category is reasonably represented on average by Pasquill-Gifford Class B, and we have assigned zero frequency to categories A and C.

These data were measured at the approximate release height for all sources considered, and we used the wind speed categories as labeled for calculating the plume distances. But for computing deposition velocities, the wind speed labels were adjusted to a height of 1 m, using a power function suggested by [Hanna et al. \(1982\)](#).

The numbers of digits shown in this listing, beyond about four decimals, have no essential significance. They were introduced by renormalization of the original data in a spreadsheet.

3.4.2 Documentation

The Hcalc program is written in C. Object oriented methods have been used in its preparation to improve the organization, to help avoid programming errors, and to facilitate locating and correcting errors that do occur. Although C does not explicitly support object oriented methods (as does C++), it is suitable for their implementation provided the programming is done in a disciplined and methodical manner.

Fairly extensive comments have been included in most of the source code modules, at points where they are believed to be potentially useful to other programmers who might need to correct or modify the program, or to read it for the purpose of answering a question about how it performs some calculation.

The following list of the source files of Hcalc, together with brief summaries of their contents, should provide a starting place for locating parts of the program where specific data are located or particular calculations are performed.

`hcalc.c` — Contains the main program that scans the command line, reads the input file (the scenario descriptions), and oversees the input and processing of the auxiliary files (`hcalc.env`, the list of source term files, and the file of meteorological frequencies) and the source term files. It coordinates the calculations by using functions contained in other modules. Finally, it writes the output file.

`env.c` — The function defined in this module is invoked from the main program (in `hcalc.c`) to input the file `hcalc.env`, process the data that it contains, and place the information in the program’s data structures, where it can be accessed by the functions that perform the calculations.

`gp.c` — Provides most of the basic functions that perform the atmospheric diffusion calculations, such as calculating the diffusion coefficients σ_y and σ_z , the vertical component of diffusion (V in Eq. (3.2.1-1)), the reduction factors for plume depletion from wet and dry deposition, the wind speed profile function, and the deposition rate and concentration of each radionuclide in air at each specified location. Some functions in the file have been used in other applications and are not accessed by Hcalc.

`metdata.c` — Contains the functions that input and process the meteorological frequency file and that make the frequencies available to other modules.

`drydep.c` — Contains the functions and data that estimate coefficients for wet and dry deposition.

`golder.c` — Provides auxiliary functions needed by `drydep.c`, which compute ranges of the Monin-Oboukhov parameter corresponding to each Pasquill-Gifford stability category.

`nuclides.c` — Contains the data base for the radionuclides considered for the Hanford assessment, together with functions that provide access to the data from functions in other modules.

`orgdose.c` — Contains the data base for the ICRP organ dose coefficients for each of the radionuclides in the module `nuclides.c`, together with functions to fetch the coefficients for the use of functions in other modules.

`riskfact.c` — Contains the data base for the lifetime risk factors from Federal Guidance Report No. 13 for each of the radionuclides in the module `nuclides.c`, together with functions that enable other functions (in `hcalc.c`) to access the factors.

`srcterm.c` — Provides data and functions related to reading in the source term and making releases available as a function of the source (plant), the radionuclide, and the month.

`expmat.c` — Contains (1) the constructor function for chi-over-Q objects corresponding to each radionuclide-source-receptor combinations and (2) the function that uses the chi-over-Q objects to compute the exposure matrix value for each radionuclide and pathway; it also implements the dynamic model for tracking radionuclide concentrations in the surface soil compartment over time. The exposure matrix function is accessed from the main program (in `hcalc.c`) once for each scenario that is analyzed.

`terra.c` — Contains the data base and functions that implement the terrestrial models of NCRP Report No. 123 ([NCRP 1996](#)) for each of the radionuclides in the module `nuclides.c`.

`util.c` — Contains miscellaneous utility functions that are used by functions in various modules. Examples are string comparisons, fatal error messages and warnings, and functions that read and format data from input files.

`spline.c` — Contains functions that implement cubic splines for smooth interpolation.

The modules listed above make use of many files with the `.h` extension that are included by the C preprocessor. All but one of these `.h` files have the same name as a `.c` counterpart and contain prototypes for the functions defined in the corresponding `.c` file. The single exception is the file `defs.h`, which contains definitions of symbolic constants that are used by the preprocessor to set array sizes in several of the modules. At present, there are three such constants: `NMONTH` (the maximum number of months a run can cover, 207, which corresponds to Oct-44 through Dec-61); `MAXSRC` (the maximum number of source objects that an analysis can use, 100); and `MAXNUC` (the maximum number of radionuclides the data base in the module `nuclides.c` can contain, 30). The constants `NMONTH` and `MAXSRC` affect only the module `hcalc.c`; `MAXNUC` affects `expmat.c`, `hcalc.c`, and `srcterm.c`.

3.5 Description of the SURVEY Spreadsheet

The Hanford Calculator models discussed in Sections [3.2–3.4](#) are used for routine releases of relatively small particles and gases from facility stacks. As discussed in [Section 2](#), there were two notable periods in Hanford operating history when large radioactive particles were released to the environment. These were large corrosion products released from T and B Plants in 1947-1948 and large flakes of ruthenium released from REDOX in 1952-1954.

Hanford personnel identified the releases of these large particles in the past from environmental surveys and effluent monitoring. Effluent monitoring of stack effluents did not pick up all large particle releases, particularly when stacks or ducts were not monitored or when releases occurred from holdup of radioactivity downstream of the sampler. Back-calculating from environmental measurements would be one way to develop a source term for these large particles. This has been done by Hanford personnel and others to estimate the total activity lost to the environment for some short-term release events.

In fulfilling the scope of work for this task, we have concluded that for persons located onsite, direct use of environmental measurements is a preferable method than source term and dispersion analysis to evaluate exposure to large particles after deposition. We believe this approach is likely to produce results closer to what actually happened.¹ We have developed a spreadsheet tool called SURVEY that takes advantage of available environmental measurements of contamination levels. This is a direct way of estimating the probability of past encounters with large radioactive particles in the Hanford environment.

The SURVEY spreadsheet is implemented within a Microsoft® EXCEL 97 spreadsheet. An uncertainty analysis feature within the spreadsheet [Using Crystal Ball version 4.0c ([Decisioneering](#) 1996)] will allow the CDC to test the sensitivity of results to a variety of parameters, which was a requested feature. There is flexibility in defining the conditions of exposure, allowing for refinements based on review by the public, past workers, and others. The number of input parameters and their possible range of values illustrate the difficulty in assessing past exposures under a variety of field conditions at different places and times. We have provided recommended values and ranges for parameters based on our review of the historical documents. The basis for those recommendations is established in the following sections.

Evaluation of the historical documents leads us to the following technical judgements relating to the focus of this work. The most important factors that would have affected past exposures to large radioactive particles in the outdoor environment are

- Where a worker was
- When he worked there
- What the contamination level was
- What he did (how his activity affected transfer of contamination to his body)
- Type(s) of protective clothing (e.g. long pants, booties, gloves, face mask, respirator).

¹ The SURVEY spreadsheet tool does not incorporate personnel dosimetry data, which might be the most direct way to assess actual past exposures to specific people. These include medical records (which could document skin burns), results of bioassay samples (which can quantify amounts of radionuclides deposited internally), film badge results (to estimate external radiation exposures), and personnel survey (e.g. hand/foot contamination) logs.

A summary of conclusions about the “where, when, and what” of past contamination levels is presented at the end of the environmental data section ([4.3](#)). How those data can be implemented using the SURVEY spreadsheet tool is discussed here.

The large particles released from the Hanford separations plants in the 1940s and 1950s deposited on the ground relatively close to the sources, although some were transported long distances. They were measurable as individual particles by radiation detection instruments; many were visible to the naked eye or could be separated by their physical properties. The most important exposure pathways to people following deposition of large particles on the ground were:

- External exposure from radioactivity on ground (i.e., no contact or intake of particle)
- Adherence of particle to skin or clothing, resulting in skin dose
- Suspension of particles on ground into air and inhalation of particle, resulting in dose mainly to upper respiratory and GI tract
- Contamination of hands leading to inadvertent ingestion and dose mainly to GI tract.

The SURVEY spreadsheet tool evaluates all these pathways. Input parameters for the spreadsheet are discussed below.

3.5.1 Input Parameters

Particle Deposition Density. The starting point for evaluation of the probability and effects of exposure to large particles is the deposition density of those particles on the ground or surfaces at two locations, the workplace and the residence. For the examples included with this report, the working location is the more contaminated of the two. Deposition density is the number of particles detected per unit area of ground surface. [Section 4.1.6](#) contains a review of available data. In addition, [Appendix C](#) contains 22 maps of monthly surveys of large particle contamination on a site-wide or larger scale in the 1950s. Appendix C also includes 19 maps of contamination measured over smaller areas onsite between November 28, 1947 and November 12, 1957. Numerical values are tabulated from these maps in Tables 4-7 through 4-9 for the military camp H-40, for off-project areas, and near the 200 Areas in the 1940s and 1950s.

A factor is included in the spreadsheet to account for particles not detected by the survey instruments used. A factor of 10-100 increase is suggested by comparison of surveys for large active particles released in the 1940s with more sensitive methods ([HW-9141](#); [HW-10941](#)). However, if this were done, then the dose assessment from the particles would need to reflect the inclusion of smaller particles and their activity characteristics. We have not made any adjustments to the measured deposition densities for the example calculations included with this report.

Exposure Locations and Duration. The SURVEY spreadsheet computes exposure at two locations, work and residence. The hours per day at work is an input parameter, and the remainder of the day is computed by the spreadsheet for the residence exposure time.

Another input parameter describing worker activity is the exposure duration (working and non-working days). The SURVEY spreadsheet tool is most appropriate when used to evaluate exposures over relatively short periods of time (days to months). The main reason is that the input parameters (environmental contamination levels) did not remain constant over long periods of time. For example, the fragile flakes of ruthenium released from REDOX fractured easily and weathered into soil. Also, radioactive decay is an important reduction factor for depositions of particles containing Ru-Rh and Ce-Pr. During the peak releases from REDOX, the environmental surveys of particle deposition density were conducted monthly, so there is adequate time resolution in the data for consideration of specific times of exposure. The possible conservatism

in using a long exposure duration as input to the SURVEY spreadsheet should be recognized, particularly if the contamination being described by the survey data either decays or weathers rapidly.

Resuspension of Deposited Large Particles. Resuspension is the process whereby previously deposited radioactivity on ground or other surfaces becomes airborne. [Healy](#) (1980) distinguishes three main types of resuspension: wind-driven, mechanical disturbance, and local. The last two are most applicable to assessment of exposure of persons in outdoor contaminated areas on the Hanford Site. For wind resuspension, the energy required to dislodge the particles comes from the wind, which disperses particles downwind where they deposit on surfaces at a rate dependent on their properties and the terrain. In contrast, both mechanical and local resuspension result from mechanical disturbance of the soil other than by wind. Such forces could range from the movement of small animals on the surface, through humans walking, to the movement of heavy equipment or plows across the ground. The distinction Healy makes between local and mechanical resuspension is that the exposed person is in the immediate vicinity of the disturbance for local resuspension, whereas the receptor is downwind for mechanical resuspension.

Three main groups of models for estimating airborne concentrations from deposited radioactivity are the resuspension factor, resuspension rate, and mass loading models. There is no question that typical uncertainties in estimating resuspension by any of the methods are many orders of magnitude. The uncertainty analysis features in the SURVEY spreadsheet allow evaluation of the importance of parameters like those describing resuspension. Although [Healy](#) (1980) in principal prefers the resuspension rate approach, he acknowledges that the resuspension factor is useful for describing the exposure of the individual causing the disturbance.

There has been a vast amount of research on resuspension at the Hanford Site. It is not within the scope of this task to review all those studies. The wind-driven resuspension of radionuclides routinely released from the Hanford facilities is treated in our Hanford Calculator model using a mass loading approach. For the large particles released in 1947-1948 and 1952-1954, we investigated studies whose results were expressed either as a resuspension factor or a resuspension rate. Because these particles are so large and not uniformly distributed over the area of ground or mass of soil, many of the Hanford field experiments on wind-driven resuspension of small particles (and relatively uniform distribution) are not as relevant.

In fact, when the person is in the contaminated area, wind-driven suspension is much less influential in transferring contamination from the ground than the person's activity ([Healy](#) 1977; [Sehmel](#) 1980). Consequently, we looked for empirical studies that described the transfer of contamination from surfaces to a person working in the contaminated area. An example of the importance of worker activity on suspension is a study by [Jones and Pond](#) (1967), who found that a person walking over a contaminated surface in a laboratory suspended up to 250 times as much plutonium nitrate and up to 2500 times as much plutonium oxide as was suspended when there was no movement. A faster rate of walking produced more suspension. Similar, although less dramatic, increases apply to the outdoor environment.

The most relevant studies we reviewed are described here, to provide a basis for the range of values used to describe local resuspension in the SURVEY spreadsheet. In addition, Table 3-6 summarizes the results of these studies as well as others.

Ground-to-Body Transfer: Schwendiman's Tracer-Particle Study. Although published over forty years ago, a study titled "Probability of Human Contact and Inhalation of Particles"

([Schwendiman](#) 1958) persists as extremely relevant to this work. It was conducted in the outdoor environment at Hanford, where the importance of large-particle contamination was all too evident, based on their problems around the separations areas in the 1940s and 1950s. In addition, unlike many other resuspension study publications, the results are expressed as the probability of transfer of a particle from the ground to various areas of the body for different activities. Most other resuspension studies result in an estimate of airborne concentration, but further assumptions are needed to translate airborne concentrations to the number of particles contacting the body. As stated above, body contact is an important consideration for these large, high-activity particles.

The tracer particles used by Schwendiman to simulate radioactive contamination were fluorescent zinc sulfide. Individual particles could be counted under ultraviolet light and magnification. The mean particle diameter was 2 μm and density was 4.1 g cm^{-3} , resulting in an aerodynamic diameter of about 4 μm . Therefore, they are not as large as many of the active particles released from the Hanford separations plants. Schwendiman acknowledges that the particle size distribution of the ZnS is unlikely to be identical to that of radioactive particulates of interest in a given incident. However, he states:

Being small, they will become airborne more readily, thereby giving a conservative value for the actual probability of contact expected for somewhat larger, perhaps more typical particles. They will also become attached to inert particles of larger size which could also happen in the case of small radioactive particles. Subsequent movement of the trace particle will be influenced by the carrier or host particle. Although the ZnS chosen for these experiments was not an “identical twin” for actual radioactive particles, the simulation is believed to be adequate for the order of magnitude estimates desired.

The conservative bias noted by Schwendiman is consistent with our scope of work. Two types of experiments were conducted:

1. Determination of the particle inhalation probability during operations involving vehicles.
2. Determination of contact probabilities for operations in open field areas such as walking, digging, etc.

The second of these types will be discussed first. Schwendiman states that these experiments were conducted “to estimate the probability of an individual contacting a particle while working in open terrain contaminated with a known number of particles per unit area.” The stated purpose of the study and the fact that it was conducted in the Hanford environment highlight its high relevance to our task.

In the contact probability experiments, an area of 100 ft by 100 ft was roped off in wind-blown sandy soil sparsely covered with typical desert growth. A known amount of the ZnS tracer was mixed with sand and distributed uniformly over the plot. Workers performed various tasks in the seeded area. Each wore a strip of double-backed sticky transparent tape on the back of the hands, on the shoulder, overall cuffs, knees, and across the nose-piece of his respirator. After the exposure period, the number of particles on the tapes was determined microscopically.

The tasks performed were:

1. Walking through the plot simulating surveying for contamination,
2. Digging a shallow trench,
3. Loading and unloading boxes on a truck driven into the area.

Results are tabulated in the paper and plotted here in Figure 3-3. The measure of “contact probability” is the ratio of the number of particles per square meter per hour on body to the number of particles per square meter on ground surface. Of the areas of the body studied, the

contact probability was highest for the cuffs of pants. Of the activities investigated, the highest transfer occurred from walking through the contaminated area. Perhaps a contributing factor to this outcome was the greater surface area of ground that was covered during the walking tests. Walking also resulted in the greatest transfer to areas higher on the body (e.g., the shoulder). Unloading/loading produced the greatest contamination to hands and nose.

In our example calculations presented in this report, we use Schwendiman's contact probability for walking, with a uniform uncertainty distribution between the minimum and maximum value for the five regions of the body measured (0.0017–0.014). For digging, measured values for the five areas of the body ranged from 0.00054 to 0.005. For loading/unloading, the range was 0.0002 to 0.0046. The contact probability is multiplied by the particle deposition density and the surface area of the body to obtain the number of particles contacting the body per hour of work in the area.

The other type of experiment performed by Schwendiman is not as easily applied to the SURVEY spreadsheet, but it is summarized here. The purpose of those experiments was to evaluate the probability of inhalation of a particle during operations involving vehicles. Several situations were simulated:

1. Sweeping a bus in which particles had accumulated
2. Driving a bus in which particles were under the brake pedal
3. Hand-sweeping a bus where particles were placed under the foot pedals
4. Changing a tire that had particles deposited on it.

The inhalation probabilities were highest for sweeping of the bus— 3.3×10^{-4} to 6.4×10^{-4} per hour. For tire replacement, the inhalation probabilities ranged from 6×10^{-6} to 2.8×10^{-5} . Contamination of vehicles and roadways was a big problem during the height of ruthenium releases from REDOX ([Baumgartner](#) 1954; [Ebright](#) 1954; [Helgeson](#) 1954; [Moble](#) 1954). Nearly half of the vehicles on the site were surveyed in February and March 1954—20% were found to be contaminated in excess of 100 cpm. The locations contaminated were most often tires and under-surfaces of the vehicles as well as radiators ([HW-32473](#)). The contamination was not necessarily predominantly ruthenium—a considerable percentage of rare earth elements was found in some analyses ([HW-32473](#)).

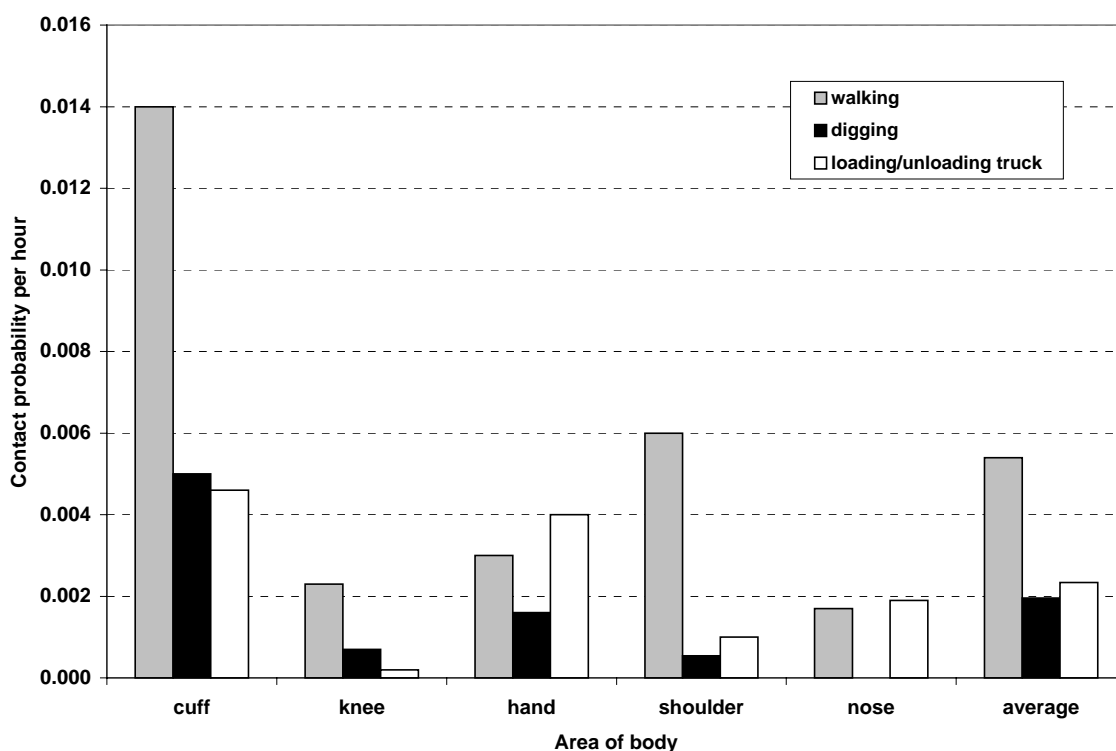


Figure 3-3. Mean probability of transfer of particle from ground to body during various activities (units are particles per square meter per hour on body per particles per square meter on ground surface). Experimental variability errors are presented in the original reference ([Schwendiman 1958](#)).

Sehmel's Tracer-Particle Resuspension Studies. In the 1970s, G. A. Sehmel conducted a series of resuspension experiments at Hanford, also using ZnS tracer particles. These studies and others are included in his comprehensive summary of transuranic and tracer simulant resuspension research ([Sehmel 1980](#)). As discussed earlier, wind-driven resuspension is not as important as local resuspension for past exposure of persons working in contaminated areas on the Hanford Site. Sehmel summarizes results of local resuspension experiments with ZnS on cheatgrass areas and on asphalt from vehicular traffic (3/4-ton truck and car) and on asphalt by pedestrian traffic.

The disturbance of surface activity caused by a pedestrian in a tracer-contaminated area resulted in 100 times more resuspension than winds of 2-9 miles per hour. Sehmel's results are expressed as a resuspension rate; with units of fraction of the tracer on the ground resuspended per unit time (or per pass, in the case of pedestrian or vehicle movement). We found these units not as applicable to evaluating particle contact with the body as those of [Schwendiman \(1958\)](#).

Resuspension Factors. For evaluating the inhalation of resuspended particles from the air around the person causing the disturbance, the resuspension factor is the best empirical method. The resuspension factor is the airborne concentration (e.g. particles per cubic meter) divided by the surface concentration (e.g. particles per square meter), resulting in units of m^{-1} . Several comprehensive reviews of resuspension factors were obtained and a range of values is illustrated in Table 3-6.

Table 3-6. Contaminant Resuspension Factors during Various Conditions

Contaminant and condition	Value (m^{-1})	Reference
Uranium tetrafluoride, indoors. Suspension enhanced by equipment vibration and air-circulating fans.	Up to 2×10^{-3}	Bailey and Rohr (1953)
Clothes change room, Windscale reprocessing plant	2×10^{-4} to 1×10^{-3}	Brunskill (1967)
Uranium tetrafluoride, normal operations in plant	2.5×10^{-5} to 1.9×10^{-4}	Bailey and Rohr (1953)
Generic value for mechanical resuspension	2×10^{-6} to 1×10^{-3}	Healy (1980) citing Mishima (1964)
Recommended value for guidance purposes, based on review of outdoor experiments	1×10^{-5} to 1×10^{-4}	Stewart (1967)
Recommended value for use in deriving general surface contamination levels, also for plutonium oxide on indoor surfaces	5×10^{-5}	Wrixon et al. (1979); IAEA 1970
Plutonium oxide and nitrate, person walking through laboratory. (No movement resulted in RF of 2×10^{-8} .)	1×10^{-6} to 5×10^{-5}	Jones and Pond (1967)
Fresh deposit of Pu on undisturbed surfaces in semi-arid environments	10^{-6} to 10^{-4}	CEC 1979; Anspaugh, Shinn and Wilson (1974), cited in Healy (1980)
Particulate ^{131}I , digging through rubble of collapsed house	2×10^{-6}	Chamberlain and Stanbury (1951)
Fresh deposit, no disturbance	1×10^{-8} to 2×10^{-6}	Healy (1980) citing Mishima (1964)
Range often used in hazard evaluations	1×10^{-9} to 1×10^{-5}	Sehmel (1980)
Cab of tractor during various agricultural operations in S. Carolina	4×10^{-9} and 2×10^{-7}	Milham et al. (1975), cited in Healy (1977)
Pu at Hanford within the chemical separation areas	6×10^{-10} to 2×10^{-5}	Corley et al. (1976) cited in Sehmel (1980), Table 9
Aged deposit (2-17 years) of Pu on undisturbed surfaces in semi-arid environments	10^{-9} to 10^{-8}	CEC 1979; Anspaugh, Shinn and Wilson (1974), cited in Healy (1980)
^{137}Cs at Hanford in the BC area	4×10^{-11} to 7×10^{-8}	Sehmel (1980), citing Bruns (1976) and Mishima (1973)
Aged deposit, no disturbance	1×10^{-13} to 6×10^{-10}	Healy (1980), citing Mishima (1964)

The uncertainty analysis feature of the SURVEY spreadsheet tool allows us to evaluate the importance of the huge range in resuspension factors on the probability of inhalation of an active particle. For the work location, we recommend (and use in the example calculations) a log-triangular distribution with minimum, likeliest, and maximum values of 2×10^{-6} , 5×10^{-4} , and $1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^{-1}$. For the residence location, we use values that are one-half of those used for the work location, because roughly half that time is spent in little activity (i.e. sleeping).

Other Inhalation Pathway Factors. The SURVEY spreadsheet includes an inhalation rate (m^3 per hour) during work, which is allowed to vary over a range of possibilities, and an inhalation rate at the residence. In our example calculations, the inhalation rate at work is represented by a lognormal distribution with a geometric mean value of $1.5 \text{ m}^3 \text{ h}^{-1}$ [representing light activity such as simple construction or pushing a wheelbarrow ([EPA 1985](#))]. The distribution is truncated on the lower end so the lowest rate ($1.1 \text{ m}^3 \text{ h}^{-1}$) represents light activity such as level walking at 3 mph. The maximum value is $3.8 \text{ m}^3 \text{ h}^{-1}$, which is reached during activities like stair climbing with a load or chopping with an axe ([EPA 1985](#)). Another inhalation pathway factor is the fraction of the suspended particles that were inhalable. This is treated as an uncertain parameter in the SURVEY spreadsheet, with a conservative maximum value of 1.0. The term inhalable means the particle can be inspired through the nose or mouth, it does not mean the particle reaches or deposits in a certain region of the respiratory tract. See [Section 3.6](#) for a review of large particle deposition in various regions of the respiratory tract.

Other Skin Pathway Factors. A number of particles deposited on the body would land on clothing. In a photograph of the Camp Hanford mess hall taken in the summer of 1944, all of the men are wearing long-sleeved shirts and overalls or pants ([Seaborg 1994](#)). Table 12.22 of [Shleien \(1992\)](#) shows the surface area of skin represented by different areas of the body. In the SURVEY spreadsheet, both particles contacting the whole body and bare skin are considered. We use a triangular distribution for the fraction of the surface area of the body that is exposed skin. The most likely value considers the hands, forearms and head to be uncovered, which translates to 0.16 of the surface area of the body. The minimum value is only head and hands uncovered (0.10) and the maximum value of 0.33 represents a person wearing knee-length shorts and a sleeveless shirt.

An assessment of the effects of the active particle on the skin requires knowledge of the time that a particle attached to skin or clothing stays there. [Wrixon et al. \(1979\)](#) states that in practice, contamination on the skin rarely persists for more than a few hours but it can occur. Contamination is most common on the hands and face and can be removed by washing. [Jones et al. \(1998\)](#) obtained retention half-lives of particles deposited on skin that were between 1 and 3 hours. This translates to a mean residence time ($= T_{1/2} / \ln 2$), of 1.4–4.3 hours ([Whicker and Schultz 1982](#)).

Inadvertent Ingestion of an Active Particle. The most important exposure pathways for contamination on the skin surface are external irradiation of the skin itself and ingestion of material from the skin ([Wrixon et al. 1979](#); [NCRP 1999](#)). For derivation of contamination levels in the working environment, [Wrixon et al. \(1979\)](#) state that it is appropriately cautious to assume that a person ingest all the activity from 10 cm^2 of contaminated skin each working day. Ingestion of contamination from personal clothing was judged unlikely to be significant. This area of skin is 0.3% of the exposed area of skin assumed as our most probable value in the SURVEY spreadsheet. Therefore, we use a transfer fraction of 0.003 particles ingested per particle deposited on the skin with a uniform distribution ranging from 0.002 to 0.005.

3.5.2 SURVEY Spreadsheet Structure and Example Distributions

The SURVEY spreadsheet conducts the exposure assessment for various pathways by beginning with deposition density of active particles (number per unit ground area) in the person's environment. The output of SURVEY is the number of particles inhaled, ingested, or contacting the body or skin during an exposure period. If the number of particles contacted is much less than one, there is only a slight probability that contact would have occurred at all under those conditions.

For some places, times, and activities, the probability of contact with an active particle was high. In those cases, the number of particles contacted during the exposure period is greater than one, and a dose/effects assessment is appropriate. Example calculations are given in [Section 5](#) of this report. Also, other conclusions that could be drawn from the SURVEY spreadsheet are discussed.

The structure of the SURVEY spreadsheet is illustrated in [Figure 3-4](#). The distributions and values for uncertain input parameters used in our example calculations are summarized in Table 3-7. The particle deposition density is a custom distribution that depends on the example calculation.

Table 3-7. Distribution Types and Values for Uncertain Input Parameters in the SURVEY Spreadsheet

Parameter	Distribution type	Minimum value	Maximum value	Likeliest or mean value	Mean value in simulation ^a
Fraction of airborne particles that are inhalable	Uniform	0.4	1.0	0.7	0.70
Ground-to-body contact probability	Uniform	0.0017	0.014	0.008	0.0079
Inhalation rate at work (m ³ h ⁻¹)	Truncated log-normal	1.1	3.8	1.5	1.7
Resuspension factor at work (m ⁻¹)	Log-triangular	2×10^{-6}	1×10^{-3}	5×10^{-4}	1.0×10^{-4}
Resuspension factor at residence (m ⁻¹)	Log-triangular	1×10^{-6}	5×10^{-4}	2.5×10^{-4}	5.1×10^{-5}
Hours per day at work location	Triangular	7	9	8	8
Fraction of surface area of body that is exposed skin	Triangular	0.10	0.33	0.16	0.20
Transfer from skin to ingestion	Uniform	0.001	0.005	0.003	0.003

^aMean value in uncertainty analysis simulation after 10,000 trials.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	SURVEY SPREADSHEET WITH UNCERTAINTY ANALYSIS										
2											
3	EXAMPLE CALCULATION FOR ONSITE WORKER DURING PERIOD OF HIGH GROUND CONTAMINATION										
4											
5	PART I. INHALATION PATHWAY, RESUSPENSION FACTOR										
6											
7	DATA INPUT		COMPUTED								
8	VALUES		VALUES								
9	5277				ENTER particles per 1000 square feet at working location						
10			56.8		particles per square meter at working location						
11	8				ENTER particles per 1000 square feet at residence						
12			0.081		particles per square meter at residence location						
13	1				Factor for nondetectable particles, default = 1.0.						
14	8				ENTER hours per day at work location						
15			16		hours per day at residence location on a work day						
16											
17	60				ENTER exposure duration (working days)						
18	24				ENTER exposure duration (non-working days)						
19											
20	1.7				inhalation rate during working hours (m ³ per hour)						
21	0.9				inhalation rate during residential hours (m ³ per hour)						
22											
23	-9.23				ln of resuspension factor for local area disturbance during work						
24	-9.90				ln of resuspension factor for general activities at residence location						
25											
26			9.8E-05		exp (ln (resuspension factor for work))						
27			5.0E-05		exp (ln (resuspension factor for residence))						
28											
29			5.5E-03		airborne concentration of particles at work location (particles per cubic meter)						
30			4.0E-06		airborne concentration of particles at residence location (particles per cubic meter)						
31											
32	0.70				Fraction of suspended particles that are inhalable						
33											
34			3.1E+00		particles inhaled at work over exposure period						
35			2.4E-03		particles inhaled at residence on working days over exposure period						
36			1.6E-03		particles inhaled at residence on nonwork days over exposure period						
37			3.1E+00		particles inhaled over exposure period						
38											
39	PART II. GROUND TO BODY TRANSFER, EMPIRICAL METHOD OF SCHWENDIMAN (1958)										
40											
41	7.9E-03				particles m ⁻² transferred to body m ⁻² on the ground, per hour of walking						
42											
43	1.94				surface area of body (m ²)						
44											
45			8.7E-01		particles on body per hour						
46											
47			7		particles on body after 1 work day						
48											
49	0.20				fraction of body that is exposed skin						
50											
51			1.4		particles on skin after 1 work day						
52											
53	PART III. INADVERTENT INGESTION OF PARTICLE FROM SKIN										
54											
55	0.003				fractional transfer from skin to ingestion						
56											
57			4.1E-03		particles ingested over 1 work day						
58											

Figure 3-4. Structure of SURVEY spreadsheet. Uncertain input parameters (also called assumptions) are framed in a bold solid border. Uncertain output parameters (also called forecasts) are framed in a dashed border. Link to [Survey.xls](#).

3.6 Dosimetry of Highly Radioactive Particles

Persons working and living in contaminated areas were exposed to large “active particles” in several ways. This section addresses exposures when such a particle is inhaled, ingested, or resident on the skin. The first two of these pathways lead to irradiation of several organs and tissues because the radioactivity is distributed in the body after intake.

3.6.1 Estimating Deposition of Large Particles in the Respiratory Tract

Experimental evidence indicates that quite large particles can be inhaled, particularly under windy conditions (not uncommon at Hanford). For still air, the inhalability of particles with aerodynamic diameters in the range of 30–100 μm is estimated from numerous experimental measurements to be about 0.5. The data also show that the inhalability of particles with diameters of 75–90 μm is not greatly different from one for a wind speed of 9 m s^{-1} and is between 0.7 and 0.9 for a wind speed of 6 m s^{-1} (ICRP 1993b). Unless specific information is available that can be used to make a better estimate, it is assumed that the inhalability of resuspended particles can be as high as one. The SURVEY spreadsheet allows this parameter to range from 0.4 to 1.0 (Table 3.7).

Particles with aerodynamic diameters greater than 10–20 μm are normally not considered respirable, meaning that they are not likely to reach the deep lung (pulmonary region). When such particles are inhaled, they are deposited primarily in the extra-thoracic region of the respiratory tract (nose, naso-oropharyngeal cavities and larynx) and in the larger bronchial airways. Particles deposited in the anterior part of the nose will remain until removed by nose blowing. The clearance half-time for such deposits is estimated to be 17 h. The majority of particles passing beyond the nose or breathed through the mouth would be deposited in other parts of the extra-thoracic region, with a small fraction reaching the bronchial regions of the lung. These particles will be cleared quickly, swallowed, and will pass through the gastro-intestinal tract. Clearance half-times from the extra-thoracic and upper bronchial region are between 10 and 100 minutes (ICRP 1993b).

The distribution of deposited particles depends on the breathing rate, which is in turn dependent upon the level of physical activity of the exposed person. Table 3-8 shows the effects of activity level and of breathing habit upon deposition fractions for particles with an aerodynamic diameter (d_{ae}) of 20 μm . Tabulations for larger particles were not included in ICRP Publication 66 (ICRP 1993b).

For a reference worker who routinely breathes through the nose, less than one percent of the 20- μm particles are expected to reach the pulmonary region of the lung. The fraction is increased by about a factor of four for a person who habitually breathes through the mouth at the normal rate. The table shows that when the filtering effect of the nasal passages is lost due to mouth breathing, there is also increased deposition in the bronchial region. Information in ICRP Publication 66 (ICRP 1993b) indicates that the fractional depositions in the extra-thoracic cavities do not change rapidly as the particle size increases above 5 μm . Thus, it is reasonable to use the tabled values for those two regions when even larger particles are inhaled. On the other hand, the deposition fractions for the bronchial and pulmonary regions decrease with increasing particle size in the 5 to 20 μm range. Extrapolations suggest that for any particle with an aerodynamic diameter greater than 40 μm , the pulmonary deposition fraction would be less than 0.01, regardless of level of exertion or breathing habit. Bronchial deposition also declines with particle

size, but the decrease is more difficult to project. The bronchial deposition fractions for 20- μm particles given in the table are taken as default values for larger particles.

Table 3-8. Estimates of Particle Deposition in Different Regions of the Respiratory Tract for Various Activities and Breathing Habits ([1CRP 1993b](#))

Category	Breathing rate (m ³ h ⁻¹)	Deposition fractions for particles having d _{ae} = 20 μm		
		Anterior nasal passages	Naso-oropharynx, larynx (bronchial region)	Pulmonary region
Reference worker				
Nasal intake ^a	1.2	0.32	0.33 (0.01)	0.0072
Oro-nasal intake ^b	1.2	0.13	0.43 (0.06)	0.026
Heavy work				
Nasal intake ^a	1.7	0.29	0.36 (0.02)	0.0065
Oro-nasal intake ^b	1.7	0.12	0.45 (0.06)	0.022
Light exercise ^a	1.5	0.32	0.34 (0.01)	0.0054
Heavy exercise ^c	3.0	0.16	0.44 (0.05)	0.010
^a Normal nose breather.				
^b Habitual mouth breather.				
^c Normal nasal intake augmented by oral intake.				

Table 3-8 shows that most 20- μm particles that are inhaled will be deposited in the upper regions of the respiratory tract. That will also be true for the larger active particles with which we are concerned. The particles that are deposited in the anterior nasal passages will irradiate nearby tissues until they are removed by nose blowing. Such exposures are similar to the situation when the particle is retained on the skin for time before it is removed by washing or other activities. Most large articles that pass beyond the nose will be promptly cleared from the respiratory tract and swallowed. That type of exposure is thus similar to inadvertent ingestion of an active particle. A very small fraction of inhaled large particles may be deposited in the pulmonary (or alveolar-interstitial) region of the lung. Table 3-8 shows that for a 20- μm particle the chance of this occurring is greater for a person who is taking air in through the mouth, either as the result of habit or because of the level of exertion. The chance of deposition in the deep lung is lower for particles with diameters greater than 20 μm .

3.6.2 Doses from Ingestion

The active particles that were emitted from T Plant and B Plant during the early years of operation contained several radionuclides. The primary contributors and the activity fraction for each of the beta-emitting radionuclides were listed in [Section 2.2.1](#). The alpha-emitting radionuclide ^{239}Pu was also present in the active particles, but the ^{239}Pu activity was much smaller than the total beta activity. The most radioactive particle identified as a result of the survey activities at the time contained a total of 3.2 μCi of beta-emitters. [Table 3-9](#) shows the estimated

doses to the most exposed organs and tissues for an ingested particle that contains 5 μCi of beta-emitters. Doses from ^{239}Pu are included in the totals; it is assumed that the beta to alpha (β/α) particle activity ratio was 100. Estimated doses to most tissues are insensitive to the value of the β/α activity ratio for these particles. Calculations were made for β/α values ranging from 3000 to 100 and showed that only the dose to the liver varied appreciably. The liver dose for $\beta/\alpha = 100$ is about 80 percent greater than the dose for $\beta/\alpha = 3000$. The dose to bone surfaces also varied somewhat and is about 20 percent greater for a β/α activity ratio of 100. Link to [Ingestion.xls](#).

Table 3-9. Doses from Ingestion of an Active Particle Containing 5 μCi of Beta-Emitters

Organ or tissue	Dose (rad) ^a from ingestion of a 5- μCi ^b particle ^c	Radionuclides that contribute most to the tissue dose
Gastro-intestinal tract		
Stomach wall	0.022	^{137}Cs , ^{144}Ce , ^{106}Ru
Small intestinal wall	0.040	^{144}Ce , ^{137}Cs , ^{106}Ru
Upper large intestinal wall	0.22	^{144}Ce , ^{91}Y , ^{89}Sr
Lower large intestinal wall	0.63	^{144}Ce , ^{91}Y , ^{89}Sr
Bone surfaces	0.46	^{90}Sr , ^{239}Pu , ^{137}Cs , ^{89}Sr
Red marrow	0.19	^{90}Sr , ^{137}Cs , ^{89}Sr
Liver	0.036	^{239}Pu , ^{137}Cs , ^{144}Ce
Kidneys	0.015	^{137}Cs , ^{90}Sr , ^{106}Ru
Bladder wall	0.016	^{137}Cs , ^{90}Sr , ^{106}Ru
Ovaries	0.021	^{137}Cs , ^{95}Zr , ^{103}Ru
Uterus	0.017	^{137}Cs , ^{90}Sr , ^{106}Ru
Testes	0.015	^{137}Cs , ^{90}Sr , ^{106}Ru

^a Based on dose coefficients given in ICRP Publications 67, 56, and 30 (for ^{89}Sr and ^{91}Y). To obtain doses in gray, divide tabled values by 100.

^b An activity of 5 μCi corresponds to an activity of 1.85×10^5 Bq.

^c The ratio of beta- to alpha-particle emissions was assumed to be 100.

Fractional uptake of these elements into blood from the GI tract varies from 5×10^{-4} for Ce and Pu and 1×10^{-4} for Y to 1 for Cs. Values for Zr (0.01), Ru (0.05), and Sr (0.3) are intermediate.

The table shows that the highest dose expected (~ 0.6 rad) is that to the wall of the lower large intestine. Doses to bone surfaces are nearly as high (~ 0.5 rad), followed by doses to the wall of the upper large intestine and to red bone marrow (both ~ 0.2 rad). Doses estimated for the other tissues range from about five to 13 times lower than the bone marrow dose.

Ruthenium-106 was the most important isotope in the highly radioactive particles that were released from the REDOX Plant. Ruthenium-103 was also present, but does not contribute as much to the dose. Highly radioactive particles were reported to contain about 200 μCi . [Table 3-10](#) shows the organ and tissue doses expected from ingestion of a particle containing 300 μCi (11 MBq) of ^{106}Ru . The doses are much higher than those in [Table 3-9](#) because the particle activity considered is substantially greater. The dose distribution reflects only the biokinetic behavior of ^{106}Ru . The largest doses are received by the lower and upper large intestines. Doses to

the small intestine and stomach also exceed doses estimated for the remaining tissues. Link to [Ingestion.xls](#).

Table 3-10. Doses from Ingestion of an Active Particle from REDOX Plant Containing 300 μCi of ^{106}Ru

Organ or tissue	Dose (rad) ^a from ingestion of a 300- μCi ^b particle
Gastro-intestinal tract	
Stomach wall	3.6
Small intestinal wall	6.2
Upper large intestinal wall	29
Lower large intestinal wall	80
Bone surfaces	1.7
Red marrow	1.7
Liver	1.7
Kidneys	1.7
Bladder wall	1.9
Ovaries	1.9
Uterus	1.8
Testes	1.7
^a Based on dose coefficients given in ICRP Publication 67. To obtain doses in gray, divide tabled values by 100.	
^b An activity of 300 μCi particle corresponds to an activity of 1.11×10^7 Bq.	

3.6.3 Doses from Inhalation into the Deep Lung

In this section we consider only those particles that reach the pulmonary region of the lung. The probability is small that a particle as large as those observed would reach the deep lung, but the possibility cannot be excluded. Further investigation of the probability of inhalation as a function of location and particle size is planned. Results will be included in a subsequent version of this report. For these calculations it is assumed that the particle reaches the pulmonary region of the lung and that it is not removed to the gastro-intestinal tract by mucociliary action and swallowing. If it were cleared in that way, the situation would be quite similar to the single particle ingestion case discussed above. Instead, it is assumed that the particle gradually disintegrates into fragments and dissolves, and that the activity enters the blood and is then carried to other body tissues. In effect, single particles are assumed to be cleared in the same way as a collection of small particles.

[Table 3-11](#) contains the estimated doses for such a scenario and a particle containing 5 μCi of beta emitters. The doses were estimated using ICRP dose coefficients for type S material, corrected to reflect the assumed deposition of all the activity in the particle in the deep lung. Estimated doses for particles of absorption types M or S would be lower. Given the assumed exposure conditions, it is not surprising that the estimated dose to the lung is highest, ~40 rad.

This dose estimate is based upon standard dose coefficients that assume the presence of many particles distributed throughout the lung. For a single particle, doses to a small area of the lung would be much higher and doses to other portions would be substantially lower. Doses to bone surfaces and to the liver are also higher than doses to other tissues. Beta-particle irradiation of the tissues in the gastro-intestinal tract, which was very important for the particle ingestion case, is minimal because it is assumed that radioactivity is not swallowed. The doses presented are for a β/α ratio of about 30,000. Smaller β/α ratios lead to a particle that has an aerodynamic diameter greater than 20 μm , and such a particle is unlikely to reach the deep lung. Plutonium-239 accounts for only a small fraction of most tissue doses.

Particles with a β/α ratio of 100 would have aerodynamic diameters greater than 20 μm , unless the ^{239}Pu activity was less than about 0.17 nCi. The corresponding beta activity would be 17 nCi. Inhalation of such a particle would produce doses smaller than those shown in Table 3-11. Link to [Inhalation.xls](#).

Table 3-11. Estimated Doses from Deposition in the Deep Lung of an Active Particle Containing 5 μCi of Beta-Emitters

Organ or tissue	Dose (rad) ^a from inhalation of a 5- μCi ^b particle ^c	Radionuclides that contribute most to the tissue dose
Adrenals	0.12	^{137}Cs , ^{95}Zr , ^{144}Ce
Bladder wall	0.011	^{137}Cs , ^{144}Ce , ^{106}Ru
Bone surfaces	0.34	^{90}Sr , ^{144}Ce , ^{239}Pu
Red bone marrow	0.18	^{90}Sr , ^{144}Ce , ^{137}Cs
Breast	0.12	^{137}Cs , ^{95}Zr , ^{144}Ce
Kidneys	0.043	^{137}Cs , ^{95}Zr , ^{144}Ce
Liver	0.35	^{144}Ce , ^{137}Cs , ^{95}Zr
Lung	41	^{144}Ce , ^{90}Sr , ^{91}Y
Ovaries	0.020	^{137}Cs , ^{144}Ce , ^{95}Zr
Spleen	0.084	^{137}Cs , ^{95}Zr , ^{144}Ce
Testes	0.0081	^{144}Ce , ^{137}Cs , ^{106}Ru
Thymus	0.14	^{137}Cs , ^{144}Ce , ^{95}Zr
Uterus	0.014	^{137}Cs , ^{144}Ce , ^{95}Zr

^a Based on dose coefficients given in ICRP Publications 71 and 30 (for ^{91}Y). To obtain doses in gray, divide tabled values by 100.

^b An activity of 5 μCi corresponds to an activity of 1.85×10^5 Bq.

^c The ratio of beta- to alpha-particle emissions was assumed to be 30,000.

Estimates of the doses due to inhalation of active ruthenium particles released from the REDOX Plant must also consider particle size. These particles resulted from sequential or co-deposition of ruthenium tetroxide and ammonium nitrate on the walls of the exhaust ventilation system. The effective density of the flakes that were resuspended and released was likely intermediate between the density of ruthenium tetroxide (about 3.3 g cm^{-3}) or ruthenium dioxide (about 2.0 g cm^{-3}) and ammonium nitrate (about 1.7 g cm^{-3}). An effective density of about 3 g cm^{-3} is assumed. Because the particles were generally observed as flakes, a shape factor of two is assumed. For such a particle with an aerodynamic diameter of 20 μm , the equivalent physical diameter is estimated to be about 16 μm .

The mass of a spherical particle with a diameter of 16 μm and a density of 3 g cm^{-3} is about 51 ng. The fraction of the total mass that is ruthenium depends upon the relative amounts of ruthenium oxides and ammonium nitrate, which are unknown. Perhaps about 20 ng would be ruthenium. Of this, most would be the stable isotopes of ^{101}Ru , ^{102}Ru , and ^{104}Ru , all of which have fission yields (^{235}U , thermal neutrons) substantially greater than that of ^{106}Ru (Katacoff 1960). About 3.5% of the mass of ruthenium in these particles would be radioactive (^{103}Ru and ^{106}Ru), with ^{106}Ru accounting for about 95% of that mass. The ^{106}Ru activity of the 20 μm aerodynamic diameter particle under consideration is estimated to be about 2.2 μCi , and the ^{103}Ru activity would be about 1.2 μCi .

[Table 3-12](#) contains the doses estimated for such a particle (ICRP absorption type S) if it deposited in the deep lung. As before, it is assumed that clearance via the bronchial tree does not occur. Link to [Inhalation.xls](#).

Table 3-12. Estimated Doses from Deposition in the Deep Lung of an Active Particle ($d_{ae} = 20 \mu\text{m}$) from REDOX Plant

Organ or tissue	Dose (rad) ^{a,b}
Adrenals	0.081
Bladder wall	0.020
Bone surfaces	0.046
Red bone marrow	0.058
Breast	0.097
Kidneys	0.040
Liver	0.053
Lung	40
Ovaries	0.026
Spleen	0.070
Testes	0.015
Thymus	0.11
Uterus	0.020

^a Based on dose coefficients given in ICRP Publication 67. To obtain doses in gray, divide tabled values by 100.

^b The particle is estimated to contain 2.2 μCi ($8.1 \times 10^4 \text{ Bq}$) of ^{106}Ru and 1.2 μCi ($4.4 \times 10^4 \text{ Bq}$) of ^{103}Ru .

3.6.4 Doses from Contact with Active Particles

The third type of exposure occurs when an active particle remains in contact with the external surface of the body. As noted, the contact could be with the skin or the lining of the anterior nasal passages. Particles may also come into contact with the eyes and ears. In all these situations, the dose received depends directly upon the duration of contact.

In recent years, two different types of “hot particles” have been observed in operating nuclear reactor facilities. These particles generally contain the activation product ^{60}Co in small fragments of metal alloys used in plant piping and valves. Other particles contain fission products associated with small uranium fuel fragments that have escaped into reactor coolant as the result

of fuel cladding failures. This second category of particles is more similar in radionuclide composition to the active particles released from T and B plants at Hanford, but the mechanism of formation and the content are different. In the last decade, the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements has issued two reports that address “hot particle” exposures (NCRP 1989, 1999). The most recent report describes the responses of the skin, ear, eye, respiratory tract, and gastrointestinal tract to high doses from hot particles in some detail. That information could be used when examining individual medical records for indications of extended contact with active particles and ruthenium particles released from Hanford. The report also contains recommendations for medical follow-up in the event such doses occur (NCRP 1999).

The primary contributors to the dose from Hanford particles were energetic beta particles emitted when the radionuclides in the active particles decayed. In the case of the ruthenium particles, the most damaging beta particle emissions come from ^{106}Ru that is produced when ^{106}Ru decays. Table 3-13 shows dose coefficients for two depths below the surface of the skin. The first depth, 0.07 mm, is that at which skin dose has historically been assessed, and represents the range of depths (0.02–0.1 mm) for the basal cells of the skin covering the head and upper body (ICRP 1991). The second (0.4 mm) is approximately the depth of basal cells for the palms and the soles of the feet. There are also radiosensitive cells at that depth beneath the surface on other parts of the body.

Table 3-13. Dose Coefficients for Radionuclides Contained in Hanford Active Particles

Primary radio-nuclide and (decay product)	Fraction of beta activity for T and B Plant particles	Dose coefficient (nGy h ⁻¹ per Bq cm ⁻²) at depth ^a	
		Depth of 0.07 mm	Depth of 0.4 mm
^{103}Ru	0.13	568	28
^{141}Ce	0.14	1538	169
^{95}Zr (^{95}Nb)	0.06	1288	86
^{89}Sr	0.14	1667	887
^{91}Y	0.23	1669	897
^{106}Ru (^{106}Rh)	0.03	1845	1165
^{144}Ce (^{144}Pr)	0.26	2630	634
^{90}Sr (^{90}Y)	0.05	3133	1384
^{137}Cs	0.05	1432	384

^a Dose coefficients for distances along the axis of a circular source with area of 1 cm² or a point source averaged over that area from Cross et al. (1992). Tabled values include contributions of radioactive decay products. For short exposure times, doses attributed to ^{95}Zr and ^{90}Sr would be overestimated because the half-lives of ^{95}Nb and ^{90}Y are 35.1 d and 64.1 h, respectively.

The dose coefficients in Table 3-13 are derived from the results of Cross et al. (1992) who evaluated doses from small contaminated areas on the skin. They considered a source diameter of 1 cm² with a uniform activity distribution and performed Monte Carlo calculations of doses along the axis of the plane circular source. Their calculations are for an air-water interface, which is a reasonable approximation of the air-skin interface. The results are applicable to a point source whose activity is averaged over the same surface area. The doses estimated are those along a vertical line through the center of the circular area, which extends downward below the skin

surface. Doses at distances away from the axis at the same depth would be lower because the distance from the source is larger. As would be expected, the results of [Cross et al.](#) (1992) are somewhat lower than those for uniform contamination of the skin ([Kocher and Eckerman](#) 1987).

For a Hanford active particle that contained 5 μCi (1.85×10^5 Bq), total dose rates at tissue depths of 0.07 and 0.4 mm are estimated to be 36 rad h^{-1} and 12 rad h^{-1} , respectively. The principal contributors to the dose rate at 0.07 mm are $^{144}\text{Ce-Pr}$ (35%), ^{91}Y (20%), ^{89}Sr (12%), and ^{141}Ce (11%). At the depth of 0.4 mm, the dose rate is due primarily to ^{91}Y (32%), $^{144}\text{Ce-Pr}$ (25%), ^{89}Sr (19%), and $^{90}\text{Sr-Y}$ (11%). Most of the latter contribution is due to ^{90}Y , and may be overestimated for short exposures. Link to [Skin.xls](#).

Information in Table 3-13 can be used to estimate the skin doses from ruthenium particles released from the REDOX Plant. We again consider a secondary ruthenium particle that contains 300 μCi (1.11×10^7 Bq) of ^{106}Ru . For activity that had a stack residence time of 3 months and release in the spring of 1954, the expected ratio of ^{103}Ru to ^{106}Ru activities is 0.56. Thus, the same particle would also contain about 170 μCi of ^{103}Ru . The estimated dose rate at a depth of 0.07 mm below such a particle is about 2400 rad h^{-1} . For a depth of 0.4 mm, the dose rate from such a particle is estimated to be about 1300 rad h^{-1} . Link to [Skin.xls](#).

As noted earlier, long term exposures to such particles have detectable medical consequences. These could occur if the particle were trapped in the nose or ear, near the eye, on the skin, or in a wound. Historically, a few cases were noted among T and B Plant workers, but our limited review suggests that the frequency of detection of lesions on contaminated individuals was generally low. Although there was no doubt contact with active and ruthenium particles, it would appear that either the particle activity was low or the retention periods were relatively brief.

4. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING DATA

4.1 Trends in Routine Measurements (1945–1955)

The first processing at 200 Areas began in April 1945. Routine sampling of environmental media, principally vegetation, was begun in the latter part of 1945 after the war ended and the secret mission of Hanford was made public. Quarterly reports containing environmental monitoring results were prepared following the first quarter of 1946. They were compilations of weekly and monthly reports and usually contained more analysis and discussion than the other reports. The first annual environmental report was for 1946 ([HW-3-5402](#)), but the next did not follow until 1958. For routine environmental monitoring data, we have relied most heavily upon the quarterly environmental reports published during 1945–1955.

In the period 1949–1953, routine environmental monitoring continued to expand and it included samples of vegetation and airborne particles throughout the northwest. The occurrence of radioactive particles in the Hanford environs from “a source other than the Hanford Works” (fallout from the atmospheric testing of weapons) was first reported in September 1949. The detection of fallout particles in air samples resulted in an expansion of the routine air sampling program and became an increasingly important aspect of environmental monitoring. Air sampling stations were located as far away from Hanford as Great Falls, Montana; Boise, Idaho; Klamath Falls, Oregon; as well as Seattle and Spokane, Washington.

According to [Conklin](#) (1986), surface contamination in the 1940s from Hanford iodine releases, as determined by deposition on vegetation, routinely extended to the southwest as far as the Dalles, to the southeast as far as Walla Walla, and to the northeast as far as Spokane. By 1950, small positive concentrations of ^{131}I continued to be found as far east as Lewiston, Idaho, and west to Hood River, Oregon.

By the mid-1950s, effluent and environmental monitoring included the following media and analyses ([Conklin](#) 1986):

- Effluent gases: ^{131}I and $^{103,106}\text{Ru}$ from the chemical processing plants; ^3H , ^{14}C , ^{35}S from the reactors; total alpha and beta from all plants
- Vegetation: ^{131}I and nonvolatile beta
- Dose rates: ion chambers
- Air: alpha, beta, ^{131}I , particle concentrations
- Liquid effluent to river: beta, selected isotopes, sometimes alpha
- River water: alpha, beta
- Rain: beta
- Drinking water: alpha, beta.

Beyond 1956, dose assessments began to be included in the Annual Environmental Reports. By 1957, a new technique, gamma spectrometry, became available for routine use in analyses of environmental and effluent samples. Because the highest releases of radioactivity from Hanford facilities occurred before 1956, we have focussed our analyses on data sets compiled from 1945–1955. The following sections summarize the data sets from this time period that we determined were useful for understanding historical particle releases from Hanford.

4.1.1 Ionization Chambers

DRAFT

[Hanf and Thiede](#) (1994) summarizes the early years of radiological monitoring at the Hanford Site (beginning with 1945). The locations and methods are described as determined from review of original documents. No data were compiled in their report; however, it is a good source of the original documents for each year. Some useful general information about early monitoring with ionization chambers at Hanford is excerpted here.

Ambient radiation levels were measured with several types of ionization chambers. These measurements give an indication of what external radiation exposures would have been to people in the areas. The field measurement techniques were basically being developed at the time, and thus were evolving. Early measurement units, called integrons, measured gamma radiation. Hanf and Thiede discusses reasons why the integron ionization chambers were unreliable in the first three quarters of 1945. Other units, called C type ionization chambers, measured both gamma and some beta radiation. An estimated 15-33% of the beta energy from ^{131}I was transmitted through the walls of the C chambers, which were made from ice cream cartons. In addition, other units called X, S, and M types, were used at various locations around the site and were similar to the C type. According to [HW-9871](#), the M and S chambers were cylindrical ionization chambers with 50% of the wall composed of 1-mil aluminum foil. They were placed in pairs at the various locations. Because the aluminum on these units was susceptible to scouring by desert sand, they were elevated on stands.

Although there were a confusing number of units used to express external radiation exposure measurements in these early years, the differences between them are not crucial when examining major trends. Radiation exposure measurements were reported in units of milliroentgen (mR) and milliroentgen-equivalent-physical (mrep) through the third quarter of 1953. The roentgen (abbreviated R) is a unit for defining exposure in the air to X or gamma radiation (ionizing radiation). The rep is an outdated unit of absorbed dose and is a measure of the amount of energy deposited in tissue as a result of exposure (in air) to X or gamma radiation. Beginning in the fourth quarter of 1953, data were reported in units of millirad (mrad). The rad is the traditional unit of absorbed dose and represents energy absorbed per unit mass of any absorbing medium from any kind of ionizing radiation. According to Hanf and Thiede, all three of these units are nearly equivalent, as the difference in energy deposited in tissue between all three is very small.

In May and July of 1945, it was felt that most of the positive ionization chamber readings were due to deposited activity on the ground and not atmospheric radiation ([HW-7-1115 DEL](#)). Exceptions occurred when high readings were found after stack gases were seen to be looping toward ground level under certain meteorological conditions.^a

Tables in [HW-9871](#) summarize weekly measured radiation levels between September 1945 and September 1946 and monthly levels for 1947 through April 1948. All measurements include natural background, which was measured by these instruments at about 0.3–0.5 mrep per day. [Figure 4-1](#) is a retouched map from [HW-9871](#) that shows the monitoring locations for C chambers and M and S chambers in May 1948.

^a HW-7-1115 DEL confirms that the effluent fumes from the stack were visible from the presence of brown nitrous compounds. Other reports refer to sampling “in the plume.”

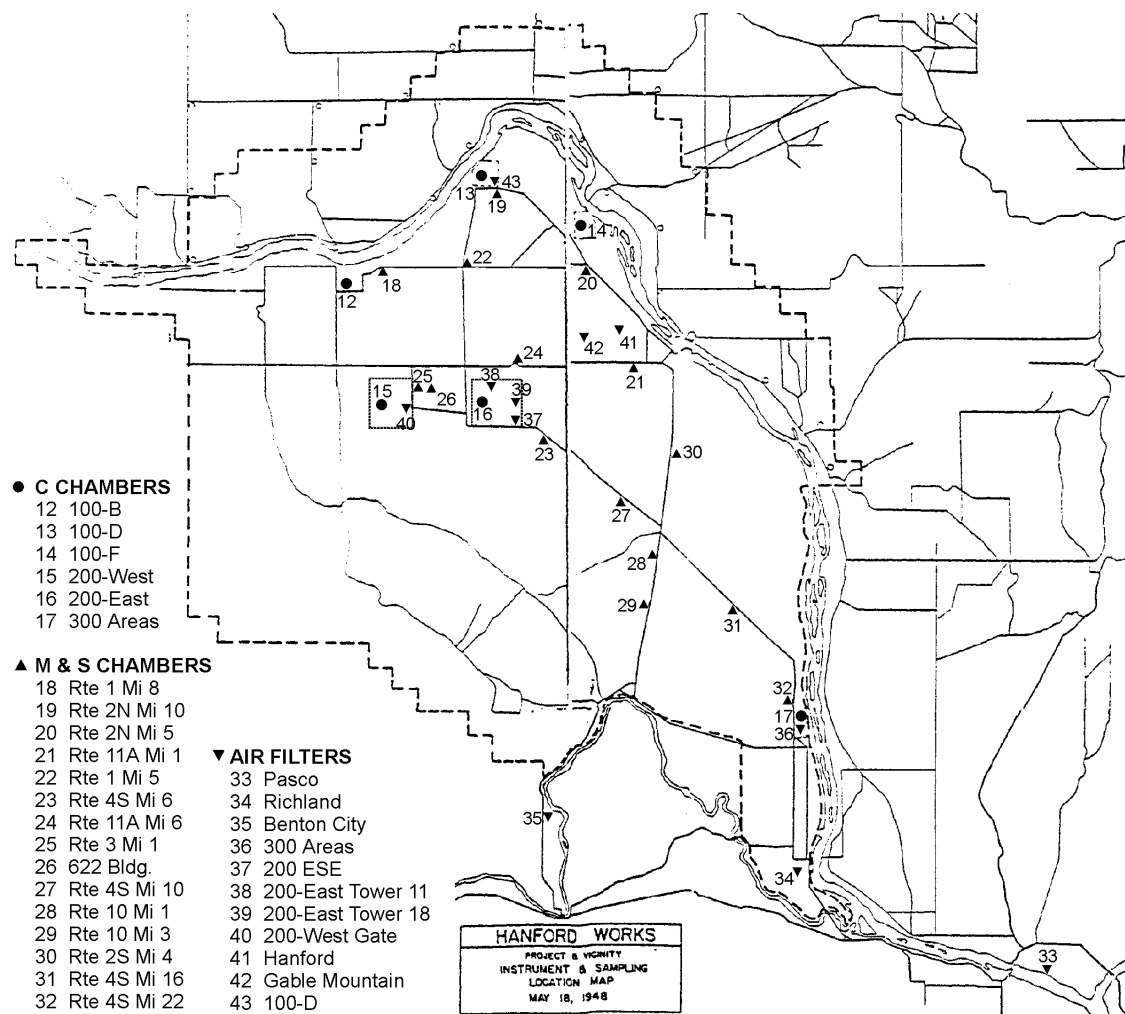


Figure 4-1. Locations for environmental monitoring of airborne radioactivity on the Hanford Works in May 1948. Legibility of the source map (HW-9871) was poor, so the legend and location symbols and numbers were redrawn. Also, river monitoring stations were removed from the original figure.

Figure 4-2 plots C chamber data for two locations on the Hanford Site: 200-E and 100-B. These are location numbers 16 and 12, respectively, in Figure 4-1. The highest value in the tabulations of C chamber results in HW-9871 is 1.9 mrep d⁻¹ for the 200-East Area during the week ending June 26, 1946. The excess radiation level near 200-East over this time interval, which can be attributed to releases from operations in that area, averages 0.4 mrep d⁻¹, or around 150 mrep yr⁻¹ assuming continuous exposure. The excess was determined by subtracting the value at 100-B from the value at 200-East.

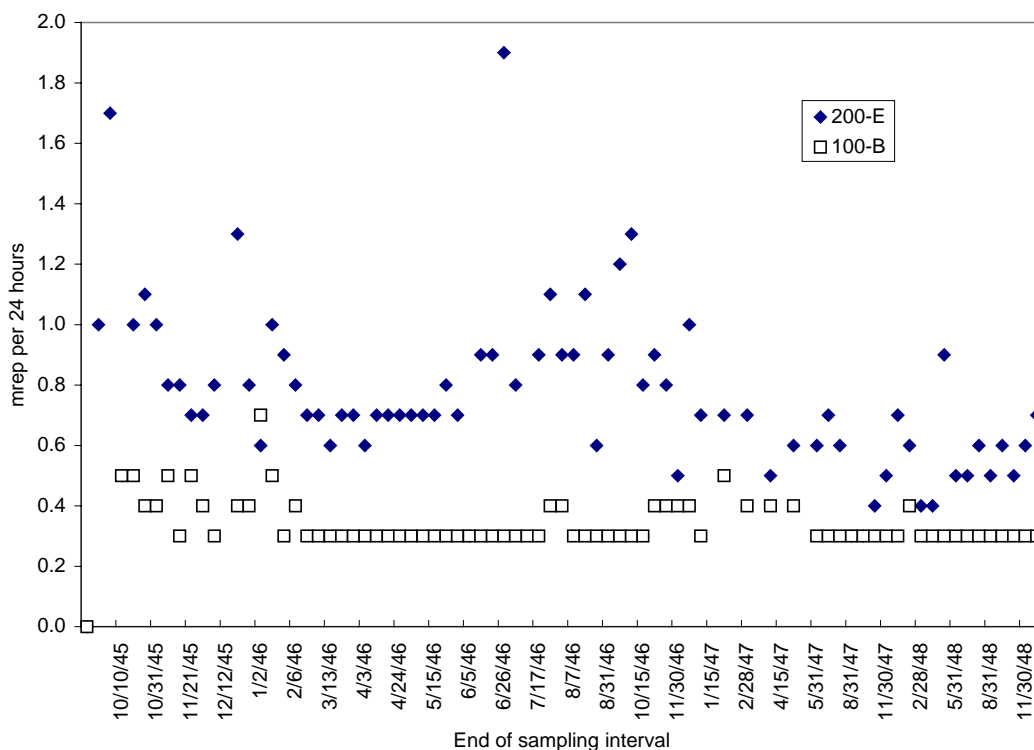


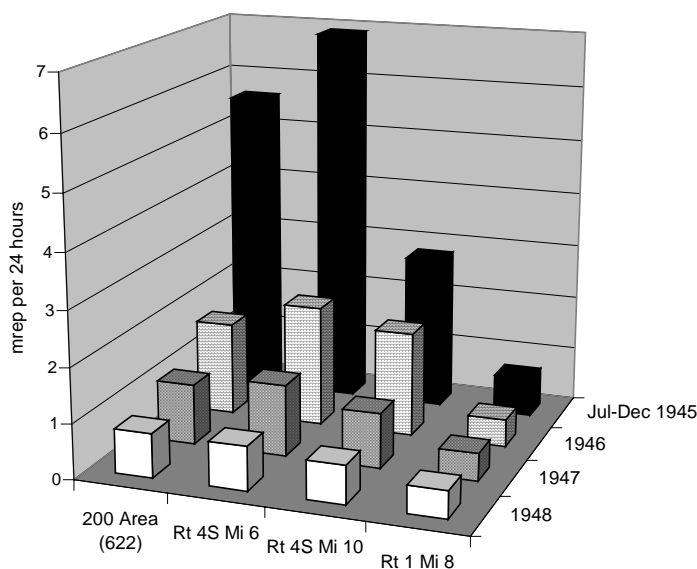
Figure 4-2. Radiation levels measured by detachable C chambers at two locations on the Hanford Site, 1945–1948. Levels at 200-East (separations area) averaged roughly twice those at 100-B (a reactor area). The average level at 100-B was 0.35 mrep per 24 hours, which is within the stated background range of the instrument (0.3–0.5 mrep per 24 hours), and the average level at 200-East was 0.75 mrep per 24 hours (data from [HW-9871](#)).

A similar data set was compiled from [HW-9871](#) for the M and S chambers. The exposure rate data for M and S chambers are always reported together in the same table of the Hanford reports, with no separation according to chamber type. Three locations were chosen to illustrate the decrease in radiation levels with distance from the 200 Areas. The locations were 622 building (also called meteorology), which is between 200-West and 200-East Areas; Route 4S, Mile 6; and Route 4S, Mile 10. These locations are numbers 26, 23, and 27 in Figure 4-1. Of the exposure rate chambers in operation at that time, the Route 4S, Mile 6 location was most representative of the military encampment that was SE of 200-East. In addition to these three locations, data were compiled for the Route 1, Mile 8 location (number 18 on Figure 4-1). The Route 1, Mile 8 location represents relatively low exposure to effluents from 200 Areas, based on wind frequency. The M and S chamber data begin 9 weeks earlier (July 1945) than the C chamber data set. Background for these chambers is also stated to be 0.3 to 0.5 mrep d⁻¹.

[Figure 4-3](#) illustrates the annual average M and S chamber results. Sampling frequency was weekly through August 1946, bimonthly through the remainder of 1946, and monthly throughout the remainder of this time period. Excess radiation levels were highest in 1945, averaging 6.5 mrep over background (0.3–0.5 mrep) in a 24-hour period at the Route 4S, Mile 6 location. The maximum reading at the Route 4S, Mile 6 location was 12 mrep d⁻¹ for the week ending October 3, 1945. In 1946, H.M. Parker estimated that the tolerance concentration of ¹³¹I on

vegetation of $0.2 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$ might produce $0.04 \text{ mrep hr}^{-1}$ (0.96 mrep d^{-1}) ([HW-7-5372](#)). Based on this relationship, the amount of ^{131}I on vegetation at Rt 4S, Mile 6 in the latter half of 1945 would have been $1.4 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$, assuming most of the exposure rate was from ^{131}I .

There were no locations at which both C chambers and M and S chambers were employed. Examining data from similar areas leads to the conclusion that M and S chambers recorded higher values than C chambers, especially in 1945. This must be due to a greater response of the M and S chambers to ^{131}I .



	200 Area (622)	Rt 4S Mi 6	Rt 4S Mi 10	Rt 1 Mi 8
□ 1948	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5
▒ 1947	1.1	1.3	1	0.5
▓ 1946	1.7	2.2	1.9	0.5
■ Jul-Dec 1945	5.6	6.9	2.8	0.7

Figure 4-3. Annual average radiation levels measured at four locations on the Hanford Site by M and S detachable chambers between July 1945 and the end of 1948. Route 4S runs southeast from 200 Areas. Of the locations shown here, the Route 4S, Mile 6 location is most representative of the military encampment that was closest to 200-East. Excess radiation levels were highest in 1945, averaging 6.5 mrep d^{-1} over background ($0.3\text{-}0.5 \text{ mrep d}^{-1}$) at the Route 4S, Mile 6 location.

A review of the environmental reports through 1955 indicated that the M and S chambers were used at locations of greatest interest to this task. Therefore, we focused only on the M and S chamber exposure rate data for 1949–1955. In the first quarter of 1951, three new M and S-type detachable ionization chamber locations were established in new construction areas and near military encampments ([HW-21214](#)). The station near a military camp was at Route 4S, Mile 2.5. In 1952, monitoring at other military installations near 200 Areas began. There was a 32-month period, between April 1952 and November 1954, during which exposure rate monitoring was conducted at four military installations near the 200 Areas as well as in the REDOX area and at the REDOX perimeter. A statistical summary of those results is shown in [Table 4-1](#). Maps locating these military installations are given in [Section 3.1](#).

The exact locations of the REDOX perimeter and REDOX area measurement stations are not specified in the quarterly reports. Table 4-1 clearly shows that exposure rates at the REDOX perimeter are increased during this period of high ruthenium releases (see [Section 2.2.2](#)). In addition, the exposure rate measurements at the military installations are higher than the measurements at the upwind location at Route 1, Mile 8. The army camp H-50, which is 3.4 km S of REDOX, shows the largest range of exposure rates. The maximum value there was a monthly average of 5.8 mrad d⁻¹ in February 1954. Next most affected were H-61 and H-51, camps to the W of REDOX. Their maximum values were measured in April 1954 and December 1953, respectively.

Table 4-1. Descriptive Statistics for Monthly Average Exposure Rates (expressed as mrep or mrad per day) near the REDOX Plant, at Four Military Installations, and at an Upwind Location (Route 1, Mile 8) between April 1952 and November 1954

Statistic	REDOX perimeter	REDOX area	PSN330 (aka H-40) ^a	PSN 320 (aka H-50)	PSN 310 (aka H-51)	PSN 300 (aka H-61)	Rt. 1, Mi 8
Mean	8.5	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.5	0.60
Standard Error	2.0	0.11	0.065	0.18	0.14	0.13	0.029
Median	2.9	1.1	0.96	1.1	1.0	1.4	0.60
Standard Deviation	11.6	0.63	0.35	1.0	0.79	0.73	0.16
Range	36.8	2.4	1.4	5.5	3.1	3.6	0.64
Minimum	0.63	0.42	0.53	0.34	0.48	0.58	0.27
Maximum	37.4	2.8	1.9	5.8	3.6	4.1	0.91
Count	32	32	30	31	32	32	32

^a aka = also known as.

[Figure 4-4](#) illustrates the time period during which the REDOX perimeter station shows elevated exposure rates. The highest monthly average exposure rate was 37 mrad d⁻¹ at the REDOX perimeter in May 1954. The average there for the six-month period February–July 1954 was 31 mrad d⁻¹. An outdoor worker on a 40-hour per week schedule would have been exposed to 1.2 rad during this 6-month interval. Exposure rates from the beta emissions from ground contamination would have been higher closer to the ground. In January 1955, the most intense ground contamination in the immediate vicinity of REDOX (within 3000 feet of the stacks) had been maintained to about 6 mrad hr⁻¹ (144 mrad d⁻¹) at ankle level by the use of water sprinkling which carried the activity into the ground ([HW-34882](#)).

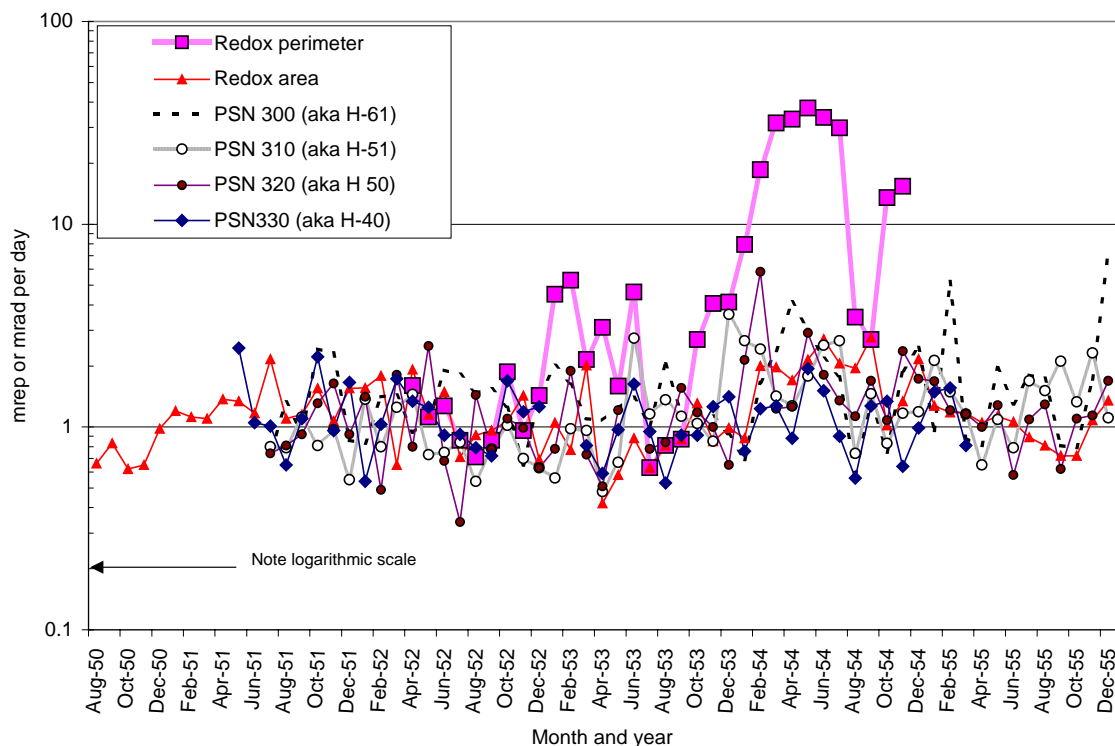


Figure 4-4. Exposure rates measured near the REDOX Plant and at four military installations. Measured exposure rates at the REDOX perimeter are the highest of all environmental stations monitored between 1945 and 1955. Monitoring at the perimeter was discontinued in December 1954, although monitoring continued in the REDOX area.

[Figure 4-5](#) presents a long-term perspective of the time trend in exposure rates at a single location between 200-West and 200-East (the meteorology tower, or 622 building, at Route 1, Mile 3). Exposure rates are highest in 1945 and 1946. Then, exposure rates are relatively low until the 1952–1954 period, believed to be reflecting releases from the REDOX Plant. A similar trend is shown in [Figure 4-6](#) for three locations along Route 4S, SE of the 200 Areas. The upwind location, Route 1, Mile 8, does not appear to be affected much by Hanford releases.

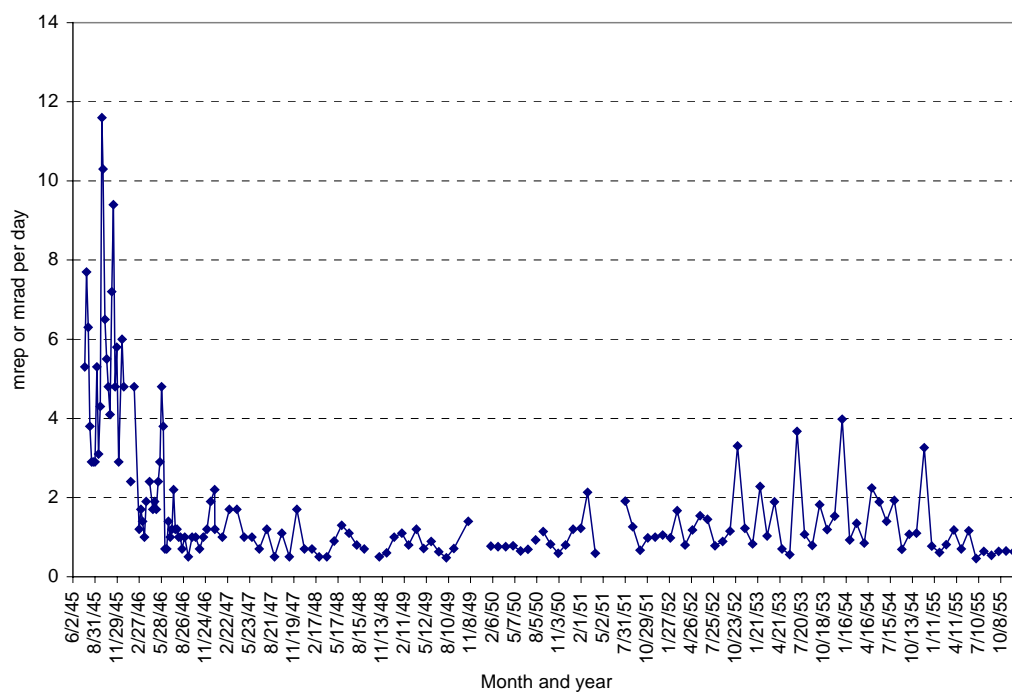


Figure 4-5. Time trend in exposure rates measured at the meteorology station between 200-West and 200-East.

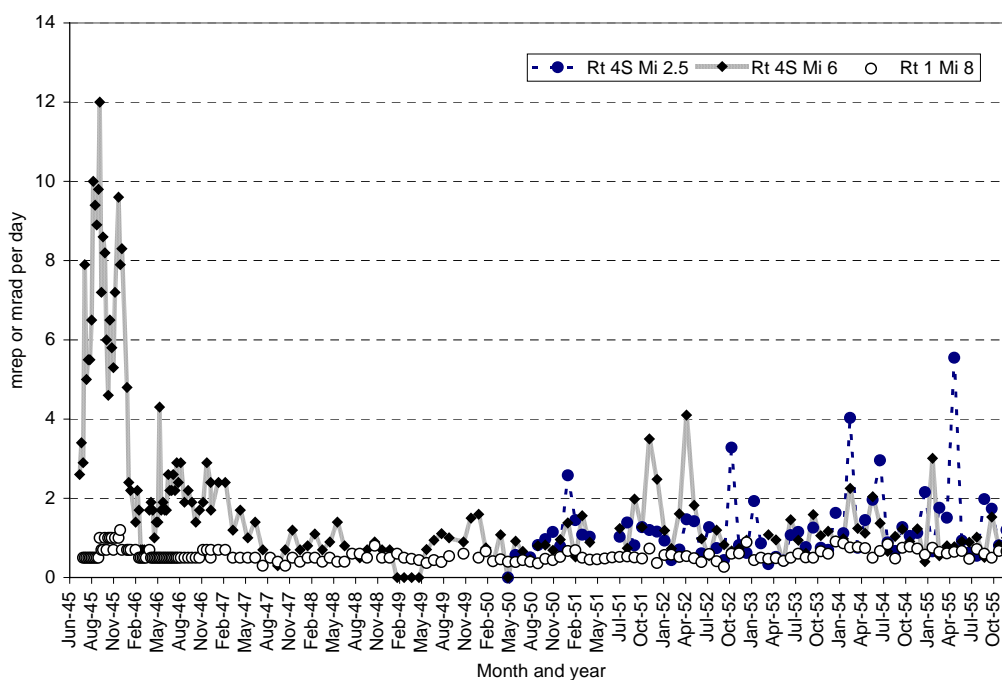


Figure 4-6. Time trend in exposure rates measured at two locations along Route 4S, SE of the 200 Areas, 1945–1955. The military installation PSN330 was between Mile 2.5 and Mile 6 along Route 4S. The sampling location at Route 1, Mile 8 represents an upwind exposure condition.

DRAFT

In summary, all available exposure data using M and S ionization chambers were compiled into electronic spreadsheets for the following 13 locations between July 1945 and December 1955:

- Route 1, Mile 8
- Meteorology, Building 622, Route 3, Mile 1
- Route 4S, Mile 2.5
- Route 4S, Mile 6
- Route 4S, Mile 10
- REDOX perimeter
- REDOX area
- Military installations:
 - PSN 300 (aka PSN 61)
 - PSN 310 (aka PSN 51)
 - PSN 320 (aka PSN 50)
 - PSN 330 (aka PSN 40)
 - PSN 42
 - PSN 70.

The data record was essentially continuous throughout this period for four locations: Route 1, Mile 8; Route 3, Mile 1; Route 4S, Mile 6; and Route 4S, Mile 10.

Radiation levels were highest in 1945 and decreased throughout 1946–1948. Maximum exposure rates at the REDOX perimeter in 1954 were higher than any measurements made in 1945–1946. However, measurements made continuously at a location between the 200 Areas (Route 3, Mile 1) throughout the 1945–1955 time period show that exposure rates there were higher in 1945–1946 than in 1952–1954. Measurements were not made at the REDOX perimeter location until about April 1952 ([Figure 4-4](#)).

Exposure rate measurements reflect all beta-gamma emitting radionuclides present, including radioiodine, which is not the primary focus of our work. Perhaps the majority of the high exposure rate measured in 1945–1946 was due to 8-day radioiodine. [Figure 4-7](#) illustrates the time trend in iodine and ruthenium releases and measured exposure rates between the 200 Areas and at the REDOX Plant perimeter. The annual average exposure rate between the 200 Areas is highest in 1945 when iodine releases are highest. However, exposure rates there also increase to 21–25% of the 1945 rate in 1953–1954 when iodine releases are relatively low and ruthenium releases are high. High exposure rates at the REDOX perimeter in 1954 definitely resulted from ruthenium releases ([Figure 4-7](#)).

The exposure rate data are useful for this work because they are some of the only historical measurements at locations where military personnel were actually exposed. The time trend also reflects total airborne releases of beta-gamma activity to air from Hanford facilities, which provides a valuable perspective.

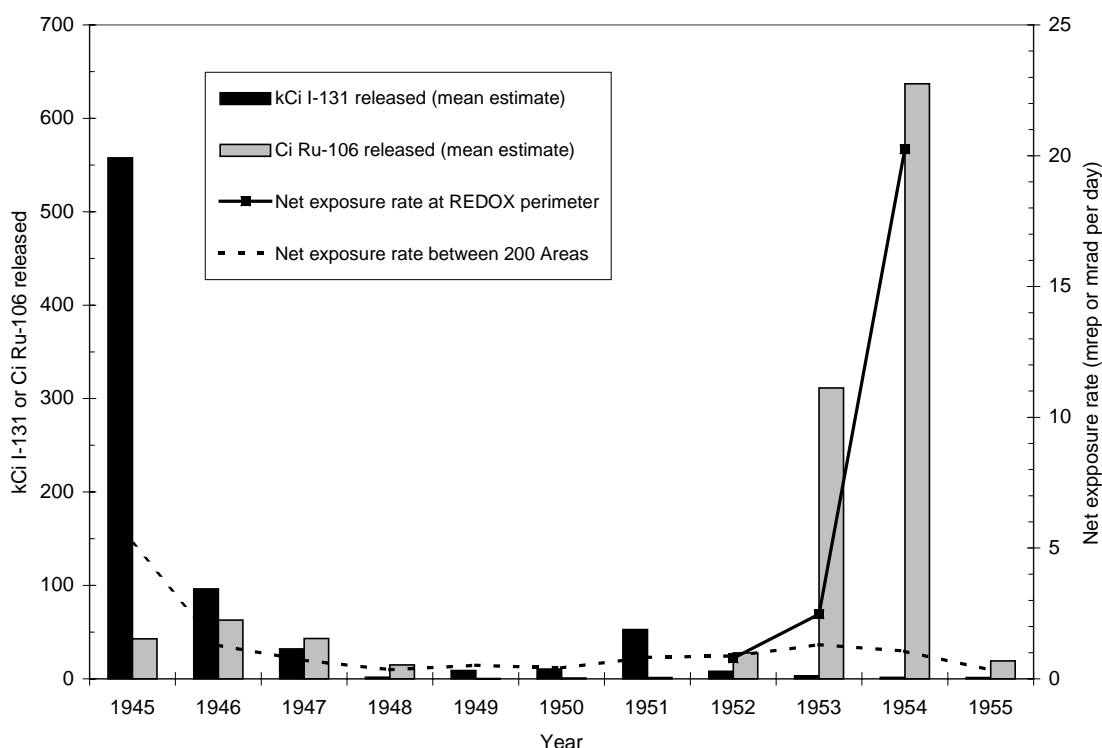


Figure 4-7. Time trends in annual ^{131}I and ^{106}Ru releases to air (see [Section 2.4](#)) and net exposure rates between the 200 Areas (Building 622) and at the REDOX Plant perimeter. A measured background exposure rate of 0.4 mrep per day was subtracted from the onsite exposure rate measurements to obtain net exposure rate.

Ground contamination surveys were conducted in the 1950s as part of the investigation of the REDOX ruthenium problem. Data from these surveys were sometimes expressed as dose rates (e.g., mrad per hour) as well as contamination levels in counts per minute. These data are reviewed in [Section 4.1.6](#) of this report.

4.1.2 Air

Beta activity. Document [HW-9871](#) presents summary tables of beta activity collected on ambient (i.e., in the outside environment) air filters between January 1946 and April 1948 inclusive. Air was sampled continuously through a filter of about 1-1/2 inches diameter at a flow rate of about $2 \text{ ft}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$. The filters were counted directly on thin mica-window Geiger counters. The sampling frequency was weekly ([HW-12677](#), [HW-13743](#)), and the reporting frequency was monthly. The samplers were located under a protective cupola type roof ([HW-13743](#)). At that time, corrections to the measured count rates were made for geometry, collection efficiency, and radioactive decay, with the assumption that all beta activity came from ^{131}I . Data that showed residual long-lived activity after the decay of ^{131}I were not included in this document.

The air filters were not very efficient collectors of iodine. Other methods were used to monitor iodine in air. However, partial collection of iodine by the filters must be considered in interpreting these data. The first quarter 1949 report ([HW-14243](#)) states that the CWS filter paper

used in the air monitoring program had been shown to be about 3.5% efficient for gaseous radioiodine. Collections with chemical scrubber solutions showed about 10^{-9} to 10^{-10} $\mu\text{Ci } ^{131}\text{I}$ per liter of air ($0.1\text{--}1 \text{ pCi m}^{-3}$) in the 200-West Area at that time. Decay studies in October 1948 ([HW-11534](#)) “continued to indicate that most of the activity collected on the air filters was of relatively long half-life material.”

The locations monitored by the Hanford contractor for beta activity in air during 1946 and 1947 were Pasco, Richland, Benton City, 300 Areas, 200-ESE, 200-East Tower 11, 200-East Tower 18, 200-West Gate, Hanford, Gable Mountain, and 100-D. The sampling locations are shown in [Figure 4-1](#), included in [Section 4.1.1](#) of this report. The highest measured values of beta activity in air in 1946–1947 were obtained from the 200-East Tower 18 location. The data for Tower 18, 200 ESE, Hanford, and Pasco are illustrated in [Figure 4-8](#). Units of 10^{-10} microcuries per liter, reported in [HW-9871](#), were multiplied by 0.1 to obtain units of pCi m^{-3} , plotted here.

Concentrations of beta activity in air were highest during the first three quarters of 1946, the earliest routine air monitoring data we have located. Monthly average concentrations at 200-East Tower 18 exceeded 100 pCi m^{-3} in 6 of the first 8 months of that year ([Figure 4-8](#)). Concentrations at that location had dropped about 100-fold by the first quarter of 1948.

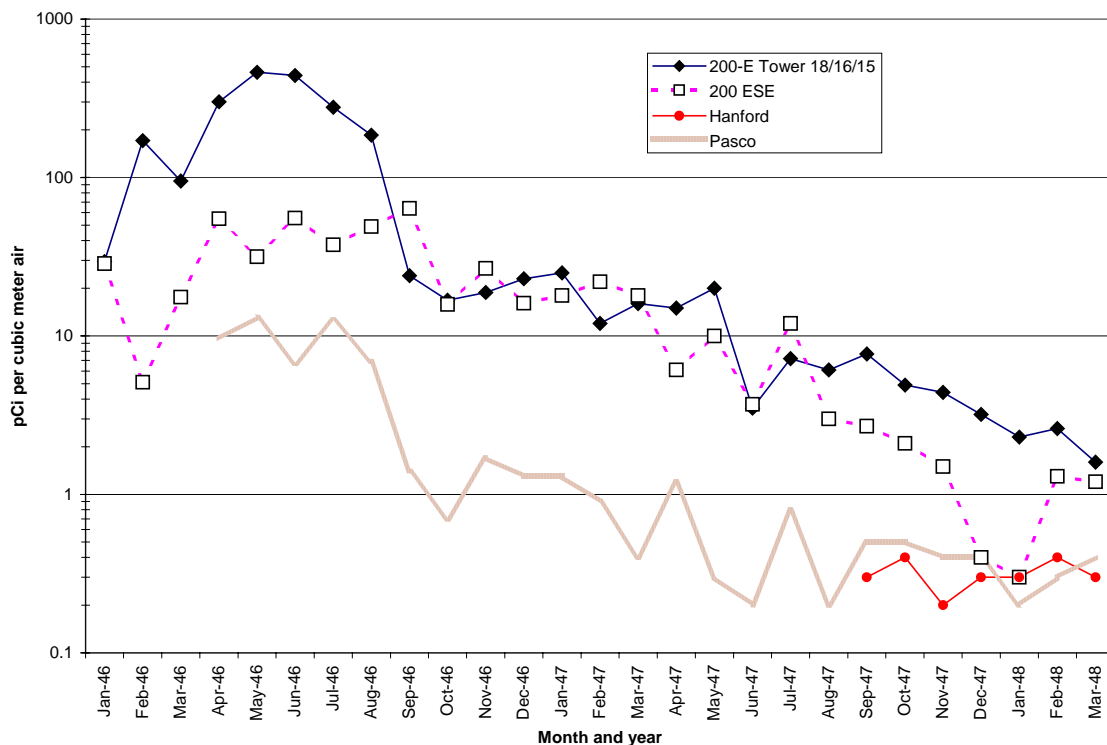


Figure 4-8. Monthly measurements of beta activity in air on and near the Hanford Site, 1946–1948 (data from [HW-9871](#)).

Operations began at T Plant in December 1944 and at B Plant in April 1945. We have found no routine air monitoring data for 1945. Document [HW-7-1115 DEL](#) states that fumes looped to the ground during three of the first five dissolvings and that concentrations 100 times the permissible limit could occur near the ground for brief periods of time. The tolerance

concentration for ^{131}I in the atmosphere on the site was about $1.0 \times 10^{-13} \text{ Ci cm}^{-3}$, or $100,000 \text{ pCi m}^{-3}$ (HW-7-2604).^b In the first quarter of 1947, the maximum value for air contamination was $1.7 \times 10^{-6} \mu\text{Ci L}^{-1}$ (1700 pCi m^{-3}) obtained using a hand pump filter unit near the 200-West Petrol Building during a period when the smoke fume was looping (HW-3-5511).

HW-8549 reports the results of a statistical analysis of air monitoring data from the third quarter of 1947. Average values are shown in Figure 4-9. No significant difference was found among samples taken at Pasco, Richland, 300 Area, and Hanford. Benton City was significantly higher than these other four locations.

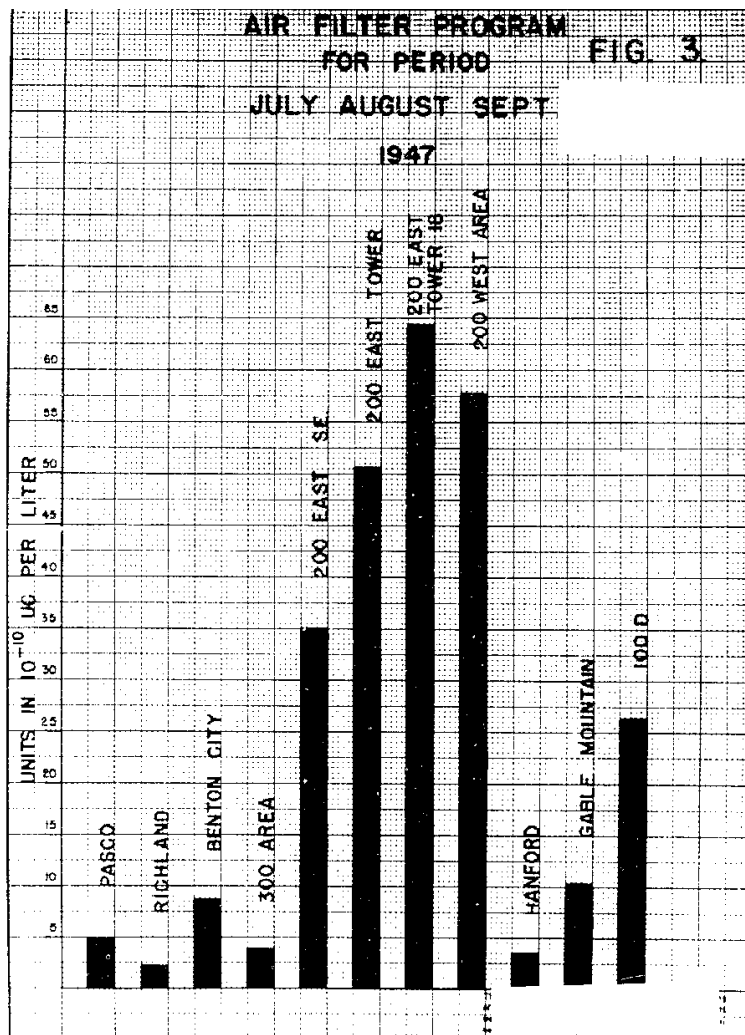


Figure 4-9. Total beta activity in air, third quarter 1947 (from HW-8549).

The air monitoring data set compiled from HW-9871 was continued using data from quarterly reports through 1955. Some of the locations shown in Figure 4-9 were discontinued and other locations were added. In the fourth quarter 1950, a new air monitoring station at the REDOX construction area had some of the highest nonvolatile beta measurements on the site

^b Using modern dosimetric methods, this concentration equates to an effective dose of 66 mrem d^{-1} assuming 24-hour per day exposure.

([HW-21566](#)). By the end of 1955, the following locations were being monitored for beta activity in air ([HW-40871](#)):

- Five locations in 100 areas
- Hanford
- White Bluffs
- 200-East Semi-Works
- 200-West West Center
- 200-West - REDOX
- Gable Mountain
- Military Camp, PSN 50 (later called H-50)
- 200-West East Center
- 300 Area
- 1100 Area
- Pasco
- Benton City
- Riverland.

Figure 4-10 provides a long-term perspective on beta activity in air during the early years of Hanford operations. In general, beta concentrations in air were highest in 1946. An exception was May 1951, when a silver reactor failure resulted in a monthly average concentration of 200 pCi m⁻³ at the 200-West Gate.

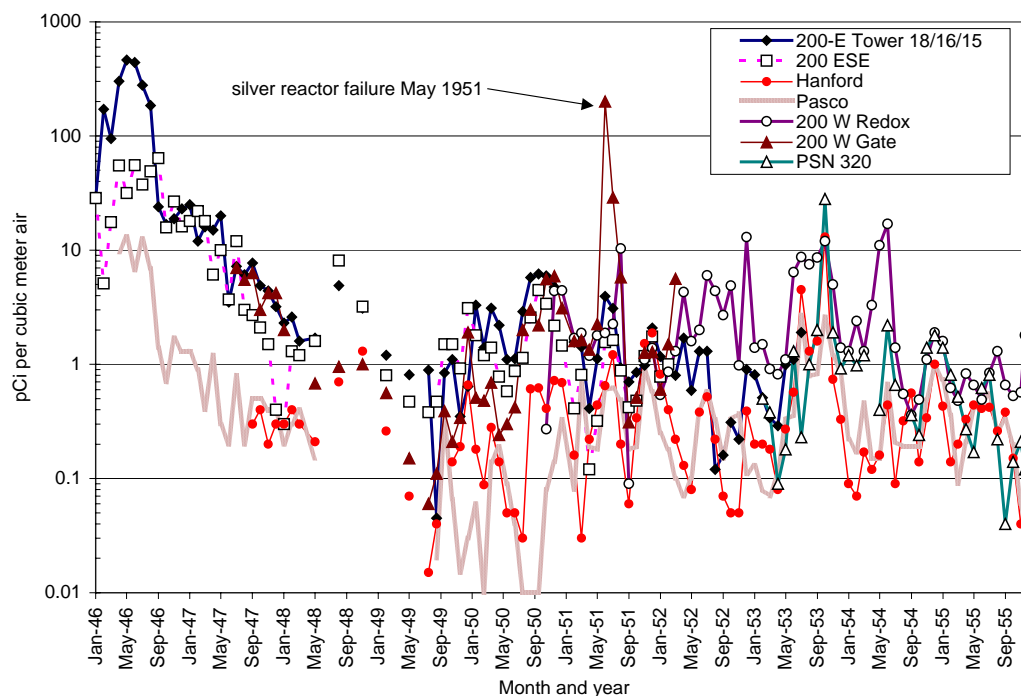


Figure 4-10. Beta activity in air on and near the Hanford Site, 1946 through 1955. Data are monthly averages, except for May 1948–May 1949, which are quarterly.

Table 4-2 includes the annual average concentrations calculated from the reported monthly or quarterly data. A weighted average was used in 1948 and 1949 to accommodate both the

quarterly and monthly reported values in those 2 years. [Figure 4-11](#) illustrates the same data graphically. The monitoring record at Pasco is the most complete over this time interval. [Table 4-3](#) shows the concentrations measured at the other locations relative to that measured at Pasco.

Table 4-2. Annual Average Concentrations of Beta Activity (pCi m^{-3}) in Air on and near the Hanford Site (1946-1955)

Year	Location						
	200-East Tower 18/16/15	200 ESE	200-West Gate	200-West REDOX	PSN 320	Camp Hanford	Pasco
1946	170	34					6.0
1947	10	8.3	5.0			0.30	0.59
1948	3.0	3.5	0.82			0.64	0.18
1949	0.82	0.97	0.43			0.17	0.085
1950	3.4	1.8	2.0	3.0		0.32	0.093
1951	1.5	0.86	20.5	2.2		0.63	0.41
1952	0.76	1.0	3.6	3.6		0.23	0.24
1953	0.86			4.6	3.1	1.9	0.84
1954				3.5	1.1	0.32	0.38
1955				1.1	0.33	0.28	0.16

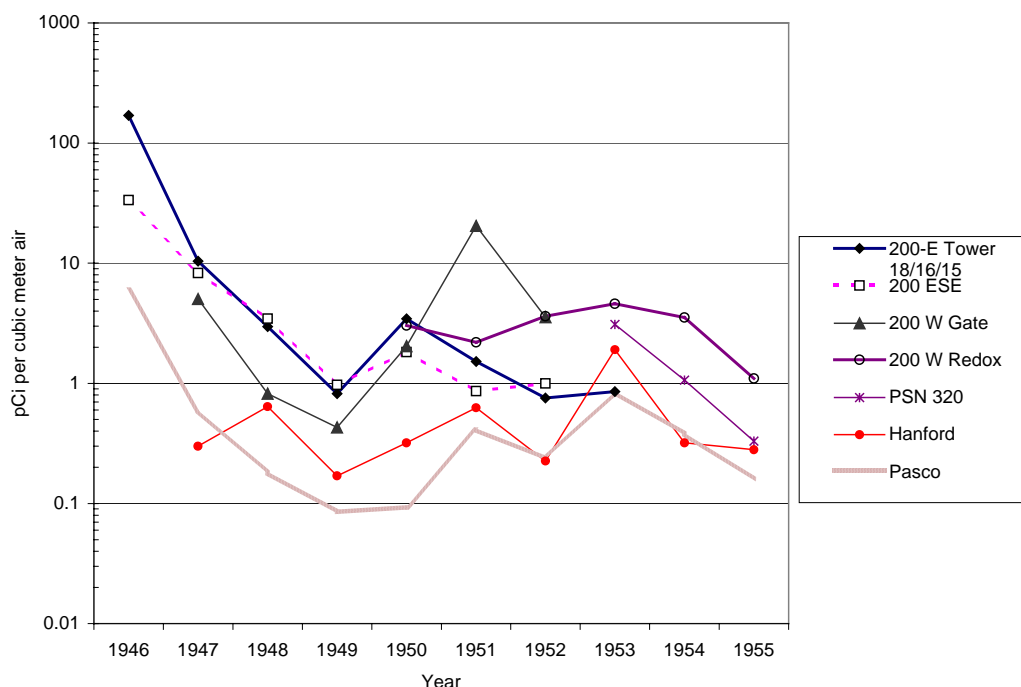


Figure 4-11. Annual average concentrations of beta activity in air at seven locations on and near the Hanford Site, 1946–1955.

Pasco is also a reasonable location to evaluate weapons fallout levels in the 1950s. At that time, fallout from nuclear weapons testing in Nevada and the Pacific sporadically influenced beta

activity in air throughout the northwestern United States. Hanford publications that address the fallout issue include [HW-20810](#), [HW-22072](#), [HW-28925](#), and [HW-33754](#). For example, February 1951, May–June 1952, and June 1953 were times during which weapons fallout activity was significant in environmental air samples. In the 1950s, hot spots from weapons fallout were more common than in the 1960s, when larger yield bombs were being tested, which injected their radioactive debris higher into the atmosphere.

Gross beta activity in air at Pasco is compared with measurements made by the National Air Sampling Network in two regions of the United States in 1953–1955 (Figure 4-12). The measurements at Pasco have roughly same magnitude and trending as the other stations, indicating that at this time, Pasco is a reasonable location to estimate the local background fallout levels for the Hanford area. Weapons fallout continued to increase in the 1960s, reaching a peak at most areas of the United States in 1963. Long-lived radionuclides deposited from weapons fallout in the Hanford area are discussed in [Section 4.2.2](#)

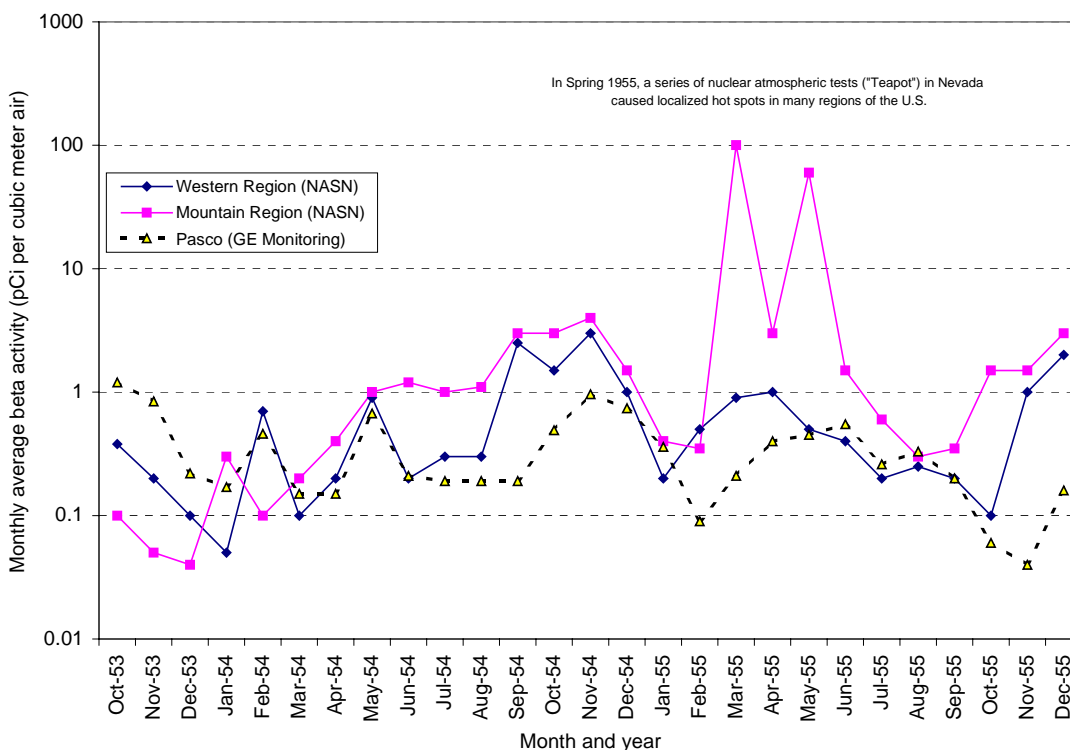


Figure 4-12. Comparison of monthly average concentrations of beta activity in air with measurements made by the National Air Sampling Network at two other regions of the U.S.

In 1946–1950, when fallout was relatively low, gross beta activity in air at Pasco was likely to be mostly from Hanford releases. Annual average concentrations of beta activity in air at the four 200-Area locations were 17 times higher (range 5–37) than those measured in Pasco (Table 4-3). This magnitude comparison agrees with the conclusions presented in [HW-7-5372](#) based on ^{131}I in vegetation in 1945–1946. Those vegetation data, presented in [Section 4.1.4](#) of this report, showed 15–20 times higher concentrations in 200-East Area compared to Richland. Vegetation at

Hanford in 1945–1946 was 3 times as contaminated as Richland, which was expected to represent the areas of Benton City and Kennewick as well. Similarly, the average beta concentration in air at Camp Hanford was about 2 times that in Pasco for the period 1947–1955 (Table 4-3).

**Table 4-3. Annual Average Concentrations of Beta Activity in Air
Expressed Relative to Pasco**

Year	Location						
	200-East Tower 18/16/15	200 ESE	200-West Gate	200-West REDOX	PSN 320	Camp Hanford	Pasco
1946	28	5.6					1.0
1947	18	14	8.5			0.5	1.0
1948	16	19	4.6			3.6	1.0
1949	9.6	11	5.1			2.0	1.0
1950	37	20	22	33		3.4	1.0
1951	3.7	2.1	50	5.3		1.5	1.0
1952	3.2	4.2	15	15		1.0	1.0
1953	1.0			5.5	3.7	2.3	1.0
1954				9.3	2.8	0.8	1.0
1955				6.9	2.1	1.8	1.0
Average of available years	15	11	18	12	2.8	2.0	1.0

Alpha activity. There was a limited amount of routine monitoring of alpha activity in air by the Hanford contractor during this time period. Reporting of these data began in the second quarter of 1951. A counter geometry correction of 52% and self-absorption correction of 50% were used. Data were reported as quarterly average concentrations. Concentrations as high as 8 femtocuries per cubic meter^c (fCi m⁻³) were sometimes reported as less than detectable. The available data through 1955 are plotted in [Figure 4-13](#). The highest quarterly average concentration was 43 fCi m⁻³ in 200-West Area at the end of 1951. In the second quarter of 1956 ([HW-44215](#)), alpha activity in air was near the detection limit of 4 fCi m⁻³ except for a weekly maximum at REDOX of 140 fCi m⁻³ after the “plutonium incident on June 18.”

In addition to these routine monitoring results, some information from special sampling was located. In the third quarter of 1952, four air filters were taken near REDOX area that contained concentrations of uranium, plutonium, and ruthenium of 0.18, 32, and 1600 fCi m⁻³, respectively ([HW-27510](#)). Other studies also showed that most excess alpha activity in 200 Areas is plutonium ([HW-9259](#), [HW-10261](#), [HW-15802](#)). In contrast, the alpha contamination in the environment of 300 Areas was more likely to be uranium ([HW-12677](#)).

^c A femtocurie, abbreviated fCi, is 10⁻¹⁵ Ci, or 1/1000 pCi. This unit is useful for alpha-emitting radionuclides in ambient air because concentrations are lower than beta-emitting radionuclides.

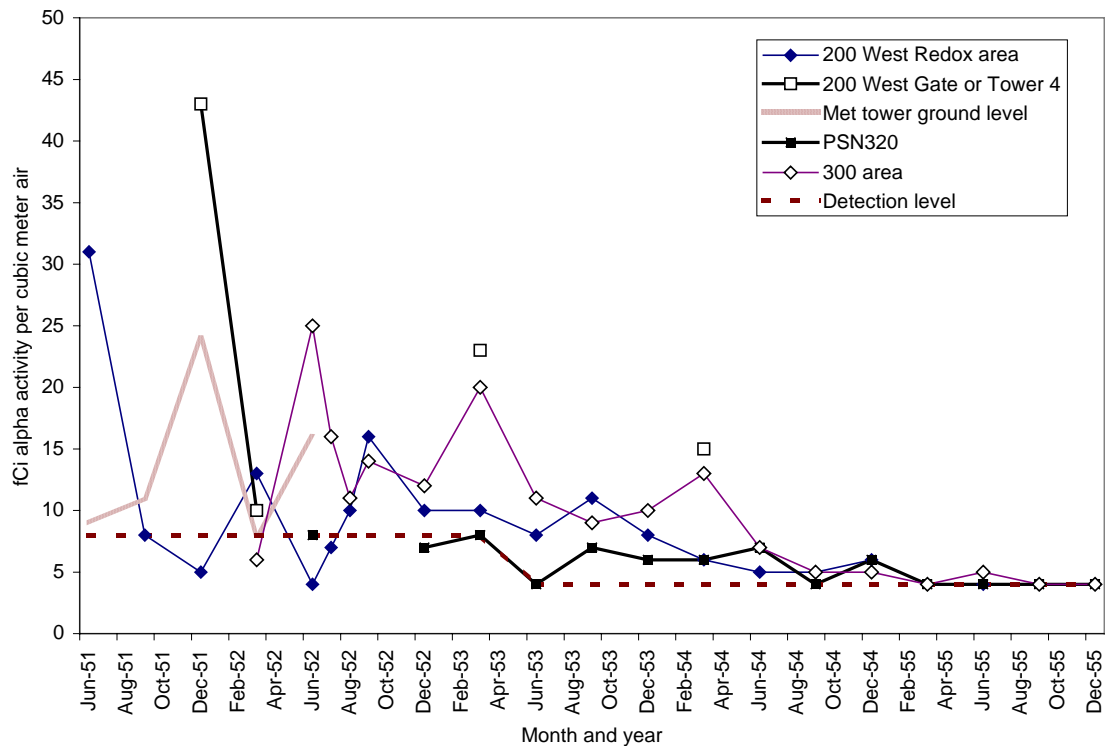


Figure 4-13. Alpha activity in air on the Hanford Site, quarterly averages, 1951–1955.

The uses of the early (1946–1955) air monitoring data for this project are limited by several factors including lack of knowledge about

- Radionuclides present
- The percentage of the measured activity that was from sources other than Hanford
- Information needed to assess data quality.

However, the time and spatial trends are useful as a check on the calculations based on estimated releases and dispersion. Because air sampling devices are inefficient collectors of large particles, the air monitoring data are not as useful as ground contamination surveys for assessing large particle contamination. However, the air monitoring data are more indicative of trends in concentrations of particle sizes that were respirable.

Monitoring of radioactive particle numbers in air samples is discussed in [Section 4.1.5](#) of this report.

4.1.3 Rain

Rain is another medium that was monitored for beta activity in the early years of Hanford operations. As of October 1946, there were 20 permanent rain gauges in operation from which samples were collected once a week if there had been any rain. The rain was evaporated after reducing free iodine with sodium thiosulphate to prevent its loss. The dried sample was counted on a thin mica-window counter. It was assumed that all activity was 8-day radioiodine. However, the third quarter 1947 report ([HW-8549](#)) notes that current experimental evidence indicated the presence of an

...active filterable substance in some rain samples. Preliminary investigation revealed that filtering of the rain removes most of the activity from the rain; a radiograph of the filter showed that most of the activity was sorbed out on the filter paper; small individual particles which were slightly more active than the overall contamination on the filter were isolated. The exact origin of these particles is not yet known. Decay curves of some of these very active rain samples indicate a relatively long half life.

Similarly, in the first quarter of 1948 ([HW-10242](#)), a rain sample collected at Riverland on February 23, 1948, indicated $0.0125 \mu\text{Ci L}^{-1}$ of beta activity that was confined to the filter rather than dissolved in the liquid portion of the sample. The half-life was greater than 8 days expected for radioiodine. The authors state, “This problem is under consideration with the problem of residual longer half-life material found in some air filters and vegetation samples.”

In the bimonthly “environs” reports of the Health Instruments Section ([HW-7-5042](#)), a maximum onsite and offsite value for radioactivity in rain is given beginning in September 1946. These are the earliest rain data we located. [Figure 4-14](#) illustrates the maximum reported concentrations in 1946 and 1947 for 200-West, 200-East and outlying areas, such as Pasco or Benton City. It is clear that concentrations in the 200 Areas are higher than offsite. On average, beta activity in rain was 26 times higher in 200-West and 11 times higher in 200-East than in outlying areas in 1946–1947. The highest concentration was $0.38 \mu\text{Ci L}^{-1}$ in a sample collected November 15, 1946 in 200-West. There was only one sampling period during this interval in which the outlying area concentration was greater than the onsite concentration.

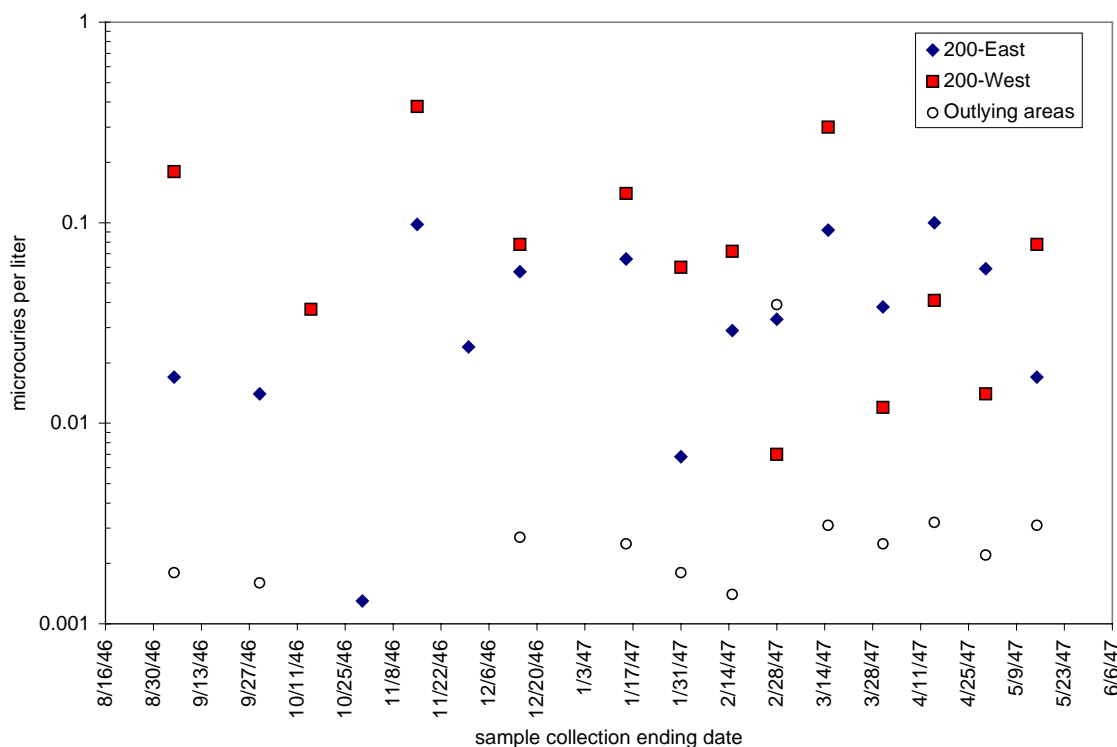


Figure 4-14. Maximum reported concentration of beta activity in rain in 1946 and 1947 at 200-West, 200-East, and outlying areas (e.g., Benton City and Pasco) (data from report [HW-7-5042](#)).

Beginning in November 1946, a bimonthly average value is also given along with the maximum concentration for the following grouped zones:

- Within 200-West Area
- Within 200-East Area
- Within the 100 Areas
- Intermediate Zone, On Area
- Outlying Zone, Off Area.

Report [HW-10242](#) clarifies these location groupings. All onsite locations *not* within the boundaries of the 200-East, 200-West, or 100 Areas were included in the group called intermediate zone. This intermediate zone, thus, represents exposure locations for military and construction personnel outside individual area boundaries. Locations beyond the Hanford perimeter fence were grouped as the outlying zone. A map of all the locations in January 1948 was included in [HW-9496](#); the map is included in as [Figure B-1](#) of this report.

A column chart of average beta activity in rain was included in the third quarter 1947 monitoring report ([HW-8549](#)). The influence of 200 Area releases on contamination levels in rain at this time is clear (Figure 4-15).

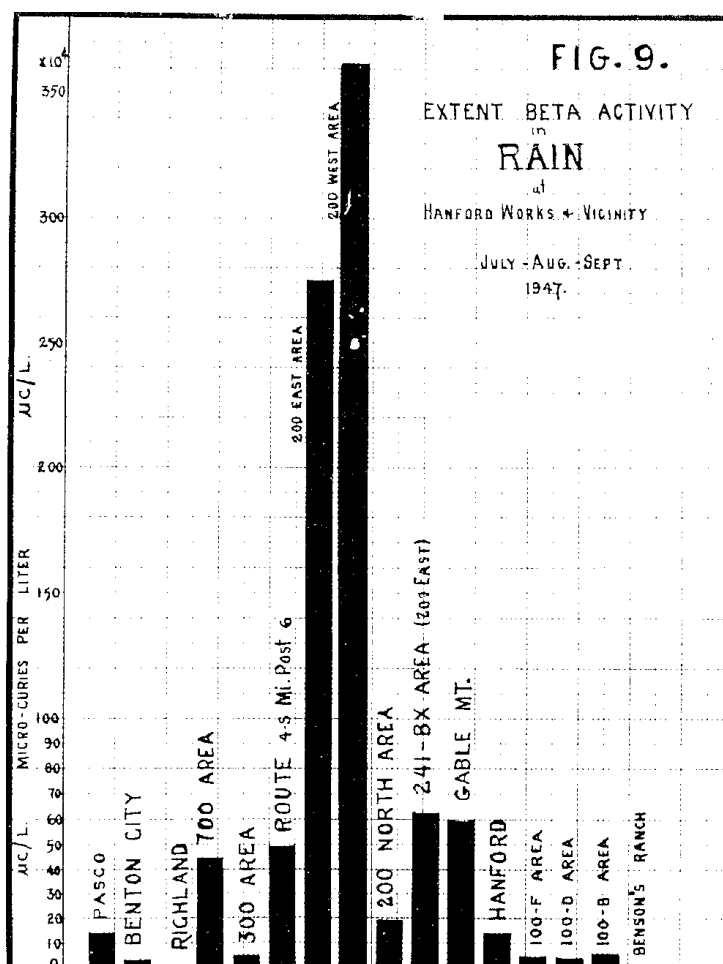


Figure 4-15. Total beta activity in rain, third quarter 1947 ([HW-8549](#)).

Beginning in 1948, the rain data are again presented as numerical values in tables, although as a quarterly average. We compiled the data from 10 locations for 1946–1955 into an Excel spreadsheet. The time trend for five of these locations is shown in [Figure 4-16](#). The rain data show more scatter than the air monitoring data. One reason could be that the air samplers capture relatively small particles, whereas the rain collectors catch all particles including the large active particles. On at least one occasion (June 30, 1952), an active particle was identified as contributing to an unusually high concentration in a rain sample from the Route 4S, Mile 6 location. The October 1948 monthly report states that there were about 100 active particles per rain sample per month in 200-East and 200-West Areas.

Weapons fallout also contributed to large variations in the beta content of precipitation. Known weapons testing fallout events in 1953 and 1954 overlapped with the high ruthenium releases from REDOX, making interpretation of the data difficult. About 1 week after the start of a series of test explosions at the Nevada Proving Ground during the latter part of March 1953, the number of radioactive particles in the atmosphere in the Hanford environs started to show considerable fluctuation ([HW-29514](#)). Large amounts of Nevada fallout arrived in late May and early June of 1953. Beta activity in rain was 10 to 1000 times higher after arrival of fallout. Concentrations as high or higher than onsite were measured at remote locations. See [HW-28925](#) for detailed summaries showing the magnitude of the contamination that resulted from this fallout. Fallout contamination of rain was evident again in August and September of 1953 ([HW-30174](#)).

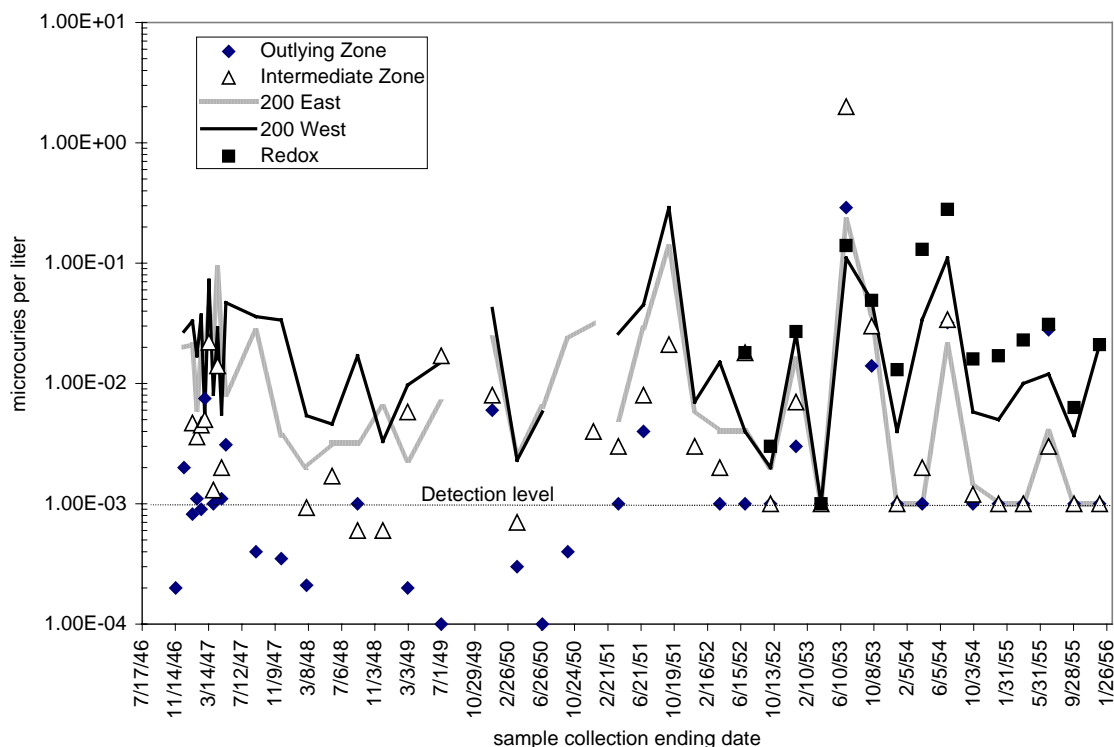


Figure 4-16. Average concentration of beta activity in rain, 1946–1955. Reporting frequency varied from bimonthly to quarterly.

Annual average concentrations in rain were generated from the reported data (Table 4-4). A time-weighted average was used in 1947 when both bimonthly and quarterly concentrations were reported. The time trend in annual averages for 200-West, 200-East, REDOX, and outlying zone is illustrated in Figure 4-17. The highest annual average concentration of beta activity in rain between 1946 and 1956 was 0.11 $\mu\text{Ci L}^{-1}$ from the REDOX area in 1954. This is consistent with the high ruthenium releases that occurred in that year. The first quarter 1954 environmental report (HW-31818) describes having collected seven snow samples on January 22, 1954. The beta activity concentrations in snow within 2000 ft SE of the REDOX stack were 100 times greater than at the military installation near 200-West.

The second highest annual average concentration was 0.092 $\mu\text{Ci L}^{-1}$ at 200-West in 1951. In 1953, weapons fallout events affected concentrations at most locations, resulting in a higher concentration at outlying areas (0.077 $\mu\text{Ci L}^{-1}$) than onsite. Before 1953, the annual average concentration at outlying areas was barely detectable ($\leq 0.002 \mu\text{Ci L}^{-1}$).

Overall, in the years 1946–1952, which preceded the effect of significant fallout in rain samples, the annual average concentrations of beta activity in rain of 200-East and 200-West Areas were 25 times higher (range 4–60) than observed in outlying areas. This is in good agreement with the magnitude comparisons made from air and vegetation data. These environmental data give an indication of the relatively greater exposure to Hanford releases for outside workers in the 200 Areas compared to offsite locations.

Table 4-4. Annual Average Concentrations of Beta Activity in Rain at 10 Locations on and off the Hanford Reservation, 1946–1955

Year	Location									
	REDOX	200-West	200-East	Inter- mediate zone	Meteor- ology	Rt 4S, Mi 6	Hanford	Pasco	Outlying zone ^a	Richland
1946		0.019	0.030					<0.001	0.001	
1947		0.032	0.021	0.007				0.001	0.001	
1948		0.008	0.004	0.001					<0.001	
1949		0.022	0.011	0.010	0.005		<0.001		0.002	<0.001
1950		0.015	0.016	0.002	0.007	0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
1951		0.092	0.044	0.009		0.007	0.007	0.001	0.003	0.001
1952	0.016	0.012	0.007	0.007	0.005	0.019	0.003	0.002	0.002	0.002
1953	0.051	0.041	0.067	0.508	0.032	0.003	0.008	0.223	0.077	0.009
1954	0.111	0.039	0.006	0.010	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.010	0.009	
1955	0.020	0.012	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.002	0.005	0.001	0.008	

^aOr Benton City, whichever is listed.

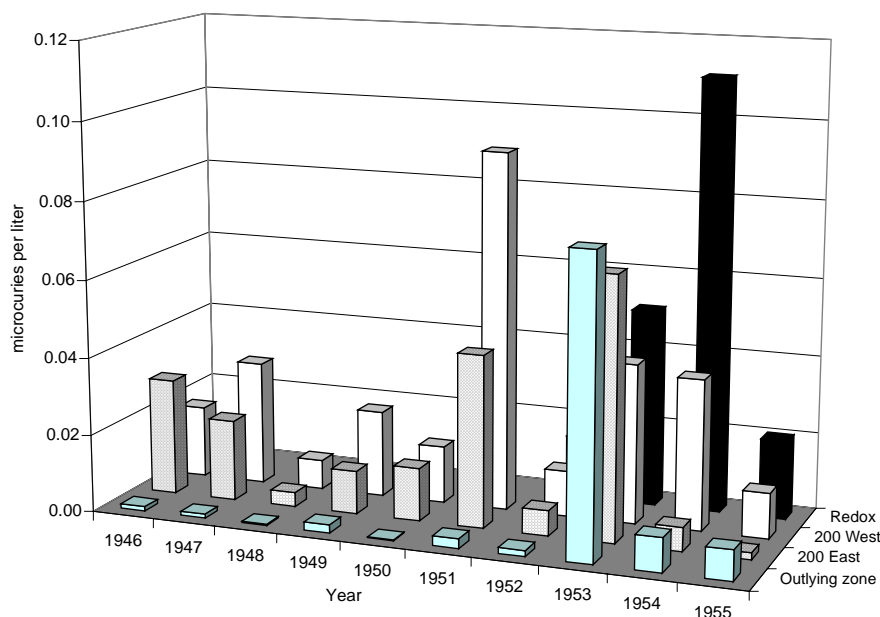


Figure 4-17. Annual average concentrations of beta activity in rain at three onsite locations and offsite (outlying zone), 1946–1955 (data presented in [Table 4-4](#)).

4.1.4 Vegetation

Beta activity. The earliest vegetation monitoring data from the Hanford area are tabulated by month in [HW-7-5372](#) for three locations—200-East, Hanford, and Richland—between November 1945 and October 1946. Results were total beta (also called gross beta) activity, decay-corrected as if all activity present were ^{131}I . The first 3 months of this interval show the highest levels of radioactive contamination. The highest monthly average reported value was $30 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$ in December 1945 in vegetation from 200-East. The authors observed that on average, the 200-East Area was 15 to 20 times as contaminated as Richland, and Hanford was 3 times as contaminated as Richland, which was expected to represent the areas of Benton City and Kennewick as well.

The annual environmental monitoring report for 1946 ([HW-3-5402](#)) describes the method of analysis for vegetation: “A one gram sample of the vegetation, taken at these locations, is mounted on cardboard and counted directly with a thin window chamber connected to a scaling unit. Correction is made for the counting geometry, self-absorption in the vegetation, and sample decay for the period between sampling and counting.” The fourth quarter 1947 report ([HW-9496](#)) states that vegetation samples were taken at least once every 4 weeks from all locations.

Healy ([HW-10758](#)) discusses briefly some analytical aspects of vegetation sampling and counting as of 1948. The routine program for analysis of iodine in vegetation began late in 1945. One-gram aliquots of vegetation were mounted in the form of a small pellet about 1-1/2 in. in diameter by using a hand press. Testing using known tracers indicated that a self-absorption factor of 3 should be applied for iodine. The author stated that this factor is probably not applicable to long-lived activity, but it does not indicate if it was still used. In early 1948, the measurement of long-lived activity in vegetation began. This took advantage of the volatility of iodine in hot nitric acid. The remaining mineral salts were plated on a stainless steel plate for beta

counting. The counting detector was a 1-in. diameter thin mica window counter contained in a lead pig with 1-1/2-in. walls. Stack samples and air filters were counted on the first shelf below the window, and vegetation samples were counted on the second shelf because of the bulky pellet.

Monthly or biweekly measurements of ^{131}I on vegetation were located for the time interval January 1946 through May 1947 ([HW-7-5934](#), [HW-7-5145](#), [HW-7-5301](#), [HW-7-5605](#), [HW-7-5042](#)). Quarterly average concentrations were obtained for the last half of 1947 and 1948 from the quarterly reports. An example of the reporting of the data at this time is shown in Figure 4-18.

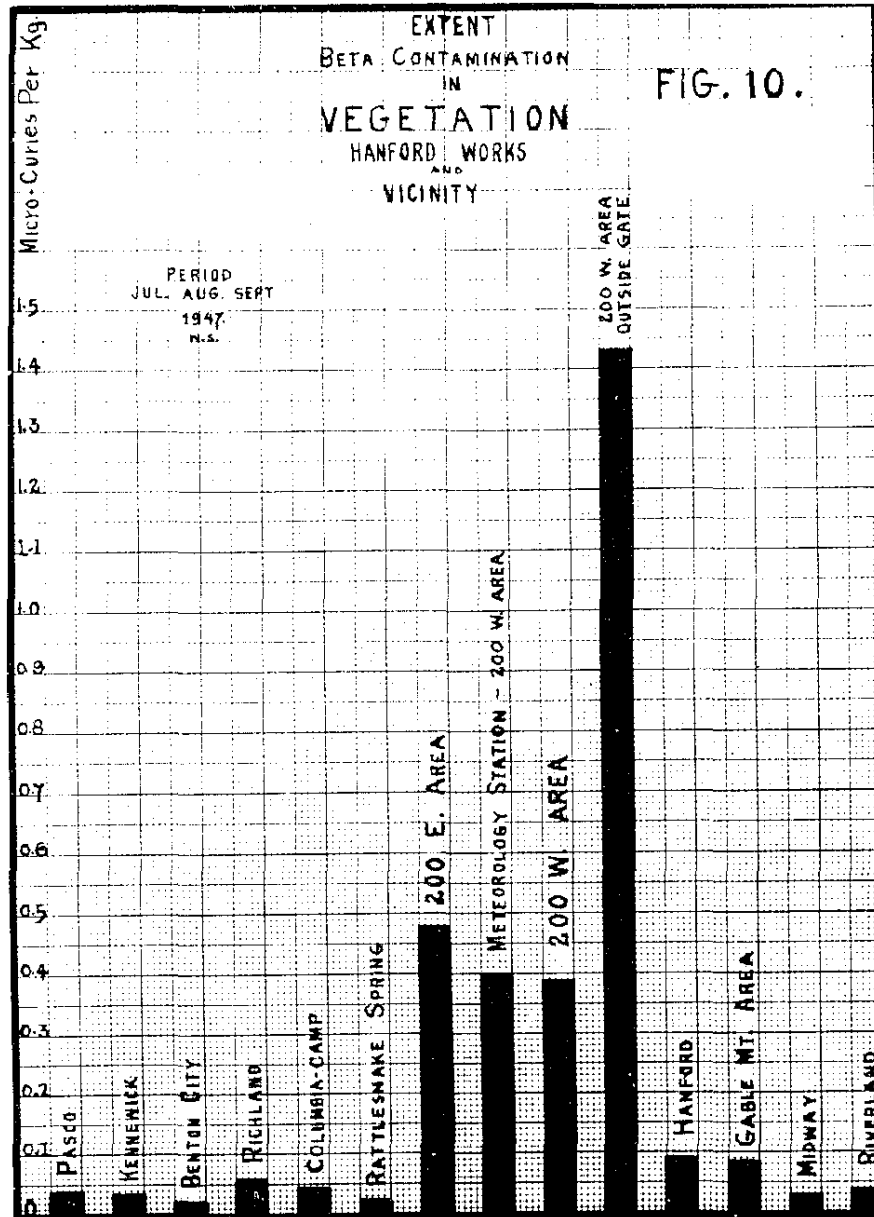


Figure 4-18. Total beta activity in vegetation, third quarter 1947 (from [HW-8549](#)).

Report [HW 7-5934](#) includes a table of ^{131}I concentrations (monthly averages) on vegetation for eight locations (Pasco, Kennewick, Benton City, Columbia Camp, Richland, Gable Mt., Hanford, and Rt. 4S-Mile 4) between January 1946 and March 1947. This report notes that detectable contamination levels ($0.05 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$ or above) were measurable at distances up to 150 and 200 mi from the separations plant stacks. Areas that had levels above the tolerance level^d of $0.2 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$ were all within a radius of about 50 mi and included the communities of Pasco, Kennewick, Benton City, and Richland.

Figure 4-19 illustrates the 3-year time trend in ^{131}I concentrations in vegetation from Richland, Hanford, and near 200 Areas. A footnote in report [HW-7-5042](#) in 1947 clarifies that the “near 200 Areas” location group was near Route 4S, Mile 4. This is very near the military camp PSN 330 (see [Section 3.1.2](#)). From January 1946 through November 1948, the contamination levels on vegetation at Hanford and Richland are similar (0.29 and $0.22 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$), but the location near the military camp at Route 4S, Mile 4 was over 6 times higher ($1.6 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$)

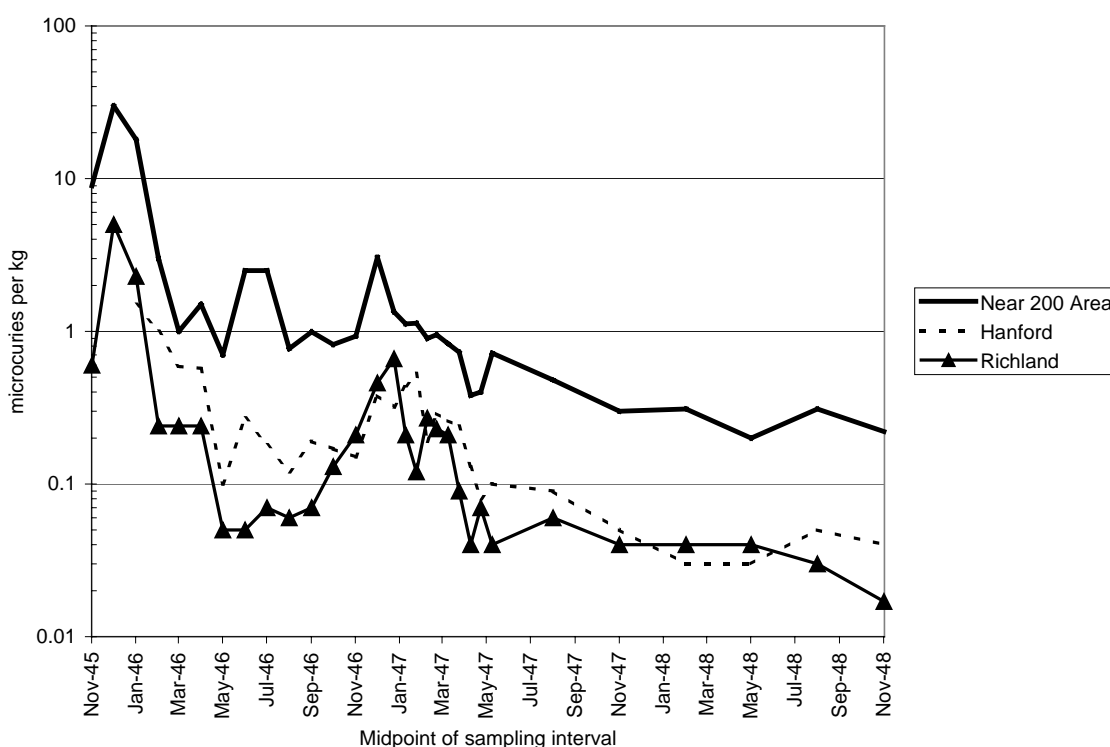


Figure 4-19. Total beta activity on vegetation on and near the Hanford Site, 1945 through 1948. At this time in Hanford history, the iodine was not chemically separated from nonvolatile beta activity in vegetation samples. Counting results were corrected as if all activity present were ^{131}I (data compiled from various Hanford reports).

^d Provisional “tolerable” contamination level established by H. Parker in January 1946 based on ingestion of ^{131}I by man and animals and limitation of dose to the thyroid of 1 rad per day ([HW-7-3217](#)).

To illustrate the spatial differences at this time, average concentrations for calendar year 1946 and the first 5 months of 1947 were computed from monthly and biweekly reported concentrations for seven locations (Figure 4-20). Columbia Camp was located southeast of the 200 Areas and roughly west of 300 Areas along the northernmost bend of the Yakima River (see [Figure B-2](#), Appendix B).

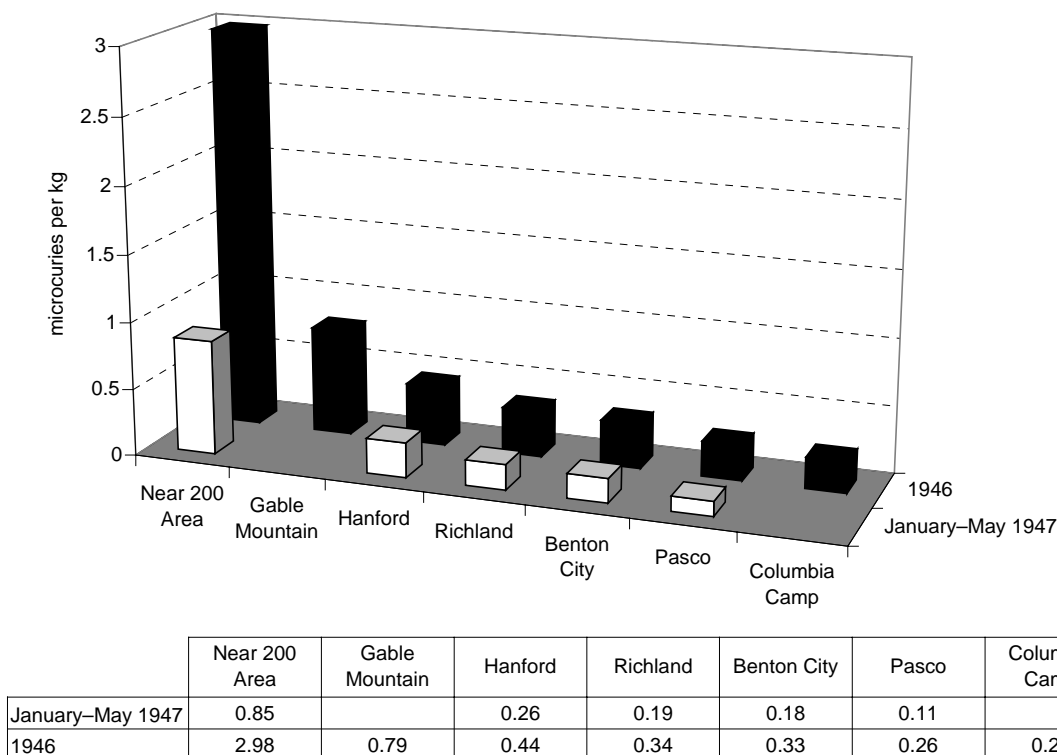


Figure 4-20. Comparison of average concentrations of beta activity in vegetation ($\mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$) at seven locations in 1946 and 1947. Averages for 1946 were computed from monthly averages reported in [HW-7-5934](#); January-May 1947 averages were computed from biweekly concentrations reported in [HW-7-5042](#). Data were not available for Gable Mountain and Columbia Camp in 1947. The natural background concentration is around $0.01 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$. In 1946, all areas were above the tolerance concentration used by the Hanford Site ($0.2 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$), indicating unacceptable levels of contamination, even by the practices of the time.

The type of vegetation sampled was not specified and probably varied depending on location. In the first quarter 1947, the statement is made that “in all areas the prevalent vegetation has been sampled,” but the vegetation type is not identified ([HW-3-5511](#)). One anomalous high-activity sample in October 1948 was stated to be Russian thistle ([HW-11534](#)). That month, off-area surveys were “dry weed samples” in one area, whereas live sage, Russian thistle, etc. were taken in other areas. This inconsistency complicates quantitative use of the vegetation monitoring data. Our objective in examining these data is to obtain general, qualitative trends to complement those from other environmental samples.

Some fraction of the total beta activity on Hanford vegetation during 1945–1948 was due to nonvolatile beta emitters, but most of the contamination in high-activity samples was likely due

to iodine. In March 1947, Gamertsfelder stated, “If no more contamination was produced, present levels would decay with a half-life very close to 8 days so that normally undetectable levels ($<0.04 \mu\text{Ci/kg}$) would be reached in one to two months” ([HW-7-5934](#)).

However, perhaps more residual nonvolatile beta activity was present than was generally recognized at that time. During the following year (1948), techniques were developed to chemically separate the 8-day radioiodine from the nonvolatile beta activity in vegetation before beta counting. Healy ([HW-10758](#)) established the half-lives of the longer-lived isotopes on vegetation. The amount of long-lived beta activity (half-life >8 days) on vegetation ranged from $<0.02 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$ in Richland-Kennewick-Pasco areas and 100 Areas to as much as $0.4 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$ on some samples inside the 200 Areas. Healy’s study results are reviewed more thoroughly in [Section 4.2.1](#).

In December 1948, both categories of beta activity (iodine and nonvolatile beta activity) began to be routinely reported for vegetation samples ([HW-13743](#)). Reportable detectable levels were $0.002 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$ for radioiodine and $0.01 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$ for nonvolatile beta activity. Table 4-5 shows the percentage of total beta activity from nonvolatile beta emitting radionuclides in December 1948. Later studies would show that the naturally occurring beta emitter potassium-40 (^{40}K) was present at concentrations around $0.01 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$. Therefore, only three locations nearest the 200 Areas can be viewed as having Hanford-produced beta activity clearly above background in December 1948. At these three locations, the percentage of the total beta activity due to nonvolatile emitters ranged from 38–92% (Table 4-5).

Table 4-5. Percentage of Total Beta Activity from Nonvolatile Beta Emitting Radionuclides in December 1948

Location	Microcuries per kilogram			% of total from nonvolatile emitters
	^{131}I	Nonvolatile beta	Total beta	
Adjacent to 200 Areas	0.072	0.045	0.117	38
Inside 200-East	0.007	0.057	0.064	89
Inside 200-West	0.004	0.046	0.05	92
North of 200 Areas	0.005	0.011	0.016	69
Richland	<0.002	0.013	0.015	>87
Wahluke Slope	0.002	0.012	0.014	86
Hanford	0.002	0.012	0.014	86
South of 200 Areas	0.002	0.011	0.013	85
Pasco	<0.002	<0.01	0.012	a
Kennewick	<0.002	0.010	0.012	>83
Benton City	<0.002	<0.01	0.012	a

^a Not possible to compute percentage because both values were less than detectable.

About 1500 vegetation samples were collected in the first quarter 1949 ([HW-14243](#)) and analyzed for 8-day radioiodine and for beta activity from longer-lived nonvolatile fission products. The method for determining nonvolatile beta activity in vegetation consisted of digestion of a 1-g sample with nitric acid and hydrogen peroxide, concentration, and transfer to a 1-in. stainless steel plate. Activity was measured with a thin mica-window counter. A yield of 95–100% was obtained for a beta energy of 1.5 MeV. Naturally occurring ^{40}K concentrations were

about 10 pCi g⁻¹. The quarterly averages are illustrated in Figure 4-21. As in similar charts presented for other media, concentrations of nonvolatile beta activity in vegetation in 1949 are highest in the 200 Areas, particularly near the 200-West Gate (240 pCi g⁻¹). About 3 mi from this area the activity was about 6 times less, or 20–60 pCi g⁻¹ ([HW-14243](#)).

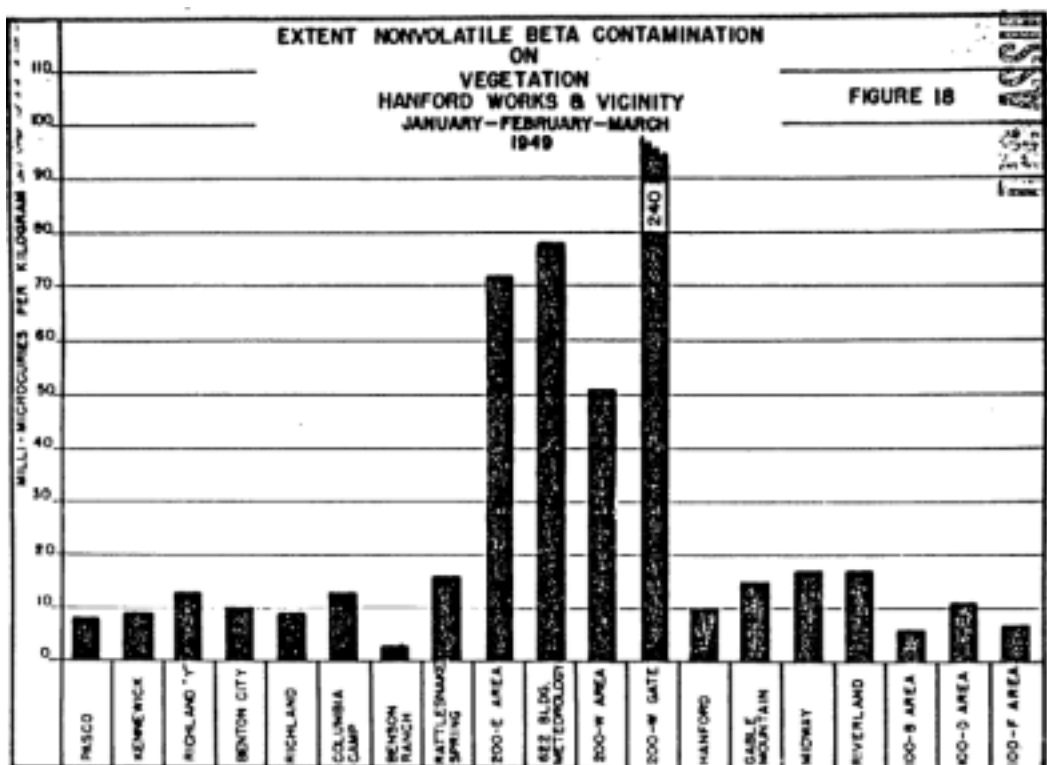


Figure 4-21. Nonvolatile beta activity on vegetation, first quarter 1949 ([HW-14243](#)). Millimicrocurie is an archaic unit of radioactivity (10 mμc kg⁻¹ is equivalent to 10 picocuries per gram [pCi g⁻¹] or 0.01 μCi kg⁻¹), which is an estimate of the natural beta activity content.

In an effort to determine specific deposition patterns of radioactive effluents near the stacks, a controlled sampling of vegetation began in February 1949. Vegetation samples were taken at half-mile intervals in an area enclosing about 26 mi² in and near the separation areas. Results for February and March 1949 are shown as maps, reproduced here as Figure 4-22. Contamination spread of nonvolatile beta activity on vegetation was generally to the east and south of the release points. The isoactivity map for nonvolatile beta activity closely parallels that for iodine (not shown here), although iodine shows more monthly variation.

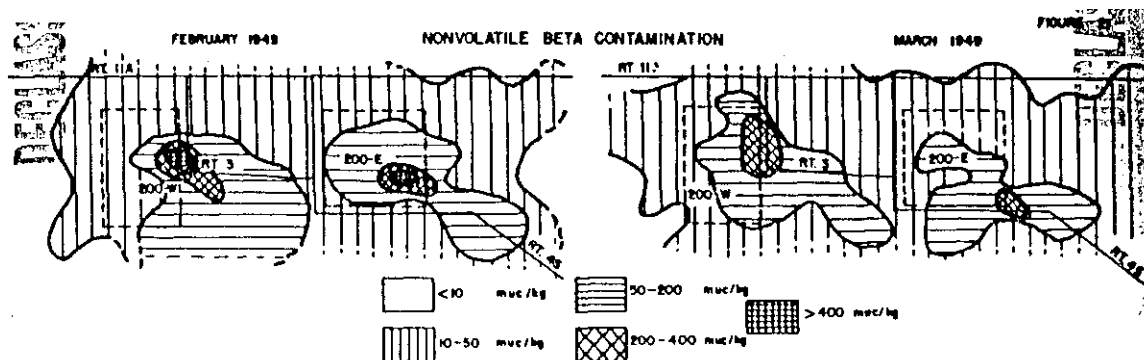


Figure 4-22. Results of "controlled sampling survey" for nonvolatile beta activity on vegetation near the 200 Areas in February and March 1949 (from [HW-14243](#)).

A similar isoactivity chart (Figure 4-23) was presented in the second quarter report for 1950 ([HW-19454](#)). The deposition pattern of higher activity near the stacks in both 200-West and 200-East is still apparent. However, the absolute amounts of nonvolatile beta activity are not as high in the highest zones, compared with the spring 1949 survey. The units ($10^6 \mu\text{Ci/gm}$) used in 1950 are equivalent to those used in 1949 ($\text{m}\mu\text{Ci/kg}$), so the maps in Figures 4-22 and 4-23 can be compared as if the same units were used.

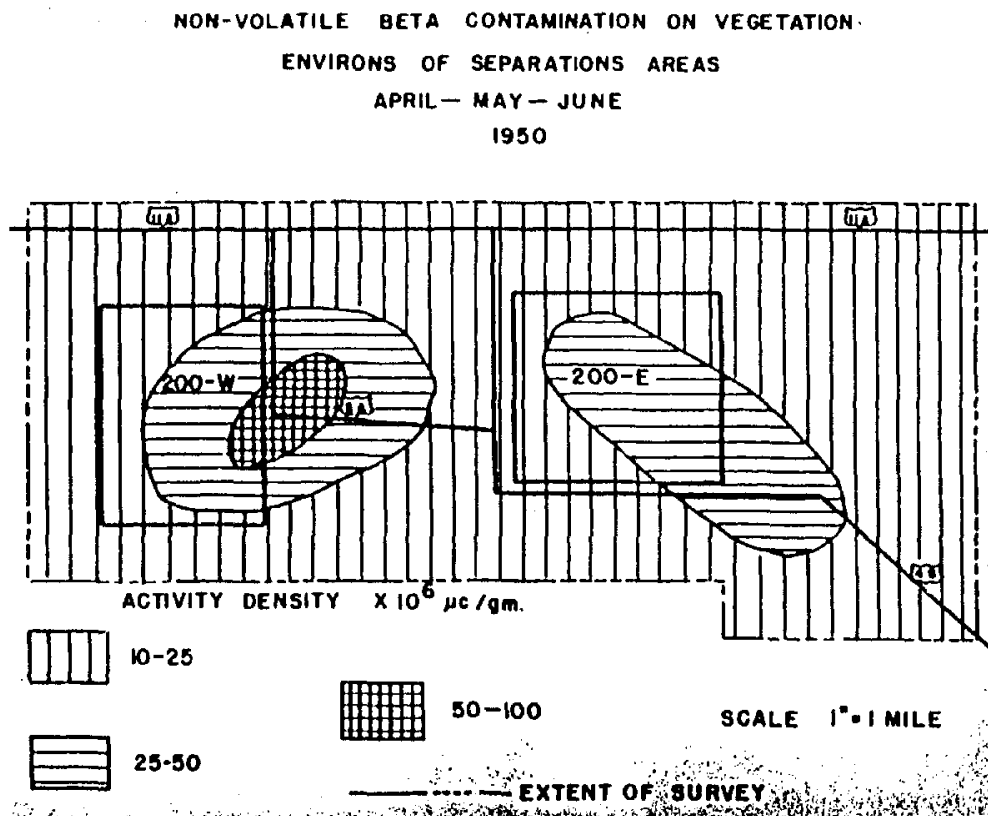


Figure 4-23. Spatial extent of nonvolatile beta contamination on vegetation near 200 Areas, April-June 1950. Highest levels were east of the 200-West Area (from [HW-19454](#)).

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For comparison, a close-in map of ^{131}I activity on vegetation in December 1950 is shown in Figure 4-24. In the area of military camp PSN330 (southeast of 200-East Area off Route 4S, see [Figure 3-1](#)), the iodine activity density on vegetation is 250–1000 pCi g^{-1} as opposed to 25–50 pCi g^{-1} of nonvolatile beta emitters. However, in the first quarter of 1950, the iodine content of vegetation was considerably less than shown here for December. Although a silver reactor was installed in the off-gas line of 3-5R in December 1950, the dissolving was allowed to take place during the day when dispersion conditions were poor.

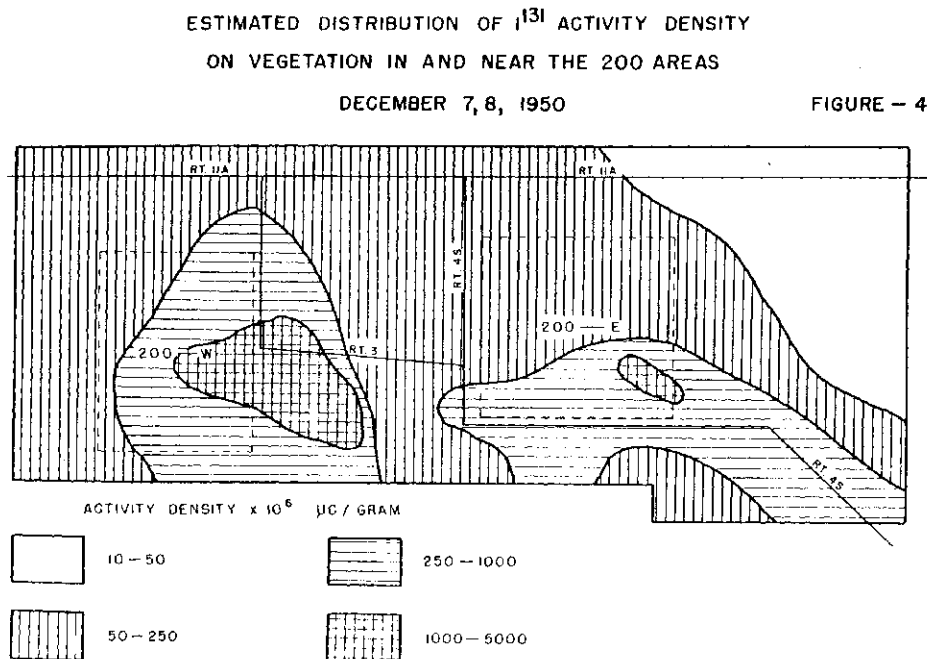


Figure 4-24. Spatial extent of ^{131}I activity on vegetation, December 7–8, 1950 (from [HW-21566](#)).

We compiled data for nonvolatile beta activity in vegetation samples from the quarterly reports covering 1949–1955 for nine locations:

- 200-West gate
- Meteorology tower
- Columbia Camp
- Hanford
- Near the 200 Areas
- Richland
- REDOX
- PSN 300-310-320 (military camps)
- 200-West Area

The reporting frequency was quarterly until October 1953 and monthly after that. The reportable detection level was 10 pCi g^{-1} (0.01 $\mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$). This is also the approximate level of

naturally occurring ^{40}K in vegetation. The most complete data sets were for three locations (200-West gate, near the 200 Areas, and Richland), which had at most one missing data point during this time interval. The Columbia Camp and Hanford sampling locations were discontinued after the second quarter 1949 and the fourth quarter 1952, respectively. Monitoring at the plant security sites (military camps) near 200 Areas^e began in the fourth quarter 1951 and continued through our time period of interest (1955) with only one quarter of missing data. Before that time, we believe that the data from the “near the 200 Areas” sample group is a reasonable representation of levels that would have been present at the military camps. The time trend in nonvolatile beta activity in vegetation from seven locations is illustrated in Figure 4-25.

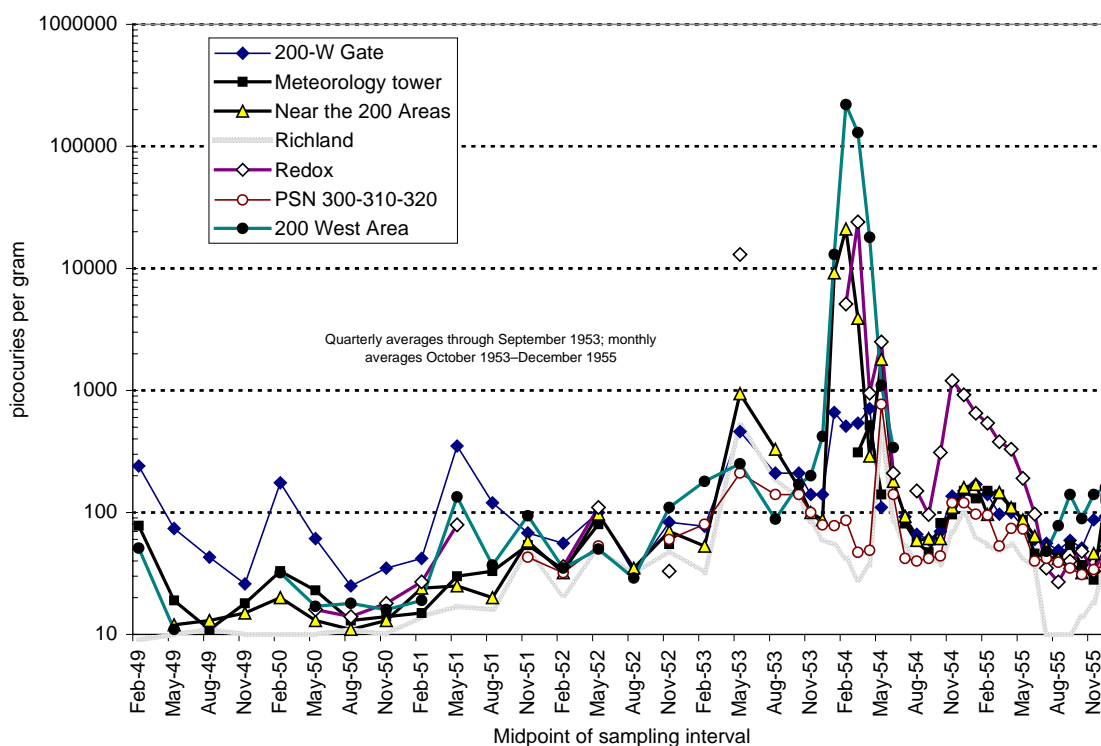


Figure 4-25. Time trend in nonvolatile beta activity on vegetation, 1949–1955. The monthly average reporting frequency beginning October 1953 exaggerates the peak in 1954 somewhat. Quarterly averages were computed for Figure 4-26.

Review of historical documents leads us to the conclusion that fallout from the atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons affected the nonvolatile activity in vegetation in the latter half of the period of data we examined (1945–1955). Based on the spatial patterns in vegetation, as well as other media, weapons fallout was definitely noted during:

- First half 1951
- Fourth quarter 1951
- Second quarter 1952

^e Called PSN 300-310-320 in the first part of this time interval and PSN 50-51-61 in the latter part of this time interval. More recently, they are referred to as H-50, H-51, and H-61. However, they are the same sites (see Figures 3-1 and 3-2).

- Second and third quarter 1953
- May 1954
- November–December 1954
- April 1955
- December 1955.

Even with the confounding influence of fallout, the impact of ruthenium releases from REDOX on beta activity in vegetation near the 200 Areas in 1954–1955 is clear ([Figure 4-25](#)). The highest reported monthly average concentrations at the nine locations listed above were 220,000 and 130,000 pCi g⁻¹ from the 200-West Area in February and March 1954, respectively. Monthly average concentrations near the 200 Areas (previously determined to be Route 4S, Mile 4) were as high as 21,000 pCi g⁻¹ in February 1954 and 24,000 pCi g⁻¹ in March 1954 near REDOX. The decrease in contamination observed near REDOX in 1955 is believed to be due to radioactive decay and weathering of ruthenium released during 1953–1954.

An extreme example of ruthenium particle contamination of vegetation occurred in September 1954. Inclusion of an active particle or particles of ruthenium/rhodium in a vegetation sample from Route 10, Mile 8, near the southern perimeter of the Hanford Works, resulted in a measured concentration of 330,000 pCi g⁻¹. The monthly average for that location was 110,000 pCi g⁻¹, including that high value and 31 pCi g⁻¹ when the high value was excluded from the average.

The “near 200 Areas” location was sampled over the entire 10-year interval, so a long-term trend can be evaluated ([Figure 4-26](#)). For a valid perspective, quarterly averages were computed for this plot, although reporting frequency varied from biweekly to quarterly. The peak quarterly average nonvolatile beta activity of 12,000 pCi g⁻¹ in the first quarter of 1954 is almost as high as the peak total beta activity concentration of 19,500 pCi g⁻¹ in the last quarter of 1945. In 1945, the activity was almost certainly mostly iodine, whereas in 1954, it was probably mostly ruthenium. Weapons fallout was a large component of the nonvolatile beta activity on vegetation in Richland in the 1951–1955 period, whereas in 1945–1948, the total beta activity there was likely influenced by Hanford releases.

Alpha Activity. The second quarter 1951 report ([HW-22313](#)) states that spot vegetation samples were analyzed for alpha activity using an ether extraction method, and that results were “negligible.” The detection limit then was ~1 pCi g⁻¹. Beginning in December 1951, the quarterly environmental reports include measurements of concentrations of alpha-emitting radionuclides in vegetation. The reporting frequency was monthly through June 1954 and quarterly thereafter. We compiled the data for five locations through December 1955:

- 200-West Gate
- Route 4S, Mile 4
- Route 4S, Mile 6
- 300 Area
- Richland.

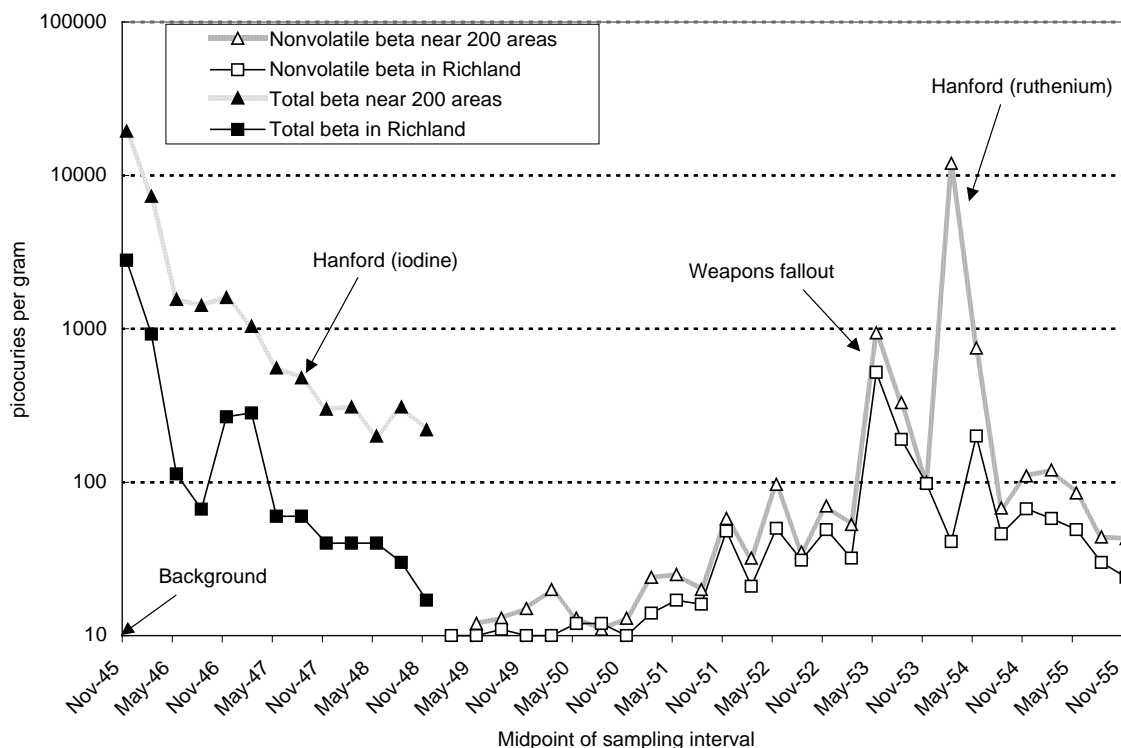


Figure 4-26. Ten-year trend in beta activity in vegetation near the 200 Areas and in Richland. For a valid visual perspective, quarterly averages were generated from the reported data. Thus, peak concentrations are not as high as shown in [Figure 4-25](#).

The alpha measurement data for vegetation are plotted in [Figure 4-27](#). The reportable detection level at this time ranged between 0.05 and 0.1 pCi g⁻¹. The data show significant scatter, and most values are within a factor of 10 of the detection limit. In addition, the contribution of naturally occurring alpha-emitters, such as radium and uranium, is not established. Unlike nonvolatile beta activity, alpha activity concentration in vegetation was not discernibly affected by weapons fallout. The highest values measured were in samples from 300 Area (17 pCi g⁻¹ in March 1953) and the 200-West gate (7.8 pCi g⁻¹ in January 1954). Because of the work with uranium compounds in 300 Area, the alpha activity there is likely to have been uranium. In January 1955, alpha particle activity on vegetation in the 300 Area was determined by fluorophotometric analysis to be uranium ([HW-36506](#)). In contrast, alpha contamination above background present in 200 Areas is more likely to have been plutonium, based on results of analysis of particles emitted from the stacks and located in ground surveys ([HW-9259](#), [HW-10261](#)). The concentrations of alpha activity on vegetation near the 200-West gate in the first quarter of 1954 are high, if this was all plutonium. For perspective, plutonium concentrations in soil (an integrator of atmospheric releases) near that area in 1985 ranged up to 0.3 pCi g⁻¹ ([Figure 4-43](#)).

Before the routine monitoring of total alpha activity in vegetation began, there was some nonroutine sampling and measurement of plutonium in vegetation. Thorburn, in report [HEW-7002](#) dated July 1, 1947, describes the development of a method to determine plutonium in desert flora. It was known that stack gases from Hanford facilities contained not only iodine but other longer lived beta activity and a low, but significant content of alpha emitting contamination. The

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possibility of a build-up of alpha contamination was recognized. The method development and detailed procedures are described. The plutonium content of four samples of green leaves taken from one sagebrush plant at location Route 4S, Mile 4 varied from 0.058–0.095 pCi g⁻¹. The plutonium results for nine vegetation samples from four locations in and around the 200 Areas on the site (Tower 18, 4S-4, 3-3, and 200-E BG) ranged from 0.023–0.35 pCi g⁻¹.

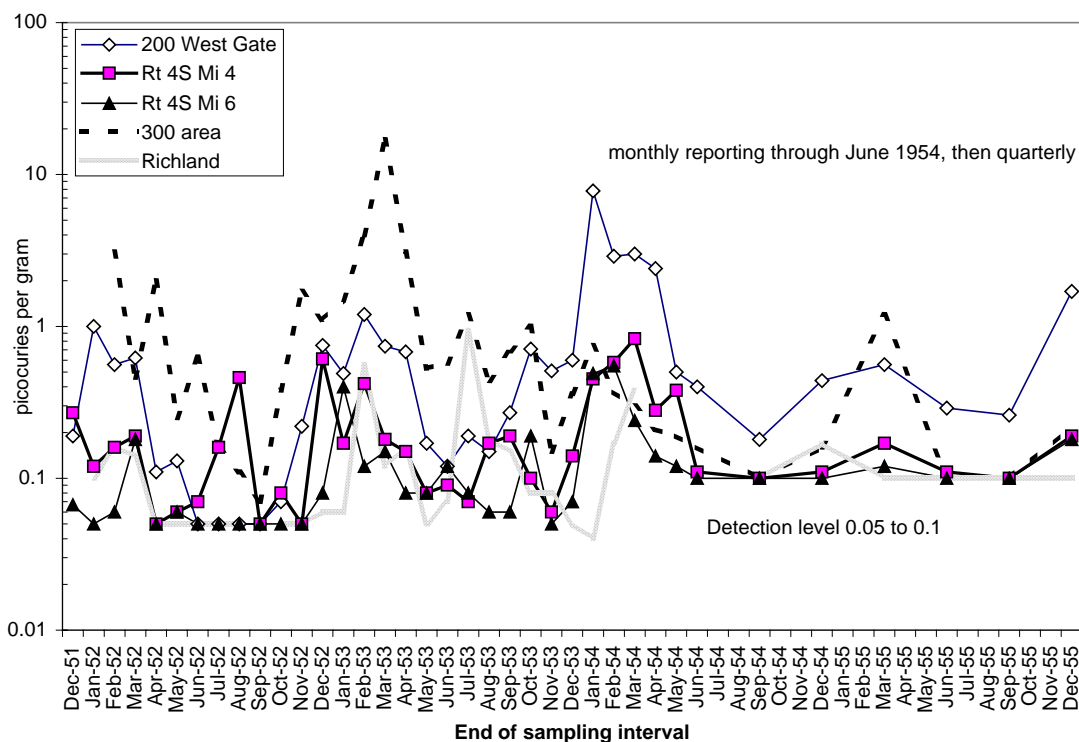


Figure 4-27. Concentrations of alpha activity in vegetation between December 1951 and December 1955.

4.1.5 Particle Counts in Air

Beginning in the fourth quarter of 1948, Hanford's routine environmental reports included data on the number of radioactive particles present in a certain volume of ambient (outside) air ([HW-13743](#)). The method used was to expose the air filters from the routine beta air monitoring program to X-ray film for 168 hours and then visually count the spots present on the film. The flow rate of the air samplers was 2 ft³ min⁻¹, for a total sample volume of about 20,000 ft³ (570 m³) per week. The samplers were housed in a vented cupola-type housing; thus, particles collected would be restricted to those whose momentum would permit following the air stream through the vents to the sampler. Generally, large particles would not be efficiently collected.

Other special filter units were also used for determining the concentration of radioactive particles ([HW-18615](#)). These filters consisted of an exposed area of approximately 26 in.² of CWS #6 filter paper through which air was filtered at rates of either 2 or 10 ft³ min⁻¹. The sampling period was 1 week and exposure to film was as described above.

The first reporting of radioactive particle count data was expressed as the total number of particles collected per month. The highest values were from 200-East. However, beginning in the second quarter 1949, the particle count data were expressed as a concentration (particles per cubic meter). At this time, there were six locations outside in 200-East and vicinity, eight locations in 200-West and vicinity, and nine samples taken from the meteorology tower between 3 and 400 ft above ground level. There also were seven locations near the Hanford perimeter and eight distant off-area locations.

We chose to compile data for one off-area location (Spokane, Washington), one near-perimeter location (Pasco), and three outdoor locations in 200 Areas (Building 222-B [B Plant], Building 222-T [T Plant], and REDOX [if REDOX data were not given, the south gate of 200-West was used]). Monitoring at the REDOX location began in January 1952 and ended at the 222-B location in September 1952. The other locations were monitored continuously from mid-1949 through 1955 (end of our data compilation). During this period, the reportable detectable concentration ranged from 1×10^{-4} to 5×10^{-4} particles per cubic meter air.

The data for these five locations are illustrated in Figure 4-28. The effect of releases from REDOX is evident from the larger number of radioactive particles in air at that location during 1952–1954. The highest monthly average concentration of discrete radioactive particles in air was 3.8 particles per cubic meter in 200 West during September 1953. The highest value at the T-Plant location was also in September 1953, but it was 6 times less (0.6 particles per cubic meter) than the concentration near REDOX that month. [Table 4-6](#) summarizes the data for the 48-month period January 1952 through December 1955 for the four locations that were being monitored then.

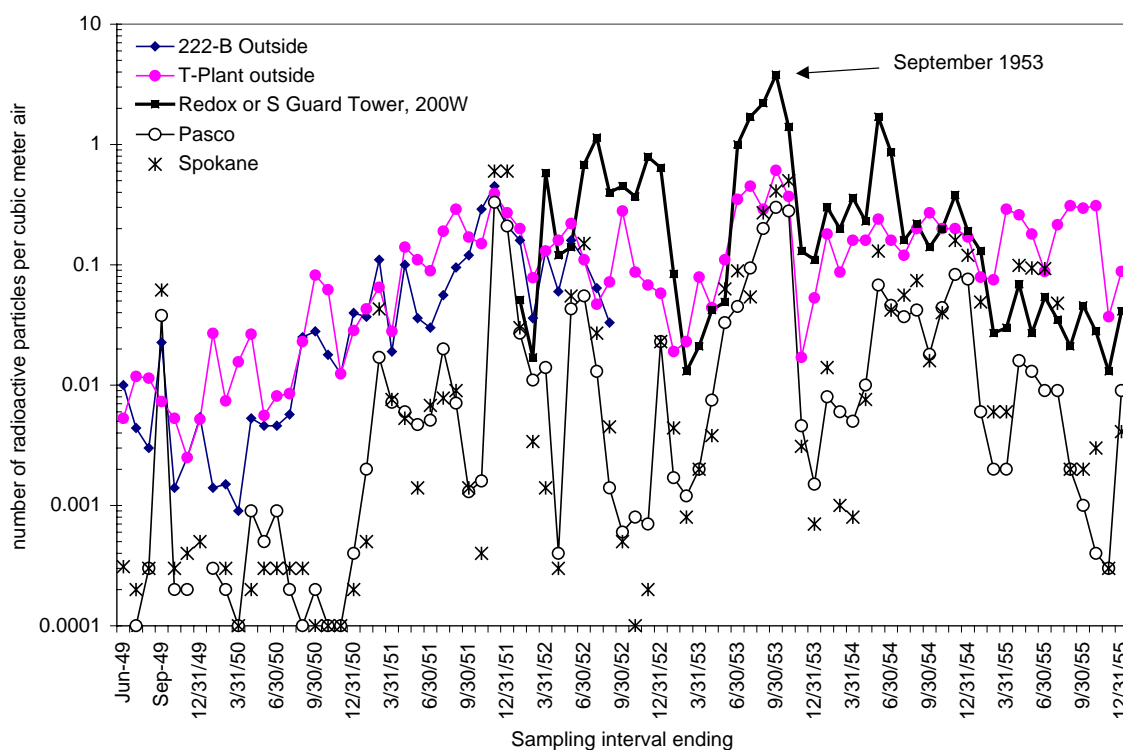


Figure 4-28. Concentration of radioactive particles in air as determined by autoradiography of air filters (data compiled from Hanford monitoring reports).

Table 4-6. Summary Statistics for Concentration of Radioactive Particles in Outdoor Air at Four Locations for the 48-Month Period, January 1952–December 1955

Statistic	Monthly average concentration of particles per cubic meter air			
	REDOX ^a	T-Plant	Spokane	Pasco
Minimum	0.013	0.017	<0.0001	<0.0003
Maximum	3.8	0.61	0.50	0.30
Median	0.15	0.16	0.015	0.0095
Mean	0.45	0.17	0.058	0.035

^a If REDOX data were not available, the south gate of 200-West Area was used.

These data give an indication of the most important times and possible active particle concentrations in air in outside work locations. Over this interval the median concentration of active particles in air in 200 West was 16 times greater than at Pasco. For a worst case assessment, these particles could all be viewed as respirable. It should be remembered, however, that the air samplers are not efficient collectors of large particles. Therefore, these data do not necessarily reflect the trends in very large particles that settled on ground surfaces. Ground survey data are reviewed in [Section 4.1.6](#).

There were times when nuclear weapons fallout was very likely a primary contributor to the radioactive particle counts, based on the widespread nature of the contamination and the fact that concentrations were comparable or even higher at offsite locations. A clear example of this situation is November–December 1951. Fallout was also probable in May–June 1952, May 1954, and November–December 1954.

Separate reports document specific investigations into radioactive particle concentrations due to weapons fallout. For example, in [HW-23517](#), increased particulate contamination from Nevada bomb tests in the fall of 1951 is documented and discussed. A daily concentration of 8 particles per cubic meter in Klamath Falls, Oregon, was the highest obtained from this type of monitoring during the previous several years. In general, particles were detected between 2 and 5 days after detonation in Nevada. Tabular summaries show the day-to-day trend of particulate contamination at the eight stations that were operated daily ([HW-23517](#)). In the second quarter of 1952, weapons fallout also affected particle counts at locations both onsite and offsite ([HW-26493](#)). Values in Boise, Idaho, and Great Falls, Montana were as high as 5 to 10 particles per cubic meter over a 1-day period, which were some of the highest concentrations of radioactive particles measured since the inception of the particle monitoring program several years previous. A special survey in a more contaminated zone between Richland and Idaho Falls is summarized in [HW-24727](#). Report [HW-28925](#) discusses fallout in May–June 1953. In the third quarter 1953 ([HW-30174](#)), daily monitoring of air showed that particulate contamination was widespread and indicated the origin was a source other than Hanford. Maximum values in excess of 1 particle per cubic meter were observed over 24-hour periods at locations in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. A value of 8 particles per cubic meter was measured at Walla Walla, Washington, on August 30, 1953.

Because the type of radioactive particles is not characterized by this type of air monitoring, it is impossible to separate definitively the Hanford-released radioactive particles from weapons fallout or naturally occurring radioactive particulates. In conjunction with other environmental data, however, there is little doubt that the high concentrations observed near REDOX in 1952-1954 were caused by releases from that facility.

We examined the data for particle concentrations measured at different heights on the meteorology tower, which was located between 200-West and 200-East. These data add nothing new to the time trend documented by the other stations (e.g., [Figure 4-28](#)). In some cases, there was a concentration profile (with height) that was consistent with a release from the 200-ft stack(s) of the processing plants. For example, in October 1950, concentrations were low at 3, 50, and 100 ft; were considerably higher at 150, 200, and 250 ft; and were intermediate in concentration at the 300, 350, and 400-ft levels. In February 1951, the uniform concentration with height was one piece of evidence the authors of the environmental report used to support their belief that most contamination that month was from widespread weapons fallout. However, in general these data are ambiguous, and we did not examine them further.

The particle data from the meteorology tower were used by H.M. Parker in a briefing to the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine October 8–9, 1948, on the active particle problem at Hanford Works. A table of data presented to the Advisory Committee was included in the minutes ([Gregg](#) 1948) and is included in this report as [Figure 4-29](#). The first four columns of the table are based on monitoring at the meteorology tower, and the rest are believed to be based on ground level air monitoring. Parker appears to be illustrating the calculated inhalation of particles by a person working in the area as well as estimating the number of particles deposited in the 200 Areas per month.

4.1.6 Particle Ground Surveys

Surveys of radioactive particles deposited on outdoor ground surfaces were conducted both routinely and in response to specific contamination events. This section presents what is known about the methods used for ground surveys and discusses the uses and limitations of the data for our task. The survey studies and data are presented in chronological order. Primary sources of information were

- Two contamination maps generated in 1947
- Quarterly environmental reports
- H.M. Parker's 1948 report ([HW-9259](#)) on the active particle problem
- Selby and Soldat's 1958 summary report of environmental contamination incidents at Hanford between 1952 and 1957 ([HW-54636](#))
- Overview reports that evaluated ruthenium releases from the REDOX Plant
- Miscellaneous memos.

Memos were important for understanding the active particle releases in the late 1940s because survey data were few and environmental reports were brief. Physical, chemical, and radiological characterization of the particles detected during these ground surveys is discussed in Sections [2.2](#) and [4.2.1](#) of this report.

Meteorology Tower									
Height above ground	Particles inhaled per month			Time	Particles inhaled per month		Particles deposited in 200 Areas per mo.		
Ft.	July	Aug.	Sept.		200 Area General	200 W Gatehse	Insd Offs.	Insd Op.Gal.	
3	5	5	11	Jan.			-	-	10^7
50	6	3	12	Feb.			-	-	No record
100	10	4	15	Mar.			No	No	5×10^7
150	14	7	26	Apr.		5	prior	prior	8×10^7
200	13	8	35	May	5-10	7	data	data	4×10^8
250	14	7	30	June	5-10	6	-	-	10^9
300	14	8	18	July	10-30	33	10-20	-	4×10^8
350	8	4	20	Aug.	10-30	36	10-20	-	3×10^9
400	6	5	32	Sep.	20-30*	29	10-20	80	10^9

Notes. 50 - 150 per month
650 7.4×10^8

Data reported as for a particular month does not coincide with the exact exposure time, due to lag in radioautography and reporting. This does not affect the argument presented.

Particles inhaled per month are based on the number of particles in the amount of air inhaled by a man working 8 hours per day for 20 days per month in the plant areas. No allowance is made for rejection of large particles or for the exhalation of a fraction of the entering particles.

In residential areas, the inhalation figure is based on a 24-hour day and 30 day month.

* There was one value of 70 here, not mentioned in the presentation.

Figure 4-29. Table of data on active particles in 200 Areas in 1948, presented by H.M. Parker to the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine (Gregg 1948).

Methods, Limitations, and Uses of Ground Survey Data. Ground survey results were reported in terms of particle frequencies and radiation instrument readings. Active particle frequencies using Geiger-Mueller (G.M.) meters were complicated because the instruments had difficulty distinguishing two or more particles close together (HW-9259). According to report HW-54636, portable G.M. instrument readings were recorded in units of counts per minute (cpm) per particle. G.M. meter response for energy ranges involved in the ruthenium releases was

approximately 100 cpm per 5000 disintegrations per minute (dpm). The G.M. meter was also used to measure general area contamination not associated with a specific particle ([HW-33896](#)).

Instrument readings in units of millirad per hour (mrad h^{-1}) per particle were obtained with Hanford-type “C.P.” (Cutie Pie) meters. It is difficult to translate that instrument reading to an amount of radioactivity. According to Selby and Soldat ([HW-54636](#)), C.P. meter readings of isolated particles from REDOX were approximately 200 mrad h^{-1} per microcurie (μCi). However, Parker ([HW-33068](#)) gives an approximate relationship of 90 mrad h^{-1} survey result for a particle containing $1 \mu\text{Ci}$ ruthenium with an activity ratio of 0.75 ($^{103}\text{Ru}/^{106}\text{Ru}$).

Some comments on the uses and limitations of the ground survey data are appropriate before presenting our review of the data. One limitation is that the distance from the source to the measuring instrument is not given. Because radiation intensity decreases inversely with the square of the distance from a point source, the distance from the source to the detector is crucial to interpreting the measured value. In our experience, we believe that a technician characterizing a hot particle might have held the instrument close to the particle, perhaps a centimeter or two away. This is sometimes referred to as the dose rate at contact or at ground level. [HW-36505](#) states that surveys for particle numbers represent those particles detectable at ground level using a portable G.M. instrument. In contrast, general area surveys (not measuring a hot particle) with the G.M. meter were probably conducted holding the meter at waist height or about 3 ft above the ground. Because these details are not specified, the ground contamination survey data are best regarded as showing relative trends, rather than providing quantitative measurements that can be related to potential dose to a person.

The number of particles detected with a G.M. instrument was less than that detected using more sensitive techniques such as exposure of film in light-proof envelopes (autoradiography). However, the more sensitive techniques had higher background interference from natural radioactivity. Another limitation is that the ground surveys were a snapshot in time that reflected both past and contemporaneous particle releases. Although helpful for identifying actual conditions that existed, the data would be difficult to compare to predictions of a source term and dispersion assessment.

For the purposes of our work, the ground survey data can be used to represent spatial distribution and time trends in the numbers of large particles. The number of particles in a given work environment is related to the probability that a worker would have come in contact with one of them (see [Section 3.5](#)). These large particles represented an external exposure hazard to people, either to the skin (if in contact) or to the whole body, from radiation emanating from the particles on the ground. Under certain conditions, it is possible that even large particles could have been inhaled.

Chronological Review of Survey Data. Contamination in the form of discrete active particles on the ground was detected in the region of the Hanford separations plants in late September 1947 by Health Instrument Section surveyors ([HW-9259](#)). Evidence of the radioactive particle problem increased almost daily in October 1947. There were repeated contamination incidents involving footwear, spot contamination over larger ranges, and the isolation of individual particles of high radiation intensity. A pessimistic particle density estimate was one per 4 ft^2 ([HW-7865](#)). The necessity for a preventive program became urgent ([HW-7865](#), [HW-7920](#)). By mid-October, the general distribution pattern had been investigated such that the T Plant and B Plant stacks were believed to be the source. The problem was thought to have been rapidly developing in the prior several months.

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On November 3, 1947, a work order was presented with a memo ([HW-7932](#)) to permit installation of (1) a temporary air filter in the 291-T,B Buildings between the existing fans and stacks, (2) a permanent filter system in the 291-T,U,B Buildings between the existing fans and new or revised stacks, and (3) a permanent set of filters in 291-T,U,B Buildings in the individual cell exhaust ducts and the 224-T,U,B Buildings tank vent piping. The results of spot surveys of ground contamination are briefly described. Contaminated areas were within a 1000-ft radius of the stack, quite small, and limited to a maximum surface area of approximately 1 in.² with essentially no depth. According to the author, the situation “constituted a serious health hazard requiring the utmost expediency in its correction.”

On November 25, 1947, a memo ([HW-8108](#)) underscores the importance of physical control of the particles at their source, which was not precisely known at the time. The health hazard was viewed as serious; however, it was not practical to subject areas of this size outside the facilities to the same controls as radiation protection zones inside. The amount of radioactivity in and on the particles was enough to cause minor damage to skin or serious damage if deposited internally. Future plans were presented.

On November 28, 1947, a survey map of active particle distribution in 200-East Area was circulated as [HW-8430](#). A scanned image of that map is shown in [Figure 4-30](#). There was no accompanying text with the figure. However, in [HW-11082](#), dated September 1948, this map is referenced as the first comprehensive ground survey for particle contamination. In this report, it is noted that the zone of highest concentration, 5–10 particles per ft², covered approximately 50,000 ft² (4600 m²) in the vicinity of the stack. Therefore, about 250,000 to 500,000 particles had been deposited in that highest deposition zone. The average particle in this zone had an activity in the range of 0.05 to 0.5 μ Ci. The best estimate of the total number of then existing particles was 1.4 million, with a total activity of 100 mCi. There is a cpm range in the legend of the survey map associated with each particle concentration zone. For example, the G.M. count rates in the 5–10 particles per ft² zone were 5000–10,000 cpm ([Figure 4-31](#)). The G.M. instrument background was about 200 cpm.

A similar map of 200-West was produced ([HW-8429](#)) representing particle distribution on December 22, 1947 ([Figure 4-31](#)). Note the similar southeastern direction of contamination spread as seen in 200-East. Parker ([HW-9259](#)) observed that the heavy and medium contamination zones were more extensive around T Plant (200-West) than around B Plant (200-East). The lowest contamination zone around T Plant was a similar distance downwind but reached further in an upwind direction than around B Plant.

Figures 4-30 and 4-31 show a static picture of ground contamination. By January 20, 1948, a dynamic picture of particle deposition had been obtained by the collection of active particles on rugs maintained on frames 3 ft above the ground with partial wind protection ([HW-8624](#)). Typical deposition rates for the three zones around B Plant in 200-East were:

Heavy concentration zone	3–17 particles ft ⁻² mo ⁻¹
Medium concentration zone	4 particles ft ⁻² mo ⁻¹
Light concentration zone	0.1 to 2.4 particles ft ⁻² mo ⁻¹

In September 1948, Parker gives a deposition rate of 40 particles ft⁻² mo⁻¹ close to the stacks. At one mile, the deposition rate could be as heavy, but was typically about 12 particles ft⁻² mo⁻¹. All these were “sizeable” particles, >5 micron diameter ([HW-10941](#)). An inhalation rate of 5-10 particles per month in construction areas was estimated.

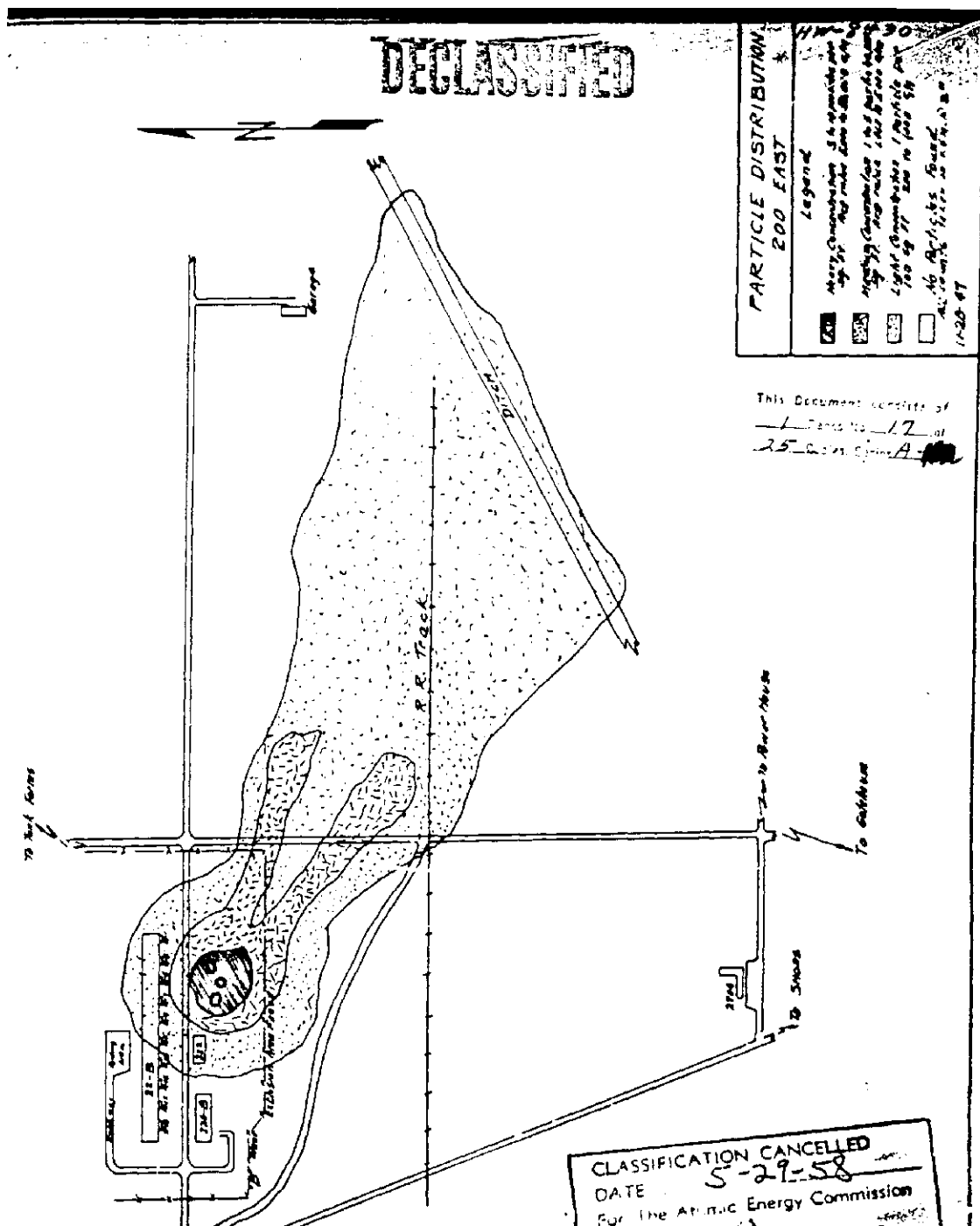


Figure 4-30. Distribution of particles in 200-East, November 28, 1947 (HW-8429). The "heavy concentration" zone around the B Plant stack is 5–10 particles per ft² (5000–10,000 cpm). The "medium concentration" zone is 1–5 particles per ft² (1000–5000 cpm). The "light concentration" zone is 1 particle per 100 ft² or 0.01 particles per ft² (200–1000 cpm). The survey results extend about 900 m SE of the B Plant stack, still within the boundaries of 200-East.

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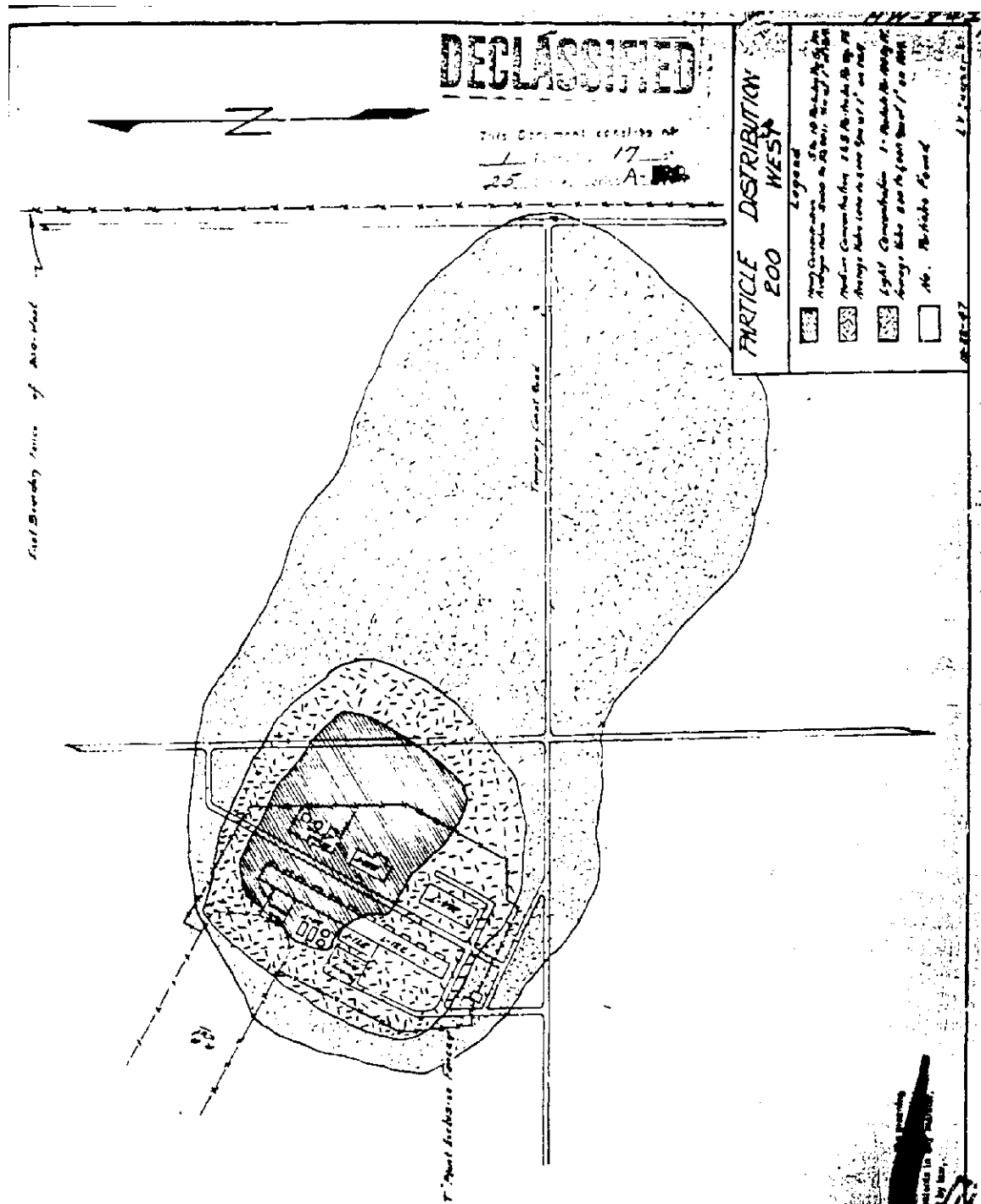


Figure 4-31. Distribution of particles in 200-West, December 22, 1947 (HW-8429). The "heavy concentration" zone around the T Plant stack is 5-10 particles per ft² (5000-10,000 cpm). The "medium concentration" zone is 1-5 particles per ft² (1000-5000 cpm). The "light concentration" zone is 1 particle per 100 ft² or 0.01 particles per ft² (200-1000 cpm). The survey results extend about 800 m to the east boundary fence of 200-West.

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Given the spatial extent of contamination documented by these maps from 1947, the exposure to active particles was mainly an occupational exposure problem, with the possible exception of construction or other field workers in these areas. According to report [HW-20888](#) (April 1951), military personnel were excluded from the separately fenced areas within the reservation. However, these ground surveys from the late 1940s did not extend to further distances where it is probable that lower concentrations of particles were present. In fact, H.M. Parker ([HW-9259](#)) stated that measured deposition was 1–10% of the estimated emission of active particles, meaning that 90–99% of particles were not detected within the surveyed area.

In a memo dated March 10, 1948 ([HW-9141](#)), H.M. Parker discusses the contamination on the potential construction sites for the REDOX Plant. Those areas had been surveyed for ground contamination. The proposed test plant site contained no particles detectable by G.M. counter methods. However, what appears to be a potential site for C Plant in 200-East was unsuitable in the author's view because of particle contamination, which averaged 2.5 particles per ft² by field survey techniques. The author stated that the particle density would be at least 10 times greater using autoradiographic techniques. The results at the C Plant location are interpreted by Parker as showing a “skip distance” with respect to the B Plant stack. Further detailed surveys were proposed.

In a March 12, 1948, memo ([HW-9175](#)), C.N. Gross presents a summary of studies and intended action to achieve decontamination of existing plant ventilating air streams and to design better air cleanup systems. He stated that some of the active particles or droplets involved were small, perhaps less than 1 micron in size. The replacement of fans and ducts in the blower systems for the stacks had reduced the rate of deposition of active particles on the ground around the stacks, but it had not eliminated the deposition. Gross states, “The active material on the ground is picked up by the wind and scattered over a wide area. Complete safety from airborne particles could not be guaranteed inside a radius varying from about 2500 to 5000 feet, depending on prevailing winds.”

An April 1, 1948, memo by Parker ([HW-9372](#)) poses questions to be addressed by future studies about active particle transport in the environment. Proposals for studies had been prepared by Dr. P.E. Church. A simulated rain experiment had been started. A rough guess by the author (H.M. Parker) of the particle density that could be safely left in place was 0.01 particles per ft². A crude estimate of the area contaminated to this degree was 24 mi². About 2 mi² was believed to be contaminated with 0.1 particles per ft² or more.

In a memo dated April 1, 1948, ([HW-9476](#)), P.E. Church responded to questions about the transport of the active particles by the wind to other areas of the site and offsite. It is important that the possibility for airborne transport of active particles was recognized at this early date. He did not expect that serious concentrations could be present beyond 2 mi downwind. Their experience was a dilution of a factor of 10,000 within 2000 ft of a ground contamination source. Washing the specks into the ground so that they would not become airborne was suggested, as was maintaining a well irrigated green turf in problem areas.

Report HW-10261 ([Thornburn](#) 1948), dated June 11, 1948, documents results of an investigation of the radioactive particles. In the introduction, Thornburn states that the Health Instrument Group from each separations area at the Hanford Works had discovered on the ground and roofs of buildings surrounding the off-gas stacks, “a multitude of small, but extremely contaminated particles.” All results of this investigation tended to indicate that the particles were coming from the ductwork fans and surrounding breaching.

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A letter from C.M. Patterson ([HW-11479](#)) to Dr. John Bowers of the Atomic Energy Commission in November 1948 gave an estimated deposition rate of 10^8 to 10^9 particles per month for the 200 Areas. Extending the area to cover the entire reservation gave an estimate of 10^{10} particles per month. These estimates were obtained by field sampling using systematic survey grids, followed up with “catch frames.” Results from off-plant locations showed evidence of particles but were inconclusive. Evidence of particles had been found 170 mi from the stacks, but sufficient quantity for chemical assay had not been collected to determine if they were stack discharge active particles from the Hanford project. Sand filters had been installed as of October 1948, but [Patterson](#) (1948) indicated it was too early to evaluate their effectiveness; preliminary tests indicated they were only partially successful.

During the height of the particle releases from REDOX (1952–1954) and later, there were a series of contamination surveys that documented the particle deposition density on ground surfaces. The results were almost always presented as maps illustrating the extent of zones with varying ranges of particle numbers within a certain area of ground surface. These maps are reproduced in [Appendix C](#). Data were extracted from the maps and are presented in tables later in this section. Some general narrative on the surveys is presented below in chronological order.

Donelson ([HW-29346](#)) discusses the emission of crystals from the REDOX stack. A third episodic emission of visible particles had recently been observed in the vicinity of the main stack on August 14, 1953; previous episodic emissions had occurred on June 24, 1952, and March 16, 1953. The most recent emission differed from previous instances in that the crystals were larger and carried a greater amount of radioactive material. The largest crystal found was approximately 5 in. long. The highest dose rate reported was 15 rep h^{-1} at the surface. Average crystals were perhaps 1/2 in. in maximum dimension and exhibited dose rates of 300 to 500 mrep h^{-1} . Figure 2 of [HW-29346](#) ([Figure C-8](#)) shows the approximate distribution of those visible crystals. Smaller particles, detectable by instruments, were much more frequent and more widely spread than the visible crystals. However, those associated with the recent crystal emission could not be differentiated from those that had fallen previously.

Unusually high ruthenium emission from the REDOX stack in 200-West Area occurred in January 1954. The emission of 260 Ci on the night of January 2 and morning of January 3 represented the highest daily emission of ruthenium since startup of this facility in January 1952 ([HW-31818](#)). Failure of the caustic scrubber in the H-cell, 202-S Building was responsible. In addition, about 100 Ci was released between 10:00 a.m. January 5 and 10:30 a.m. January 6. The ruthenium emissions affected the measurements of nonvolatile beta activity on vegetation. A narrow trajectory from the January 2–3 release extended in a northeast direction from the 200-West Area. Contamination of ground surfaces is illustrated in [Figure 4-32](#). The plume to the northeast was from the emission of January 2–3, whereas the one to the north was from the emission of January 5–6. The dose rate in the maximum zone was 500 mrad h^{-1} . Outside the 200-West Area dose rates decreased to values ranging from 25 to 100 mrad h^{-1} over an area several miles removed from the source. Weekly surveys on 100 control plots inside a radius of 6800 ft of the stack were established. In the latter part of the quarter, dose rates did not exceed 10 mrad h^{-1} at locations beyond a radius of 3 mi from the REDOX stack.

Ground contamination resulted in widespread contamination of project vehicles, which became evident in February and March ([HW-32473](#)). Nearly half of the vehicles on the site were surveyed and 20% found to be contaminated in excess of 100 cpm. The locations were most often tires and under-surfaces of the vehicles as well as radiators. Later that fall (September-October

1954), an average of 12% of the vehicles in the REDOX Plant area were still contaminated in spite of water flushing of black-topped road surfaces ([HW-33830](#)).

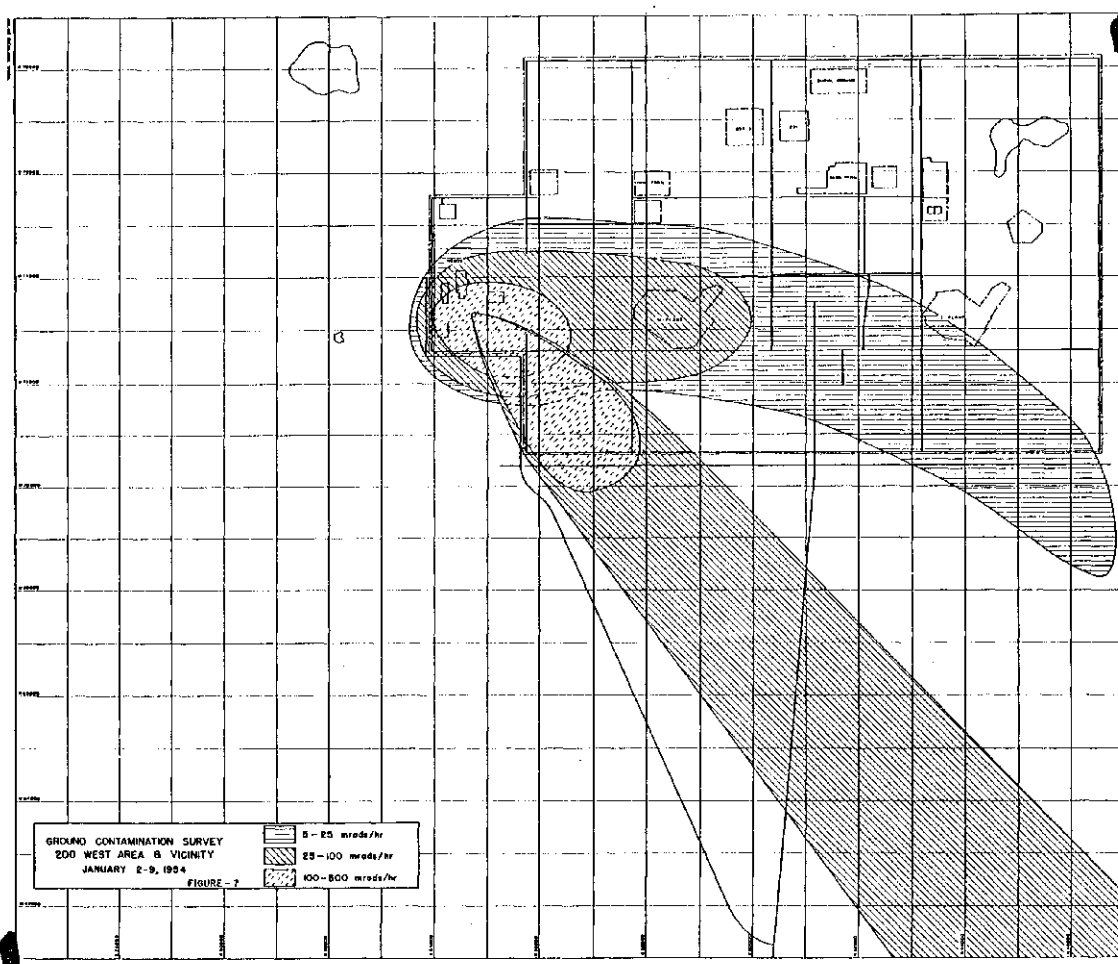


Figure 4-32. Ground contamination survey in 200-West Area and vicinity, January 2-9, 1954, showing trajectories of contamination resulting from episodic releases of ruthenium (Figure 7 from [HW-31818](#)) (north is to the right in this figure).

In the second quarter of 1954, portable instrument surveys of ground contamination in 200-West Area were conducted on a weekly basis at 100 control plots ([HW-33896](#)). Increases in dose rates (mrad per hour) were noted during the month of June 1954. The dose rates measured during the last week of the quarter are shown in this quarterly report as a map ([Figure C-15](#)). The survey extended about 2.3 km south of the REDOX stack, not as far as the nearest military encampment along Army Loop Road (3.2 km), (see [Section 3.1](#)). However, construction or other field workers could have been in these areas. The contaminating material was identified as ruthenium and rhodium.

The emissions of radoruthenium from the REDOX ventilation stack, of grave concern in early 1954, were substantially reduced after July as a result of the installation and use of additional off-gas decontamination equipment ([HW-34882](#)). The most intense ground contamination in the immediate vicinity of REDOX (within 3000 feet of the stacks) had been

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maintained to about 6 mrad per hour at ankle level by the use of water sprinkling which carried the activity into the ground. During September 1954, certain areas outside the REDOX exclusion area but within the 200-West Area were plowed to bury contamination and were then planted in rye.

In the third quarter of 1954, generally high ground contamination in the 200-West Area was found to consist of particles with maximum dimensions ranging from a few microns to around 1000 microns (0.1 cm) ([HW-36504](#)). The radioactive material present was nearly all ruthenium-rhodium, with dose rates from individual particles being as high as 10 to 20 rad h⁻¹ at locations within several thousand feet of the REDOX stack. The activity ratio of ¹⁰³Ru:¹⁰⁶Ru was less than 1. The source was definitely REDOX, but the low percentage of ¹⁰³Ru meant the contamination was not from recently processed fission products.

Environmental surveys made during the third quarter 1954 revealed particles of similar composition to be present throughout the environs as far away as Pendleton, Oregon, and Mesa, Washington. Particle concentrations in the Richland-Benton City areas were on the order of 1 particle per 3000 ft² although a somewhat higher concentration was noted on densely vegetated areas. Crop surveys revealed no contamination of fruit, although particles were detected on the ground in some orchards adjacent to the project. Road surveys on the project showed contamination on most highways, with particle frequencies varying from 2 per mile to 30 per mile near the 200-West Area. Most of these particles on the roads were fixed. (We interpret the term "fixed" to be not easily removable contamination, implying that the fragile ammonium nitrate particles had weathered, leaving the ruthenium/rhodium associated with the road surface.)

Report [HW-33830](#) is a progress report for a REDOX particle study conducted in September and October 1954. Although unconfirmed by stack samples, there was every indication that the REDOX stack was continuing to emit radioactive material. Glass wool deposition samples in the stack area continued to show an average of 1000–2000 cpm d⁻¹. These glass wool collectors were mounted horizontally on metal frames with expanded metal tops in the stack area and out to a distance of about 1100 ft from the stack. In addition, a vertical sampler was mounted on one of the legs of the frame generally facing the predominant wind direction. These were normally changed weekly. After October 20, 1954, brownish spots showing uncorrected dose rates (with a C.P. instrument) as high as 150 mrad h⁻¹ began to appear on the horizontally mounted deposition samples within 200 ft of the stack. At almost all locations, deposition on the horizontal collector was twice as high as that on the adjacent vertical collector. The one exception was at the railroad cut gate sample station, where the vertical sample was higher and determined to be essentially all cesium. Scans of the particles from the horizontally mounted filter indicated the contamination to be ruthenium with an age of somewhat greater than 200 days since pile discharge.

Surveys of the REDOX area loading docks and surrounding ground showed some new contamination during September 1954 with levels up to 6000 cpm ([HW-33830](#)). One particle with an uncorrected dose rate (C.P.) of 7.5 rad h⁻¹ was found in the walkway to the exclusion area gate. During October, the deposition sample station mounted on the roof of the REDOX Building indicated positive depositions but of lower magnitude than those around the stack area.

In the routine monitoring report for the fourth quarter 1954, two maps were presented illustrating the results of ground contamination surveys ([HW-36505](#)). Abnormal ground contamination continued on the project and in the local environs, with some increases noted during November and December in the vicinity of REDOX. The particle ground contamination

map for September-October is shown in Figure 4-33. (Both maps are included with the entire set of ground contamination survey maps in [Appendix C](#).)

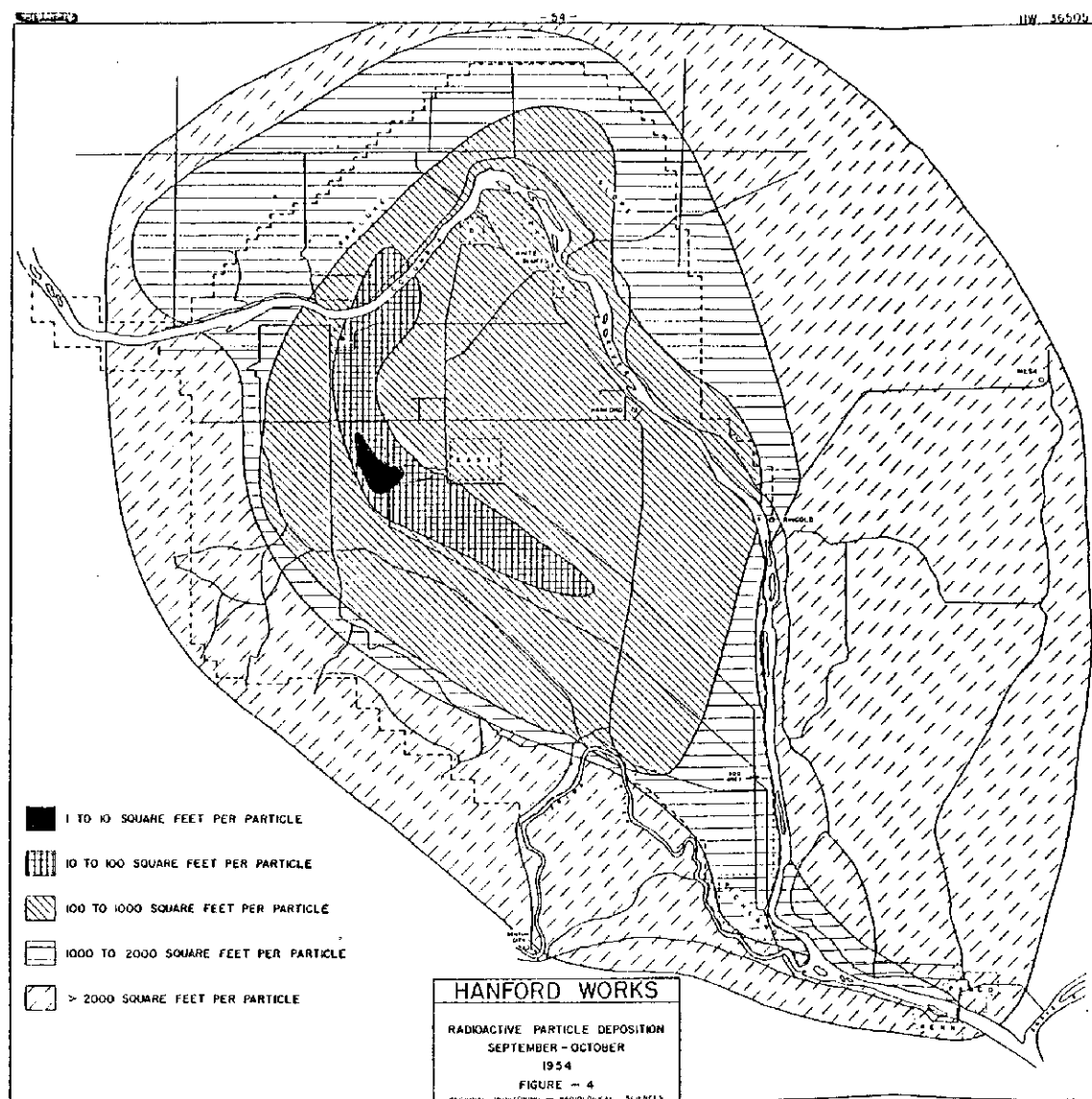


Figure 4-33. Radioactive particle density on the ground, September–October 1954, Figure 4 from HW-36505. The highest contamination zone near 200-West was one particle per 1–10 ft². In the lowest zone shown here, one particle was found in an area greater than 2000 ft².

The weekly variation in particle concentrations on control plots in the 200-West Area in October–December 1954 is shown in [Figure 4-34](#). The concentrations are expressed relative to the median observed in November, which was a relatively stable period. Concentrations were lowest in October (0.7 relative to November) and highest in early December (1.6 relative to November). All these data represent “those particles detectable at ground level using a portable G.M. instrument.”

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Measurements of low-activity particles not detectable by portable monitoring instruments were started in the fourth quarter of 1954. The method involved exposure of film in light-proof envelopes to ground surfaces in the area. Concentrations of these low-level particles were found to be on the order of 200 particles per ft² at locations adjacent to the 200-West perimeter fence southeast of REDOX, compared to concentrations of less than 10 particles per ft² in the 300 Area.

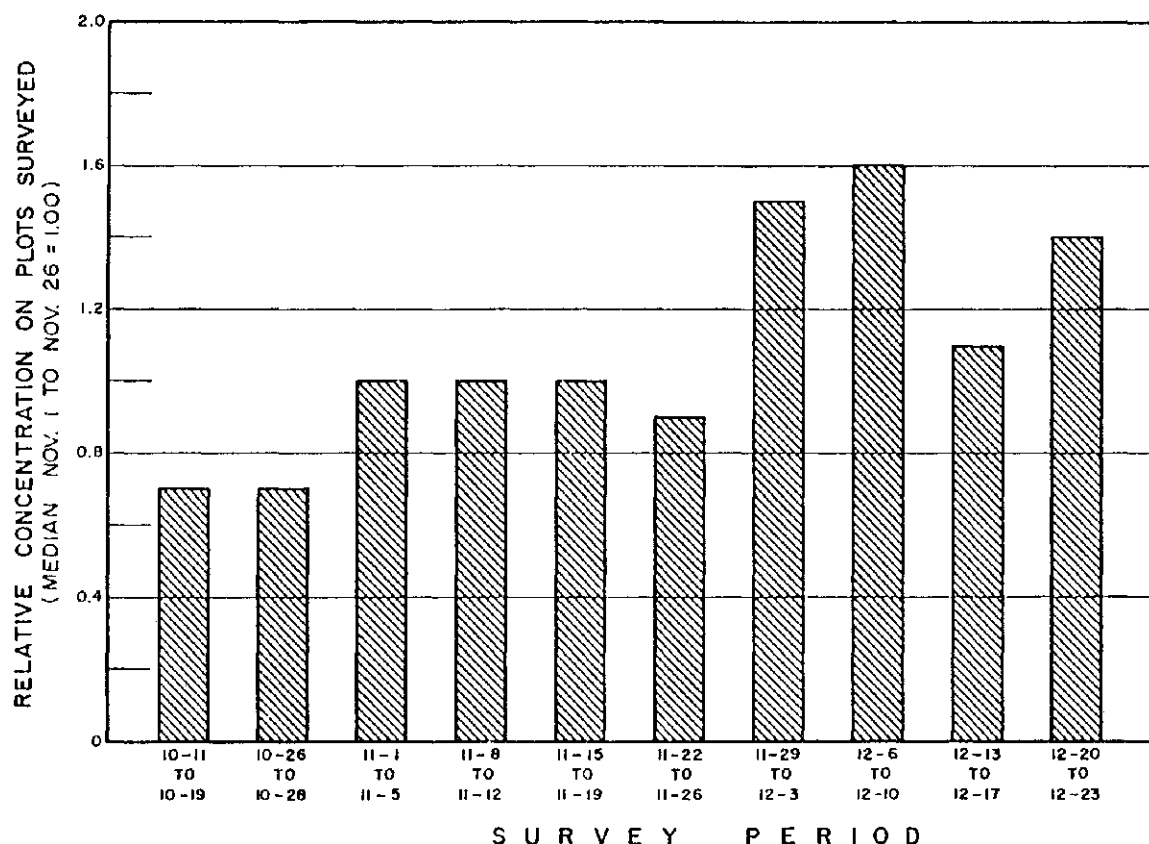


Figure 4-34. Relative concentration of detectable particles on ground survey control plots in 200-West between October 11, 1954, and December 23, 1954, compared to the period November 1–26, 1954 (Figure 6 of [HW-36505](#)).

Ground surveys of control plots around REDOX were continued intensively during the first quarter of 1955 ([HW-36506](#)). Several particles were found in the surface of the snow in January, indicating that the emission of particulate material was continuing. Following the same procedure as last quarter, the weekly variations in particle concentrations on the control plots were expressed relative to the median observed in November 1954, which was a relatively stable period ([Figure 4-35](#)).

Isopleth maps of detectable particle density on the ground were generated for February and March 1955 (not for January because of snow cover). These maps are included in [Appendix C](#). Selected locations in Richland were surveyed showing an average of one particle per 4000 ft² in January and one particle per 2000 to 2500 ft² in February and March. The detection of particles in January was probably low because of partial snow cover.

Lower-activity particle densities measured in the first quarter 1955 using film in light-proof envelopes varied from 160 particles per ft² near REDOX to <3 particles per ft² in the vicinity of Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick ([HW-36506](#)). Concentrations in the vicinity of T Plant, about 2.8 km north of REDOX, were rather low, on the order of 5–10 particles per ft². There is no discussion of the natural background contribution from uranium and thorium series radionuclides. Presumably, natural radioactivity would have also contributed to these lower-activity measurements.

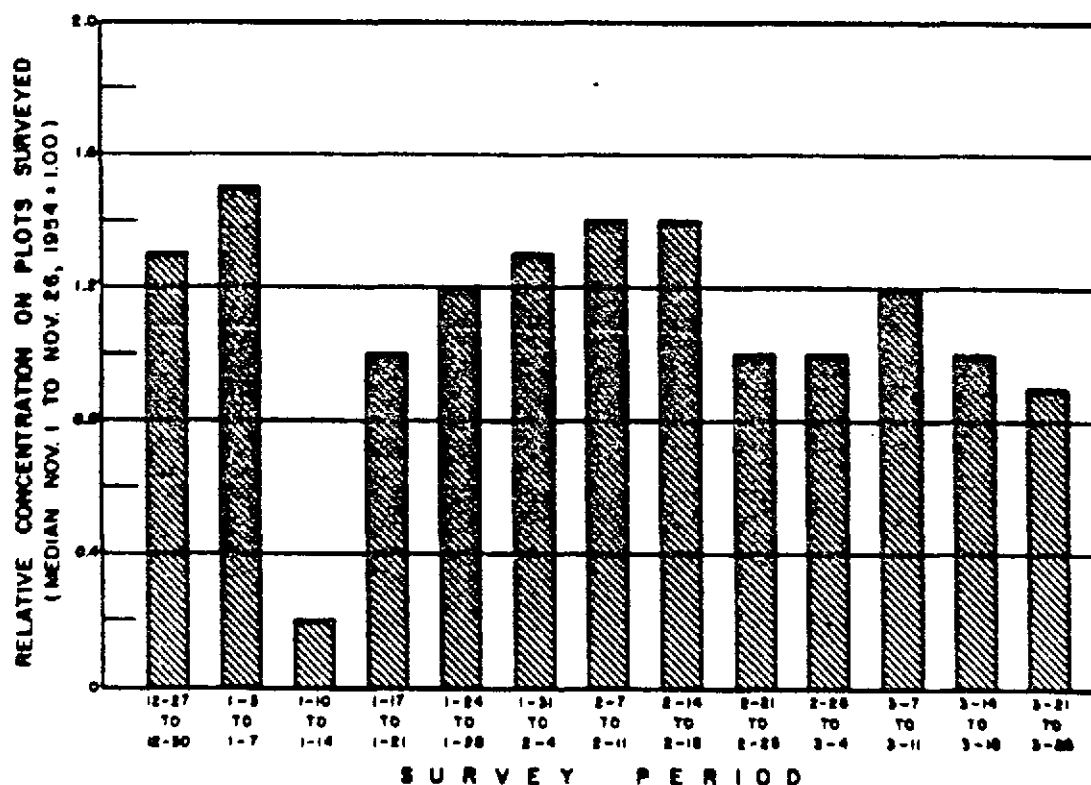


Figure 4-35. Relative concentration of detectable particles on ground survey control plots between December 27, 1954, and March 26, 1955, compared to the period November 1–26, 1954 (Figure 4 of [HW-36506](#)).

Work continued on determining the best way to measure particle fallout—for example, Hanford scientists experimented with glass wool pads, backed by cardboard, and gummed paper. Comparison of the numbers of particles retained by glass wool pads on the ground and those mounted on frames 2 ft above the ground showed a greater number on the ground, indicating possible movement of active particles at ground level. Gummed paper mounted vertically on telephone poles showed particles in the air as high as 9 ft above the ground ([HW-36506](#)).

Ground surveys of control plots around REDOX were continued throughout the second quarter of 1955 at a reduced frequency ([HW-38566](#)). The reduction was accomplished by eliminating the two outer rings of existing plots that had contained only a few particles without any significant changes in number of particles for some time. Again, concentrations are plotted in

a column chart relative to the median in November 1954 (Figure 4-36). The relative concentration decreased compared to the previous quarter (index value 1.2 to 0.85).

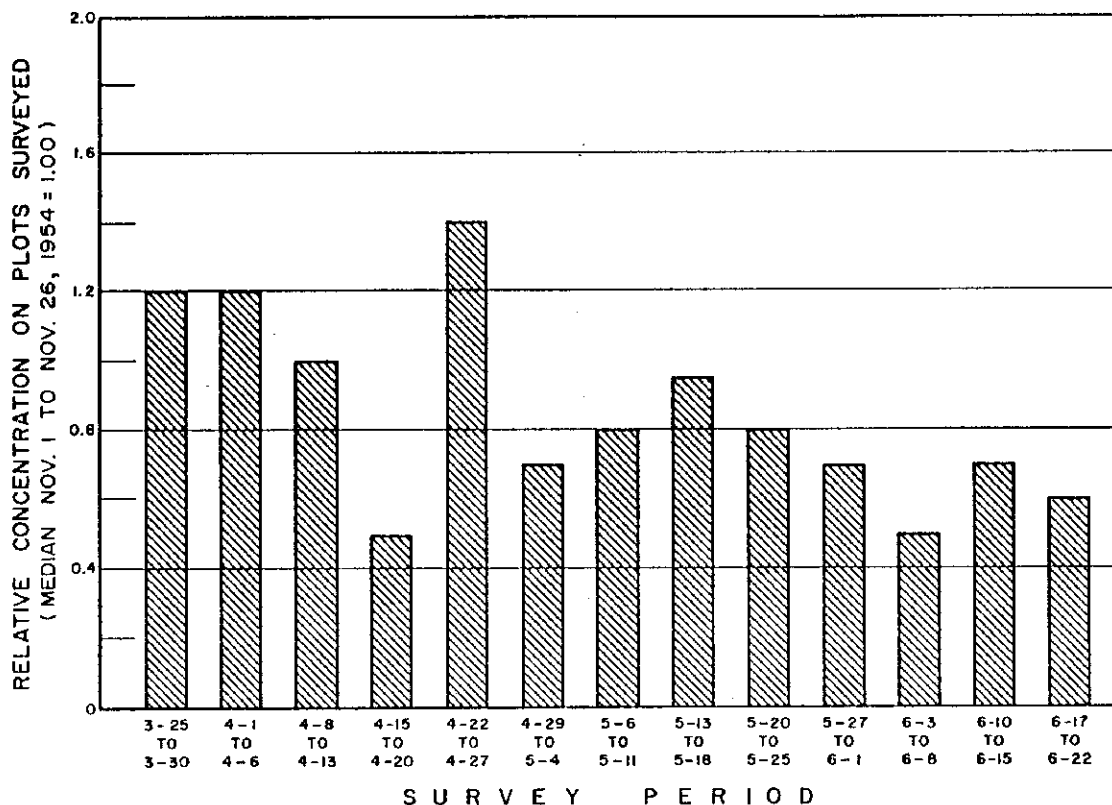


Figure 4-36. Relative concentration of detectable particles on ground survey control plots between March 25, 1955, and June 22, 1955, compared to the period November 1-26, 1954 (Figure 4 of [HW-38566](#)).

Hanford's Radiological Sciences Department estimated the total number of particles on ground areas from the particle density surveys ([HW-38566](#)). During the first 2 weeks of May 1955, they estimated 3.4 million particles detectable by portable instruments on the ground within 1 mi of the REDOX stack. Using the average dose rate per particle measured in the surveys, or approximately 20 mrad h^{-1} and converting this to activity, the total activity represented by this area was 0.7 Ci. This activity estimate was roughly 4 times lower than the 5 million particles representing 2-4 Ci on the ground as of December 17, 1954. (Apparently, the activity per particle differed because the number of particles did not change by a factor of 4.)

The second quarter 1955 report ([HW-38566](#)) gave some additional insight into how the sitewide ground contamination maps were generated. It states that ground surveys of 2000 ft² were conducted along main roads on and adjacent to the project at 1-mi intervals. The isopleth maps showing particle contamination density for April, May, and June 1955 are included in [Appendix C](#).

Ground surveys of the Tri-City area in the second quarter 1955 produced similar results to the previous quarter, with one particle per 3000-4000 ft². Close-in surveys were also performed

around reactors in H Area and F Area. Maximum densities around H Area were 16 particles per 100 ft². A survey of 10,000 ft² on the Wahluke slope located six particles. The maximum dose rate of any one particle was 150 mrad h⁻¹. The particles were composed of mixed fission products. The path of contamination indicated the source to be the 105-H reactor stack; emissions estimates indicated the week of May 3 to May 10, 1955, likely contained the highest releases. At F Area, there was one particle per 2000 ft², with the majority in the NE sector of the 100-F Area. The active material in these particles was found to be ruthenium, probably resulting from contamination originating from REDOX in 1954.

In the third quarter 1955 ([HW-39429](#)), ground surveys of the control plots around REDOX continued at reduced frequency. The relative index was given as 0.5 compared to 0.85 for the last quarter; however, a column chart of weekly values was not presented. Causes for the decrease are given as radioactive decay, rain, wind, and other meteorological phenomena.

Quarterly ground surveys in the separations areas in 1957 produced estimates of 15 and 5 particles per 1000 square feet for the REDOX and PUREX areas, respectively. Surveys made along roads on the project showed 0 to 2 particles per 1000 square feet. In the Tri Cities areas offsite an average value for 1957 was 15,000 square feet per particle (equivalent to 0.067 particles per 1000 square feet) ([HW-89066](#)).

4.1.6.3 Summary of Ground Survey Data. Report [HW-54636](#), by J.M. Selby and J.K. Soldat, summarizes incidents at Hanford that resulted in environmental contamination between 1952 and 1957, inclusive. The major problem at 200 Areas during this time interval was the series of ruthenium emissions from REDOX from March 1952 through 1954. Because of the widespread contamination that resulted, extensive surveys of the entire project were performed beginning in the summer of 1954. Over 25 maps in [HW-54636](#), reproduced in [Appendix C](#), illustrate the distribution of ground contamination around 200 Areas. Some maps are sitewide or larger, and some are limited to a smaller area. The sitewide maps are generated from the same data presented in the quarterly reports discussed in the previous subsection of this report. However, they are standardized so that results are expressed in units of particles per 1000 ft².

[Table 4-7](#) shows the particle deposition density in the *maximum* zone shown on various survey maps (from [Appendix C](#)) as well as the particle deposition density at the H-40 military camp location, 8.9 km east of the REDOX stack ([Figure 3-2](#)). It should be mentioned that the military camps H-51 or H-60 are sometimes in the maximum density zone, but the general pattern indicates that H-40 received the greatest deposition. The highest particle deposition densities during the interval July 1954–September 1957 were observed between September 1954 and April 1955 ([Table 4-7](#)).

In the text of [HW-54636](#), Selby and Soldat present survey results of the numbers of particles found at some offsite areas during June–September 1954. For ease of use, we converted those results to similar units and then tabulated them along with data from other sources ([Table 4-8](#)). Only five active particles were found in an extended survey (1000 ft² surveyed every 5 mi) along highways between Wallula, Washington; Lewiston, Idaho; LaGrande, Oregon; Baker, Oregon; Pendleton, Oregon; and back to Wallula. The maximum dose rate from these five particles was 500 mrad h⁻¹. Sixty-six percent of the 288 particles located offsite were within the dose range 5-50 mrad h⁻¹ ([HW-33068](#)).

**Table 4-7. Particle Deposition Density at Military Location H-40
and in the Maximum Reported Contamination Zone from
Sitewide Survey Maps**

Time interval			Particles per 1000 ft ^{2a}	
Beginning	Ending	Source report number	H-40	Maximum zone
7/1/54	8/31/54	HW-54636 Fig 24	10	>100
9/1/54	10/30/54	HW-36505 Fig 4	10	1000
12/1/54	12/31/54	HW-36505 Fig 5	10	1000
2/1/55	2/28/55	HW-36506 Fig 5	10	1000
3/1/55	3/31/55	HW-36506 Fig 6	100	1000
4/1/55	4/30/55	HW-38566 Fig 5	10	100
5/1/55	5/31/55	HW-38566 Fig 6	10	100
6/1/55	6/30/55	HW-38566 Fig 7	10	100
7/1/55	7/31/55	HW-39429 Fig 4	10	100
8/1/55	8/31/55	HW-39429 Fig 5	1	100
9/1/55	9/30/55	HW-39429 Fig 6	10	100
10/1/55	10/30/55	HW-40871 Fig 4	10	>10
11/1/55	11/30/55	HW-40871 Fig 5	10	>10
1/1/56	1/31/56	HW-43012 Fig 4	1	10
3/1/56	3/31/56	HW-43012 Fig 5	1	100
4/1/56	4/30/56	HW-44215 Fig 3	10	100
5/1/56	5/31/56	HW-44215 Fig 4	10	10
6/1/56	6/30/56	HW-44215 Fig 5	10	100
10/1/56	12/31/56	HW-48374 Fig 3	1	10
2/1/57	2/28/57	HW-54636 Fig 35	1	100
4/1/57	4/30/57	HW-54636 Fig 36	1	100
8/1/57	8/31/57	HW-54636 Fig 37	<0.5	10

^a Particles detectable by a G.M. meter at ground level. When a range is presented, the maximum value is shown in this table. For example, a zone of 0.5–1 particles per 1000 ft² is shown in this table as 1.

Similarly, [Table 4-9](#) lists the maximum reported contamination levels from close-in surveys that included the 200 Areas but not the entire site. The two surveys in 1947 are included here. The source maps themselves are reproduced in [Appendix C](#). Results in Table 4-9 are expressed four ways: particles per 1000 ft², mrad per hour, counts per minute, and disintegrations per minute. The maximum ruthenium-bearing particle density in May 1954 (10 particles per ft²) was equivalent to the maximum concentration of active corrosion products around the plant stacks in 1947. Because of the different radiological composition of the particles, the equal particle numbers do not necessarily represent the same hazard.

Table 4-8. Particle Deposition Density at Off-Project Areas

Description of location	Source report	Time interval	Particles per 1000 ft ^{2a}
Mesa (small sample)	HW-33068	September 1954	1.7
School lawns in Richland	HW-54636	June–September 1954	1.0
Richland - grassy areas	HW-33068	September 1954	0.91
Wahluke Slope	HW-54636	June–September 1954	0.60
Wahluke Slope	HW-33069	September 1954	0.50
Richland	HW-36506	February–March 1955	0.50
Ringold to Pasco	HW-33068	September 1954	0.45
Richland – general	HW-33068	September 1954	0.40
Benton City to Columbia Camp	HW-33068	September 1954	0.40
Benton City to Enterprise	HW-33068	September 1954	0.30
Pasco-Kennewick	HW-33068	September 1954	0.25
Richland	HW-44215	April–June 1956	0.20
North Richland	HW-54636	June–September 1954	0.05–1
Ringold	HW-33068	September 1954	0.18
Connell	HW-33068	September 1954	0.14
Along road between Pasco and Ringold ^b	HW-54636	June–September 1954	0.13
Tri-cities area	HW-48374	October–December 1956	0.07
Tri-cities area	HW-89066	1957	0.067
Twelve orchards east of the project near Ringold	HW-54636	June–September 1954	0.038
Five orchards west of project near Midway	HW-54636	June–September 1954	0.016

^a Particles detectable by a G.M. meter at ground level.

^b An area of 1000 ft² was surveyed every 0.1 mi.

One survey in July 1952 (Table 4-9) was associated with a fire in the solid waste burial ground and was alpha contamination. The PUREX stack was determined to be a source of ground contamination from a survey in July 1957. Table 4-9 values represent the maximum particle deposition density that would have been encountered by construction or field workers in the 200 Areas. It is clear that workers near the 200 Areas were exposed to much greater concentrations of active particles than people in off-project areas (Tables 4-7 through 4-9).

Table 4-9. Maximum Particle Deposition Density from Close-In Surveys That Encompassed the 200 Areas

Time interval		Source report	Maximum contamination ^a			
Beginning	Ending		Particles per 1000 ft ²	mrad h ⁻¹ per particle	cpm per particle	dpm per particle
11/28/47	11/28/47	HW-8430	10,000		10,000	
12/22/47	12/22/47	HW-8429	10,000		10,000	
3/30/52	5/3/52	HW-54636 Fig 11 and text	4000	800	1000	
6/1/52	6/30/52	HW-54636 Fig 12 and text	3000	600 ^b		
7/9/52	7/9/52	HW-54636 Fig 39 and text				200,000 ^c
3/1/53	4/30/53	HW-54636 Fig 13		25		
8/14/53	8/14/53	HW-29346 Fig 12 and text	1000 ^d	15,000		
8/19/53	8/19/53	HW-54636 Fig 14		20,000		
1/2/54	1/9/54	HW-54636 Fig 16 and text		500 ^e	5000 ^f	
2/15/54	2/19/54	HW-54636 Fig 17		225		
3/1/54	3/5/54	HW-54636 Fig 18		225		
3/22/54	3/26/54	HW-54636 Fig 19		100		
5/24/54	5/24/54	HW-54636 text	10,000	15,000		
5/25/54	6/10/54	HW-54636 Fig 21 and text		2,000		
5/17/54	5/21/54	HW-54636 Fig 20		100		
6/25/54	6/25/54	HW-33896 Fig 5		950	10,000	
11/1/54	11/30/54	HW-54636 Fig 22	>100			
1/1/55	1/31/55	HW-54636 Fig 23	>100			
6/4/56	6/4/56	HW-54636 Fig 40 and text	1000 ^g	450		
10/1/56	12/31/56	HW-48374 text	50			
7/4/57	7/4/57	HW-54636 text		430	20,000 ^h	
11/7/57	11/12/57	HW-54636 Fig 41 and text	100	1100	>80,000 ⁱ	

^a Particles detectable by a G.M. meter at ground level. When a range is presented in the source report, the maximum value is shown in this table. For example, a zone of 5000–10,000 particles per 1000 ft² is shown in this table as 10,000.

^b Text states there was an isolated maximum value of 4000 mrad h⁻¹.

^c Associated with a fire in the solid waste burial ground. Contamination was alpha activity. Spatial extent was limited.

^d Visible crystals. Many more were detectable with instruments.

^e Text states there was an isolated maximum value of 1300 mrad h⁻¹.

^f On Wahluke Slope following large ruthenium release.

^g Determined to be large radioactive paint flakes from U Plant duct work, downstream of sand filter.

^h Associated with PUREX stack releases. Contamination extended about 1500 ft N and NW of the stack.

ⁱ Associated with burial of very contaminated waste containing ruthenium.

[Parker](#) (1956b) summarized the Hanford experiences with respect to dispersion of radioactive particles in a paper presented at a conference in Geneva sponsored by the United Nations in August 1955. Two composite maps (Figures 4-37 and 4-38) illustrate dispersion patterns for an intermediate particle size range of 3-100 microns and for large particles, >100 microns. These largest particles, which could produce damage on skin contact, are restricted to a few kilometers from the source (Figure 4-38).

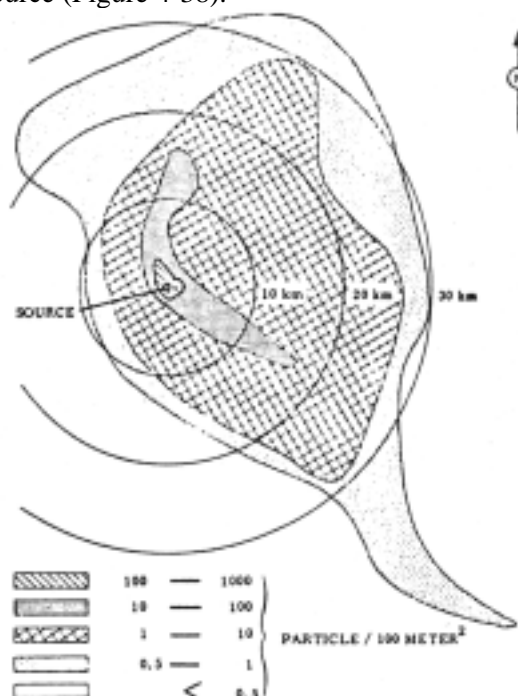


Figure 4-37. Typical distribution of 3-100 micron particles ([Parker](#) 1956b).

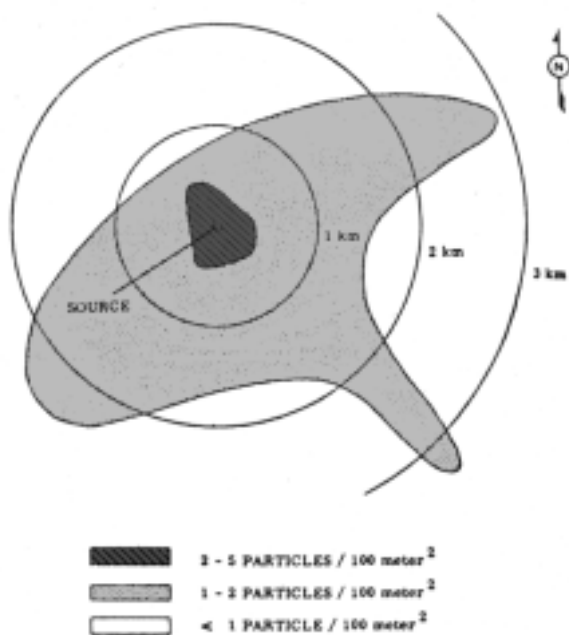


Figure 4-38. Typical distribution of >100 micron particles ([Parker](#) 1956b).

Selby and Soldat ([HW-54636](#)) used a series of locations selected in mid-1954 to obtain a reproducible time trend for particle survey data for the entire project. Their time trend in particle numbers on the ground of the Hanford project and vicinity is illustrated in [Figure 4-39](#). The second half of 1954 was the most critical time in terms of radioactive ground contamination from the REDOX facility, with a total of 7×10^7 , or 70 million particles. Weathering and radioactive decay had reduced those numbers by a factor of 10 by the fall of 1955. Irregularities in the curve after this time were caused by new releases of radioactive particles. For example, about 4 mi² in and around the 200-West Area were contaminated with ruthenium following the burial of grossly contaminated equipment on November 6, 1957 ([HW-54636](#)). A similar problem was noted in January 1956 ([HW-43012](#)).

Weathering of ruthenium into the soil is supported by a study discussed in the fourth quarter 1955 environmental report ([HW-40871](#)). An investigation of the penetration of particles into the soil near REDOX indicated that the first 4 in. of soil was heavily contaminated, and that a small number of particles penetrated the soil to at least 6 in. This shows a rapid movement of contamination into the soil column that would have greatly decreased the potential spread to other areas.

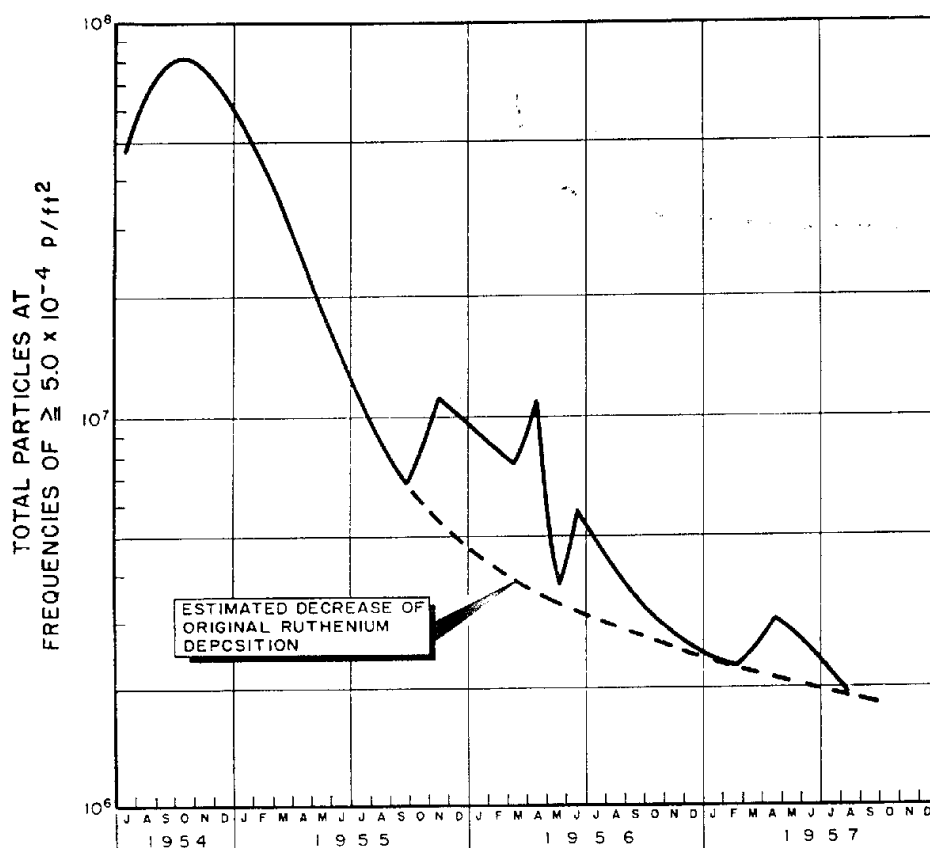


Figure 4-39. Time trend in total radioactive particles on the ground of the Hanford Project and vicinity, July 1954–September 1957, as determined by [Selby and Soldat](#) (1958) in HW-54636.

We believe that Figure 4-39, which addresses the total number of detectable radioactive particles in the Hanford environs, may exaggerate the decrease in radioactive particle levels at a single location, e.g., at a construction site near 200 Areas. Our opinion is based on examination of trends in the control plot data that are shown in Figures 4-34 through 4-36. When these data are combined, along with a relative index value stated in the third quarter 1955 report, the trend shown in Figure 4-40 is obtained. First, there is a large amount of scatter in the data that is not reflected in Figure 4-39. Second, the decrease in particle concentration on the control plots is less than that illustrated by Figure 4-39. At most, there was a reduction of a factor of 3 on the control plots (relative index 1.5 to 0.5) between December 1954 and the third quarter of 1955, whereas Figure 4-39 suggests a reduction of about a factor of 7 in the total number of detectable particles over that 9-month interval. A partial explanation may be that the control plots contained particles with some radionuclides that were longer-lived than ruthenium.

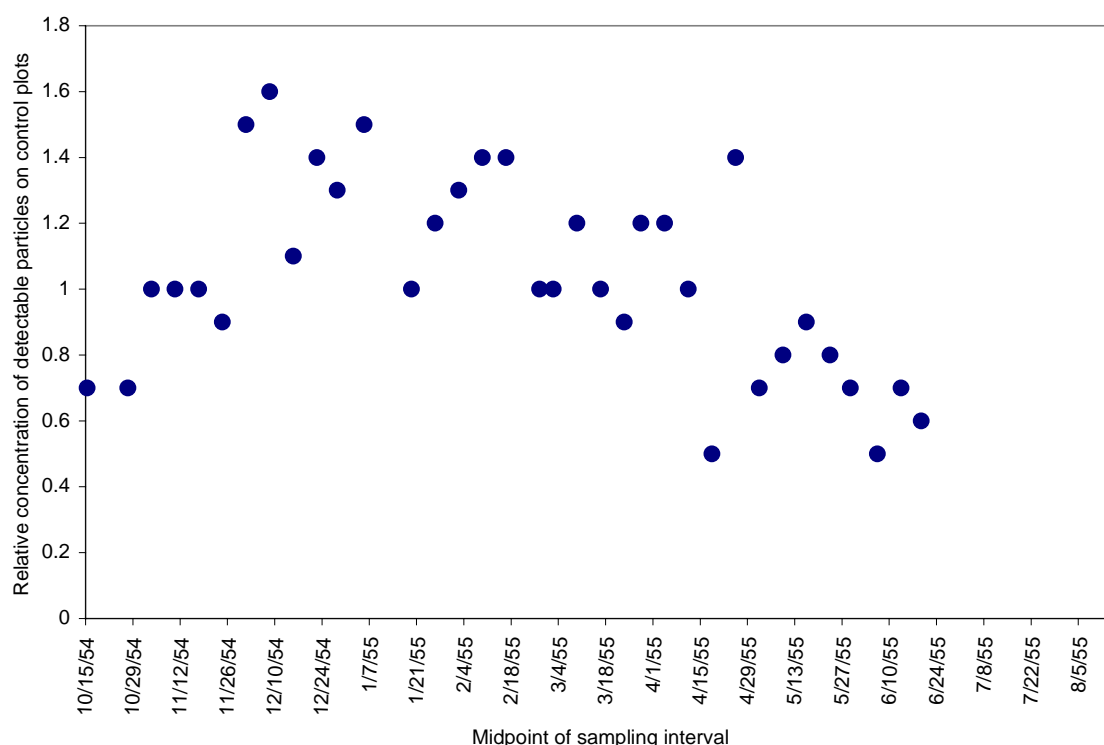


Figure 4-40. Time trend in concentration of detectable radioactive particles on control plots near 200 Areas relative to concentration observed in November 1954.

As with the other environmental monitoring data, weapons fallout in the 1950s must be considered in interpretation of ground survey data. A report by H.M. Parker ([HW-33754](#)) provided estimates of total deposition of radioactivity as of the fall of 1954. Total fallout (average over the U.S.) from the Castle series of tests in the Pacific in spring of 1954 amounted to about 100 mCi per square mile as of September 23, 1954. Table 4-10, from [HW-33754](#), shows the maximum deposition density (mCi mi^{-2}) and approximate integrated mCi-days mi^{-2} for various sources between 1946 and 1954. In the text of [HW-33754](#), Parker states that the maximum activity of a single particle was clearly greater for particles from the REDOX area than from fallout. However, the total integrated deposition of radioactivity from fallout from other sources

in the Richland area was about 30% greater than that from Hanford sources, most of which was iodine.

Table 4-10. Deposition Density of Radioactivity from Weapons Fallout and Hanford Processes, 1946 through mid-1954 ([HW-33754](#))

Source	Maximum mCi mi ⁻²	Total mCi-days mi ⁻²
Separations (¹³¹ I)	~30,000	~340,000
REDOX (Ru)	~20	~10,000
Russia	2,000	~100,000
Pacific	500	~40,000
Nevada	20,000	~170,000
Unknown	4,000	~130,000

4.2 Special Studies of Environmental Contamination

4.2.1 Physical, Chemical, and Radiological Characterization of Particles

Some dose rates measured from particles during ground contamination surveys were presented in the previous section. [Table 4-11](#) summarizes information about the physical, chemical, and radiological properties of radioactive particles associated with Hanford releases between 1945 and 1956. The emphasis here is on characterizing the radioactive particles for the purpose of environmental transport and dosimetry calculations. Minor emphasis is given to release rates or other information for source term development. The emphasis of [Section 2.2](#) is information needed to define source terms. [Table 4-11](#) lists the particle characterization information in chronological order. In addition, the most substantive reports containing information are reviewed in the text in chronological order.

By fall 1947, the term “active particles” was being used in Hanford reports to describe the radioactive particles being found outside on the ground in 200 Areas.

Recent surveys by the Health Instrument Section have disclosed the presence of many small radioactive spots on ground surfaces in the T an [sic] B plant areas. Investigation has shown that representative samples of the spots when mechanically separated invariably end in a single radioactive particle. Presumably these particles are being dispersed by the T and B plant stacks, although this has not been specifically demonstrated. It is not known whether this phenomenon has existed for a long period of time or is of recent origin. Upon review, existing data suggests a history of this occurrence for approximately six months ([HW-7865](#), dated October 22, 1947).

The particles were found to be widespread throughout the two plant areas. Spots were found around all buildings and extended to and beyond the exclusion area fence. A pessimistic particle density estimate was 1 per 4 ft² ([HW-7865](#)). However, by the end of October, Parker ([HW-7920](#)) estimated a daily particle deposition rate of 1 per ft² in the downwind direction and 1 per 4 ft² in the upwind direction.

Table 4-11. Physical, Chemical, and Radiological Properties of Radioactive Particles Released from Hanford, 1945–1956

Time interval		Source report	Location of sample	Physical characteristics	Chemical characteristics	Radiological characteristics
Beginning	Ending					
	May 7, 1945	HW-3-2894	Stack samples taken from the T Plant			0.6–0.8 MeV beta presumably from iodine; also 1.5–2.0 MeV beta
1945	1947	HW-10758	Vegetation, processing plant effluent air, and ambient air			See Table 4-13 for radionuclide composition
	August 1947	HW-11082	Outside near T Plant fence	Presence of singular large particles not indicated		Mostly Ce and decay product, Pr
	September 1947	HW-55569	Outside in 200 Areas			Effective half-life of about 300 days. Principal contaminants were (in order): Ce, Y, Sr, Ru, Cs.
	Fall 1947	HW-7865	Outside ground near T, B Plants	Can be mechanically separated from dirt		Total beta activity ranging from 0.5 μ Ci to 1 μ Ci. Most of the beta activity was Ce; most alpha was Pu (range 0.07–1.7 nCi)
	Fall 1947	HW-9259	Outside ground near T, B Plants	Color reddish brown; carrier particles >100 μ m, range 20 to 1500 μ m linear dimensions; small particles, mists, and droplets emitted since operations began	Contain iron oxides; can be separated with magnets	Alpha activity mostly Pu, 1/20 as much U. Beta activity correlated with surface area of particle; mostly Ce (and daughter Pr-144), Y, Sr, Ru, and Cs
	October 1947	HW-7920	Outside ground near T, B Plants	Mass of 0.1 to 1 mg; brown color (different from soil)		0.1 μ Ci to 1 μ Ci. T Plant particles 60–90% Ce and up to 15% Y. B Plant 30–55% Ce, 7–20%, Sr and 30–45% Y

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Table 4-11. Physical, Chemical, and Radiological Properties of Radioactive Particles Released from Hanford, 1945–1956

Time interval		Source report	Location of sample	Physical characteristics	Chemical characteristics	Radiological characteristics
Beginning	Ending					
October 1947	January 1948	HW-8624	Outside ground near T, B Plants	Physical sizes of 153 large particles ranged from 40 μm to >1 mm. Median 300 μm . No reliable data on very small particles.	Essentially all particles contain enough iron to be separated magnetically	0.0001 to 3 μCi . 30–50% Ce; 10–50% Y; 10–20% Sr
	~March 1948	HW-9175	Processing plant effluent	Some are <1 μm		
	Spring 1948	HW-9864	Processing plant effluent	Mists mean size <5 μm ; magnetic specks, density of iron		
	Spring 1948	HW-10261	Ground and roofs surrounding processing plants	Usually less than 500 μm ; range 20–1500 μm	High in iron; low carbon and calcium	2.5 pCi to 3.2 μCi beta per particle. Max beta energy 3.0 MeV
	Spring 1948	HW-10261	Processing plant effluent			Beta mostly Ce; alpha mostly Pu
	~September 1948	Gregg 1948	Outside ground	10–1000 μm	Associated with rust	Max 3 μCi beta per particle
July 1948	September 1948	HW-12677	Particles collected by air samplers			1–10 pCi fission products per particle
July 1948	September 1948	HW-12677	Stacks of 314 Building, the Melt Plant, in 300 Area			Mostly uranium
?	1950	HW-15802	Ventilation air of the B Plant before sand filter			100% of alpha was Pu; most of beta was Ce, rare earths, Ru, Zr, Y, and Sr
	April 3, 1952	HW-33068	On survey meter inside car with window open			Particle read 40 rad h^{-1}

Table 4-11. Physical, Chemical, and Radiological Properties of Radioactive Particles Released from Hanford, 1945–1956

Time interval		Source report	Location of sample	Physical characteristics	Chemical characteristics	Radiological characteristics
Beginning	Ending					
	April 29, 1952		Eastern and northern sections of the REDOX area			From 100 cpm at 1 in. to 800 mrad h ⁻¹ at surface; gross beta activity ranged up to 0.1 μCi per sample
April 1952	June 1952	HW-26493	Particles emitted from REDOX Plant (second, third, and fourth episodic releases on April 3, April 29, and June 24)	Ranged from microscopic translucent hygroscopic crystals adhering to the soil sand, to visible chalky particles varying in shape and size—a few with diameter ~ ½ in. Larger visible particles easily fractured, apparently a conglomerate of microscopic crystals.	Chemically, the composition of the inactive material was mainly ammonium nitrate with a small amount of occluded dust particles	90 to 98% of the total beta activity was Ru; ¹³¹ I in particulate contamination ranged from 1–5%. Beta particle activity varied in direct relationship with size.
	June 24, 1952	HW-32473	Outside: flakes from fourth episodic release from REDOX	1/64–1/32-in. thick and up to several inches in diameter. Large flaky radioactive particles found near the eastern REDOX exclusion area rapidly disappeared, though activity spots were detectable with survey instruments. Flakes fragile and hygroscopic.	Carrier crystal was predominately ammonium nitrate	Mostly ruthenium
	March 12, 1953	HW-28009	Ambient air near REDOX			36% of beta activity was Ru, 43% rare earths and Y
	Spring 1953	HW-28780	Base (inside) of the REDOX stack	Median particle size about 0.2 μm with GSD of 1.6 during one sample and 2.5 during another		Activity median particle size was 0.6 microns.
August 7, 1953	August 14, 1953	HW-29346 HW-32473	Outside ground southeasterly direction from the REDOX stack	Up to 5 in. (13 cm); average 0.5 in. (1.3 cm); up to 1/2 to ¾-in. thick	Carrier crystals were ammonium nitrate	Max 15 rep h ⁻¹ ; average 300–500 mrep h ⁻¹ surface. 70% Ru, 25% rare earths and Y, and trace amounts of Sr, Ba, and Zr.

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Table 4-11. Physical, Chemical, and Radiological Properties of Radioactive Particles Released from Hanford, 1945–1956

Time interval		Source report	Location of sample	Physical characteristics	Chemical characteristics	Radiological characteristics
Beginning	Ending					
	December 1953	HW-32209	Air entering sand filter of REDOX	Two cascade impactor sample results geometric mean of 0.3 μm (GSD 2.8) and 0.5 μm (GSD 3.2); average particles per cubic meter was 5.3×10^8		
	December 1953	HW-32209	Air at 10-ft level inside REDOX stack	Four cascade impactor sample results ranged from geometric median size 0.3 μm (GSD 2.0) to 0.4 μm (GSD 3.8); average particles per cubic meter, 2.4×10^8		
August 9, 1954	May 18, 1954	HW-33896	Air entering REDOX Plant sand filter			92% of total beta activity was Ru in March; in May, 24% was Ru, 28% rare earths, 14% Zr, and 25% Nb
		HW-33068	General review: input side of process sand filter			Less Ru (80%) and more of the rare earths (10–15%) and Sr (1–2%), compared to particles emitted to the environment
1952	1954	HW-33068	General review: REDOX releases to environment	Primary particles about 2 μm ; large secondary particles typically 100 μm .	Carrier base is aggregate of ammonium nitrate, sometimes sand. Inhalable particles were between 40–80% soluble after 36 h in simulated lung fluid. Large particles were 3–70% soluble after 48 h in simulated gastric juice.	Primary particles up to 5 nCi per particle, dose rate of 0.5 mrad h^{-1} ; secondary particles dose rates up to 20 rad h^{-1} and 200 μCi per particle. Ru and Rh activity 98% of the total, with Sr-89 and Sr-90 <0.3%; rare earths plus Y <1.0%; and Zr-95 <0.5%.

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Table 4-11. Physical, Chemical, and Radiological Properties of Radioactive Particles Released from Hanford, 1945–1956

Time interval		Source report	Location of sample	Physical characteristics	Chemical characteristics	Radiological characteristics
Beginning	Ending					
	June 1954	HW-32473	Outside ground in 200 Areas	No well-defined relationship between particle size and dose rate. Particles of several thousand square μm were observed. Easily fractured.	Ammonium nitrate present	90% of beta activity was Ru; activity ratio 103:106 was 0.6 to 1.4; one particle with dose rate of 1.2 rad h^{-1} contained $6.3 \mu\text{Ci}$; another reading 120 mrad h^{-1} had $0.49 \mu\text{Ci}$; average dose rate per μCi was about 200 mrad h^{-1}
	November 7, 1954	HW-36505	Five particles emitted from REDOX stack	Four of the particles were agglomerates of smaller white crystals with yellow discoloration on some surfaces. One particle was bright yellow without the crystalline appearance.	Ammonium nitrate and iron were found in four particles. The bright yellow particle was mostly calcium and iron.	95% of the beta activity was from Ru/Rh isotopes with the ratio of activity of ^{103}Ru to ^{106}Ru being less than 0.05. Also Sr, rare earths, Zr, Pu.
October 1954	December 1954	HW-36504	Ground surfaces around REDOX	Maximum dimensions ranging from a few μm to $\sim 1000 \mu\text{m}$		Nearly all beta was Ru/Rh; Ru-103:Ru-106 ratio less than 1
	December 1954	HW-35542	Ground surfaces around REDOX	Relative to a unit length, the average width was 0.75 ± 0.14 and the depth was 0.39 ± 0.18 . The density is believed to be about 1.5		
May 29, 1956	June 4, 1956	HW-44215	Outside of U Plant in 200-West Area	Large paint flakes up to 8 in. long, peeled off duct work between sand filter and U Plant stack	Associated with painted stack liner	Alpha and beta

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Some of the particles collected in October 1947 were analyzed and showed a total beta activity ranging from 0.5 μCi to 1 μCi . Most of the beta activity near T Plant was cerium (60–90%), with small (<3%) amounts of ruthenium, strontium, zirconium, cesium, yttrium, and columbium.^f One of the two samples from T Plant showed 15% yttrium. At B Plant, 28–56% of the beta activity was cesium, 32–44% was yttrium, 7–20% was strontium, and <3% was ruthenium and columbium. Plutonium accounted for 65, 70, and 96% of the alpha activity in three samples. Alpha activity per particle ranged from 160 to 3800 dpm (0.07–1.7 nCi) ([HW-7865](#)).

Three months later, in January 1948, Parker reported progress on action taken on the spot contamination in the separations plant areas. The physical size distribution of 153 particles is presented in a table for seven size classes ranging from 0.001 to >1.0 mm^2 in area ([HW-8624](#)). The area was described by the author as the product of the two principal axes of the particle. The particles were not spherical, but it is useful to estimate an appropriate equivalent spherical size. Using the Crystal Ball uncertainty analysis program ([Decisioneering](#) 1996), we determined the median area as 0.071 mm^2 , or an equivalent sphere of about 300 microns. The range can be expressed similarly as about 40 microns to >1.1 mm.

Report HW-10261 ([Thornburn](#) 1948), dated June 11, 1948, documents results of an investigation of the radioactive particles. Surveys of each separations area had discovered on the ground and roofs of buildings surrounding the off-gas stacks, “a multitude of small, but extremely contaminated particles.” The particles were usually less than 0.5 mm in diameter and contained as much as 3 μCi of beta activity. Two possible prime sources were given as

1. Minute droplets from either the dissolver, the process, or stack condensate being blown out of the stack, landing on a small piece of sand and being discovered as a radioactive particle; and
2. The actual breakdown of part of the process system resulting in small particles being blown out of the stack. Examples would be corrosion of the fans resulting in rust particles or stack concrete breakdown producing small pieces of contaminated cement being blown out of the stack.

All results tended to indicate that the particles were coming from the ductwork fans and surrounding breaching. Chemically, the particles were high in iron content. A low carbon and calcium content tended to exclude breakdown of the asphalt-painted cement stack as the source. In addition, the color of the particles was dark, not light like particles from the stack. Analysis of silicon was conducted to test the possibility that small particles were attached to soil.

Physically, the individual particles were relatively small, ranging in diameter from 0.02 mm (20 microns) to 1.5 mm. A size study of 111 particles was conducted. A distribution curve of the results in [HW-10261](#) is shown in Figure 4-41. The average was 0.21 mm^2 , and the most likely speck appeared to be in the range of 0.05 to 0.10 mm^2 (equivalent sphere 250–500 μm). The author indicates that the collection of particles of the smallest sizes was undoubtedly limited by visibility. A similar size distribution was obtained for 67 specks with an “area” of less than 0.05 mm^2 . For this distribution, the mean speck area was 0.013 mm^2 (130 μm), with the most likely at about 0.002 to 0.004 mm^2 (50–70 μm). All particles appeared rough and granular under a microscope, and at least a spot of rust-brown color was common.

^f Columbium, symbol Cb, a former name for the element niobium, especially in America ([Seaborg](#) 1994).

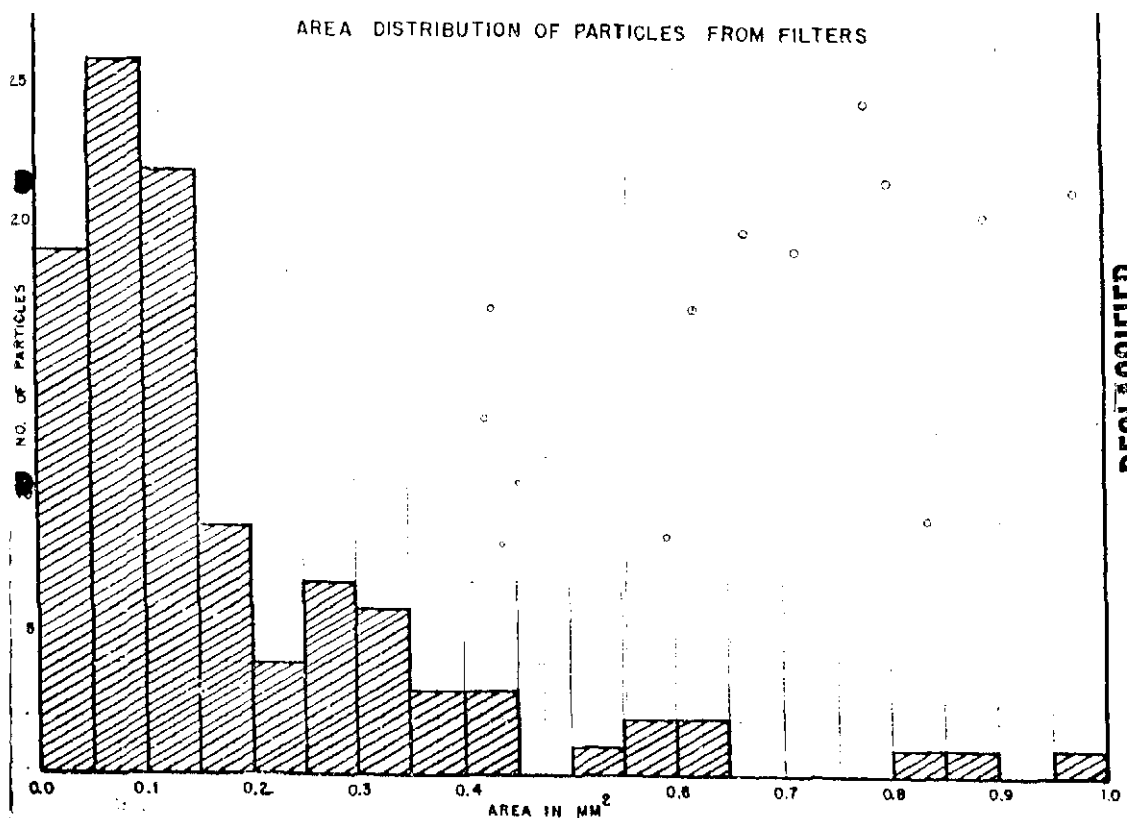


Figure 4-41. Size distribution of particles collected from effluent air filters from 200-Area processing plants in spring 1948 (from [HW-10261](#)). The area was computed from the product of the minor and major axes lengths.

Contamination present on the particles was determined. Table III of [HW-10261](#) presents the results for particles collected from a variety of locations, including “new” particles collected directly from the off-gas stream or on a tacky surface. Typical radioanalysis of particles from 200-West and 200-East, as well as stack gases and breech gases from 200-East, indicate the following ranges of activity (expressed as percent of total activity):

Cerium/praseodymium	17–49%
Yttrium	0–28%
Ruthenium/rhodium	0–14%
Strontium	3–10%
Other rare earths ^g	0–12%
Zirconium	0–10%
Iodine	0–7% ^h

^g Rare-earth elements refer to any of the group of chemical elements with atomic number 58 to 71; the name is a misnomer because they are neither rare nor earths; examples are cerium, praseodymium, lanthanum, erbium, and gadolinium.

Cesium	0–4%
Columbium ⁱ	0–3%
Tellurium	0–0.7%
Barium	0–0.1%.

Four of the five groups of particles discussed in [HW-10261](#) had alpha activity results. Between 67% and 99.5% of the alpha activity in these active particles was plutonium and between 0.5 and 5% was uranium.

The age of the particles could not be determined by the ratio of different radioelements to each other because of selective volatility and sorption characteristics of different elements. However, insight into the age of the particles could be gained by examining the ratio of different isotopes of the same element, e.g., ⁸⁹Sr and ⁹⁰Sr, which behave the same chemically. A spread in age of approximately 200 days (age range 100–300 days) for the active particles was estimated. The isotopic ratio of strontium in the air stream, as determined by filter paper analyses, was lower than any specks, indicating a hang-up of fission products. The author concludes, based on other data as well, that the hold-up occurred on the rust and corrosion of the fans and ductwork.

The total radioactivity of individual particles was determined by direct counting and by analysis of solutions of dissolved particles. A range of 2.5 pCi to 3.2 µCi per particle of beta activity and from <5 dpm to 3800 dpm (2–1700 pCi) per particle of alpha activity was found. The total number of particles analyzed was not given, although 111 specks were picked to test the correlation between particle size and activity. The author indicates that the possibility of even hotter specks exists. Absorption curves with aluminum absorbers indicated beta particles with a maximum energy of 3.0 MeV.

Other special tests are briefly summarized by Thornburn ([HW-10261](#)). Feces samples from four men whose work was primarily in the stack area showed no fission product activity. The solubility of a particle in distilled water was found to be zero (no detectable count in dried solution after 24 hours). Several hot spots were found on hand rails and rocks in both separations areas. The spots were dirty yellow in color and appeared to be dried drops. It appeared that larger drops had run down the hand rails before evaporation. The salts from these drops were scraped up and analyzed. One sample was similar to the particulate specks (data presented above); the other contained considerably more strontium (77%). The source and mechanism for this type of contamination was not investigated.

An addendum to [HW-10261](#) indicates that a new stainless steel fan had been inserted into the off-gas system in each of the separations areas. A significant decrease in the number of large (>0.01 mm in diameter) particles was observed in 200-East. The number of smaller particles was about the same, however. Tests were still underway in 200-West, but it appeared so far that there was little change.

[HW-10758](#), *Long-lived Fission Activities in the Stack Gases and Vegetation at the Hanford Works*, published in August 1948 by J.W. Healy, examined releases from 200 Areas. In the context of his report, long-lived means longer half-lives than radioiodine, which had previously received the most attention when studying possible hazards from plant releases. The possibility of

^h Author states these results are probably low by 5–15%.

ⁱ Former name for the chemical element niobium. The name is still used occasionally in metallurgy.

more lasting problems with other radionuclides was beginning to be recognized. The main contribution of this work to our task is the apportioning of total long-lived activity into separate isotopes. Healy's composition analysis was done by examining decay curves, which involved counting the same sample (e.g., an air filter) repeatedly over many days and examining the rate of decay. The shape of the curve was analyzed to estimate the composition of the nuclides present. Healy applied this analysis to stack samples, ambient air samples, and vegetation. An example of a decay curve from Healy is shown in [Figure 4-42](#).

The techniques available at the time permitted Healy to separate the possible nuclides present into three broad half-life categories. Table 4-12 shows those categories (with likely isotopes that fall in them) and the composition observed in stack and ambient air samples.

**Table 4-12. Composition of Beta Activity (other than Radioiodine) in
Hanford Samples from 1945–1947**

Type of sample and number (n) of analyses	Half-life category and likely isotopes		
	30–60 days ⁸⁹ Sr, ⁹¹ Y, ⁹⁵ Zr, ¹⁰³ Ru, ¹⁴¹ Ce	275–300 days ¹⁰⁶ Ru, ¹⁴⁴ Ce	Long ⁹⁰ Sr, ^{137m} Ba/ ¹³⁷ Cs
Stack and ambient air (Healy's summary of all results) ^a	60–80%	30–40%	1–2%
1945 stack air samples (n = 2)	55–59%	40–44%	1%
1947 stack air samples (n = 5)	71%	28%	1%
1945–1947 ambient air filters (n = 9)	Range 52–83% Average 70%	Range 17–46% Average 29%	Range 0.5–2% Average 1%
1945–1947 vegetation (n = 7)	Range 41–71% Average 52%	Range 28–71% Average 46%	Range 1–3% Average 2%

^a These are the values that Healy states in the summary on page 1 of his report. The values add up to more than 100%. However, in the discussion on page 9 of this report, he says the activity of stack and ambient air samples “averages about 70% of the 30–60 day, about 29% of the 300 day, and about 1% of the long half-life material.”

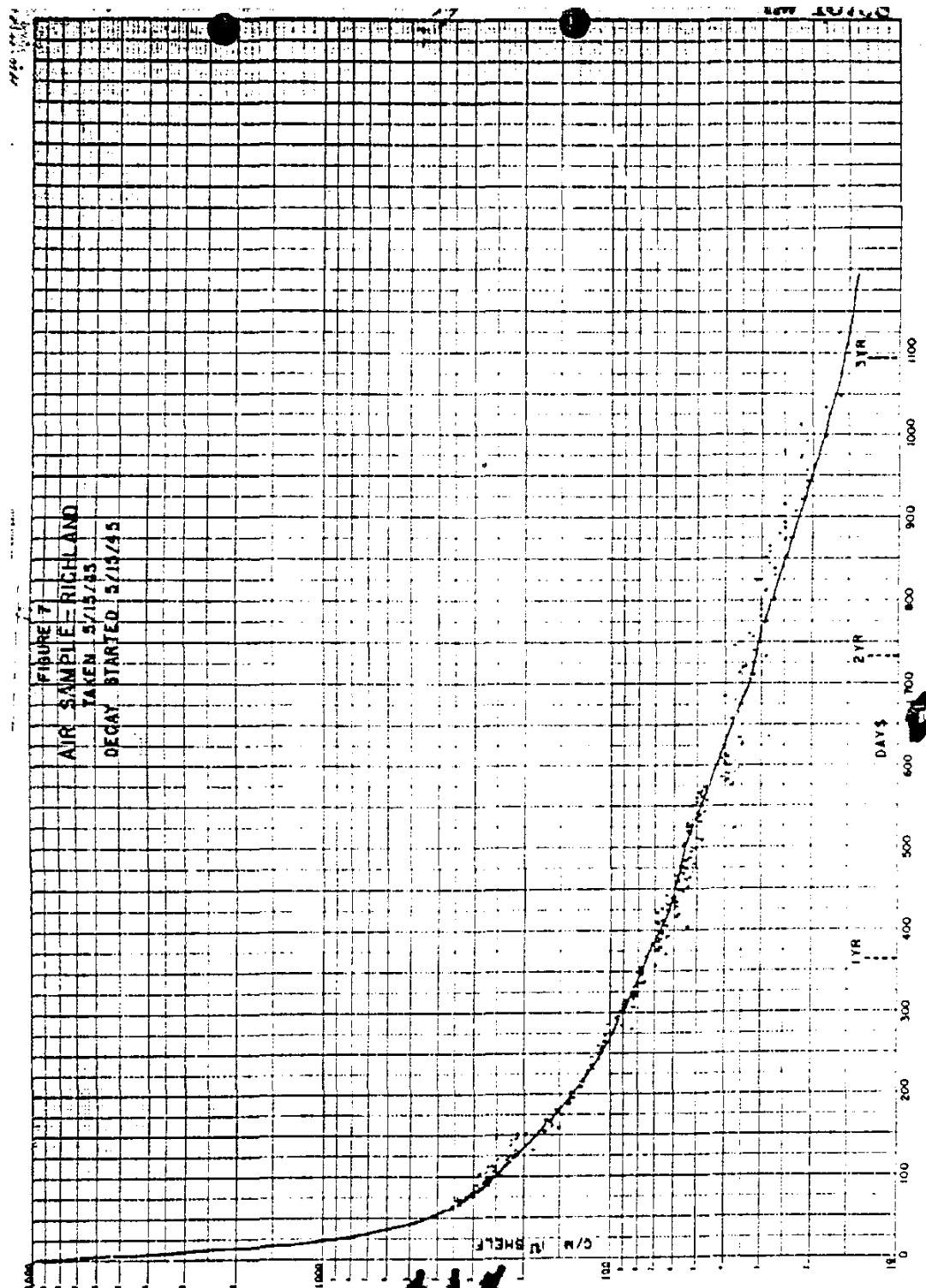


Figure 4-42. Decay curve for air sample from Richland taken May 15, 1945 ([HW-10758](#)). The filter sample was counted many times (each dot is a separate count) for a period of time lasting over 3 years. Similar curves are given in Healy for stack air samples and vegetation. By examining the shape of the curve, the composition of the radionuclides present can be estimated.

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A single complete fission product analysis was run on a sample of sagebrush from the 200-West gate ([HW-10758](#)). The collection date was not given, but it would have had to be before August 1948. The composition was 49% cerium, 19% yttrium, 2% rare earth group, 8% ruthenium, 8% strontium, 3% cesium, and 7% zirconium.^j

Long-lived beta activity in vegetation collected in 1945–1947 was over 20 times higher ($0.4 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$) in the 200 Area compared to Richland ($<0.02 \mu\text{Ci kg}^{-1}$). This means that activity measured near the 200 Areas is predominantly from Hanford releases and not some other source. The composition observed in vegetation is shown to have a composition similar to that expected after 3 years exposure to the stack effluent. This confirms that significant releases had been occurring since 1945.

Healy obtained filters from stack samples from T Plant in May 1945 ($n = 2$) and April 1947 ($n = 5$). These samples were originally taken to determine the plutonium content of the effluent air, which is reported in another document. Some of these filters had been saved and were used in this study to examine decay curves of the activity collected. Counting of these stack samples began 2 months after collection. In addition to total long-lived activity in microcuries, the percent of the activity in three different half-life groups (55-days, 275-days, and “long”) was estimated. The 55-day group, was thought to be possibly ^{89}Sr (55 days), ^{95}Zr (65 days), ^{141}Ce (30 days), ^{91}Y (57 days), and ^{103}Ru (45 days). The 275-day group would include ^{144}Ce (275 days) and $^{104,105}\text{Ru}$ ^k (1 year). In 1947, 71% of the total was 55-day group, 28% was 275-day group, and 1% was long.^l In 1945, the composition (same order) was 55–59%, 40–44%, and 1%. The main contribution of the work described in [Healy](#) (1948) to our task order objective is the apportioning of total long-lived activity into separate isotopes.

Large particle releases to the environment became a problem again at Hanford in 1952 with the start-up of REDOX. See [Table 4-11](#) for a chronological listing of particle characterization data related to releases from REDOX. In addition to this tabulation, a few source documents are reviewed here.

In the first quarter of 1953, air samples were collected in the visible plume of REDOX effluent at locations within 1 mi of the stack ([HW-28009](#)). The measurements were made with a portable, high-volume air sampler (120 cfm for 15 to 60 min) during periods of low atmospheric dispersion. Results showed several values in excess of one particle per cubic meter of air, over 10 times higher than the separation areas and over 100 times higher than in residential areas. Maximum concentrations obtained on February 20 and March 8 were 12 and 4 particles per cubic meter, respectively. The portable air sampler was operated continuously on March 12 for a 9-h period, and the filter was analyzed for beta emitters with the following results ([Table 4-13](#)).

On July 22, 1953, Adley et al. published a report of an investigation of particles emitted from the 291-S (REDOX) stack ([HW-28780](#)). The study began because of abnormal quantities of airborne particulates in the environs of the separations areas in May 1953. All samples were taken from the base (inside) of the 291-S stack using existing sampling facilities over a short time (12-h

^j On page 9 of the report, Healy clarifies which isotopes are likely to be in these elemental categories. Some of the ruthenium, cerium, and strontium would be in the 55-day group, but the majority of the activity after this time should be the longer-lived isotopes.

^k The author says $^{104,105}\text{Ru}$, but is incorrect here. We believe he means to refer to ^{106}Ru for the about 1-year half-life isotope.

^l Although the author does not give any examples, important fission products in the “long” category would be ^{90}Sr and ^{137}Cs , with half-lives of about 30 years.

period). This is an early investigation into REDOX particle size and composition. The radiological focus was on ruthenium. Median particle size was about 0.2 microns, with a geometric standard deviation of 1.6 during one sample and 2.5 during another sample. With respect to radioactivity distribution, the median particle size was 0.6 microns. To clarify, half of the radioactivity was associated with particles >0.6 microns with a count of 28×10^3 particles per cubic foot of stack gas. The other half of the activity was associated with particles <0.6 microns with a count of 28×10^6 particles per cubic foot. Ruthenium emitted during coating removal and metal dissolving was believed to become associated with the ammonium nitrate contributed by these operations. The ammonium nitrate crystals that settled around the stack governed the fate of the ruthenium after discharge.

Table 4-13. Composition of Beta Activity in Ambient Air near REDOX, March 12, 1953

Component	Nanocuries per filter	Percent of total beta
Total beta	7	
Zirconium	0.38	5.4
Ruthenium	2.5	35.7
Rare earths and yttrium	3	42.8
Other beta emitters (determined by difference)	1.1	16.0

Donelson ([HW-29346](#)) discusses the emission of crystals from the REDOX stack. A third emission of visible particles had recently been observed in the vicinity of the main stack on August 14, 1953; previous emissions had occurred on June 24, 1952, and March 16, 1953. The most recent emission differed from previous instances in that the crystals were larger and carried a greater amount of radioactive material. The largest crystal found was approximately 5 in. long. The highest dose rate reported was 15 rep h^{-1} at the surface. Average crystals were perhaps $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in maximum dimension and exhibited dose rates of 300 to 500 mrep h^{-1} .

The second quarter 1954 environmental report ([HW-33896](#)) states that the ruthenium effluent emissions reported for S Plant (REDOX) “do not include any contributions of material sluffing off from the upper stack liner into the effluent.” The effluent measurements were taken at a point 20 ft above the base of the stack. During a shutdown in the latter part of June, revisions were made to route more of the process effluent gases through the sand filter to reduce emissions of ruthenium from the stack. Table 4-14 shows measurements of filters at the inlet to the REDOX sand filter in March and May.

Table 4-14. Composition of Beta Activity in Air Entering the REDOX Plant Sand Filter in March and May 1954

	% of total beta activity	
	Filter removed March 9, 1954	Filter removed May 18, 1954
Ruthenium	92	24
Rare earths	2.9	28
Zirconium	1.4	14
Strontium		8
Niobium (assuming equilibrium with zirconium)		25
Total beta activity per filter	550 μCi	1100 μCi

Analyses of five particles emitted from the REDOX stack during the week ending November 7, 1954, revealed that more than 95% of the beta activity was from ruthenium/rhodium isotopes with the ratio of activity of ^{103}Ru to ^{106}Ru being less than 0.05 ([HW-36505](#)). Trace activities of strontium, zirconium, and rare-earth elements were also found. Plutonium was found in the only two particles tested for this element, with one particle having 270,000 dpm (0.12 μCi) of plutonium.

4.2.2 Long-lived Radionuclides

In this report, we focus on measurements of radioactivity in the environment during the time period of highest airborne releases from Hanford facilities, before 1955. However, an exception must be made for very long-lived radionuclides, such as plutonium, which were not specifically monitored in the environment during these early years. Plutonium is relatively immobile in the environment, therefore measurements made in more recent times can reflect past releases. Soil is the ultimate sink^m for long-lived radionuclides such as plutonium and ^{137}Cs in the land environment. Plutonium in air reflects both suspension of contaminated soil and any residual amounts from the atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons or releases from nuclear facilities.

Air. Plutonium was not routinely measured in the U.S. environment until the mid-1960s. [Pan and Stevenson](#) (1996) report monitoring data beginning in 1962 that show the time variation of plutonium in surface air at the Pacific Northwest Laboratory (PNL) near Richland, Washington, as well as Chicago, Illinois. Measurements of plutonium in air were taken at the 300 Areas (about 30 km southeast of the 200 Areas, see [Figure 1-1](#)) beginning in 1962; this program ended in 1988. Concentrations of plutonium in air decreased over the 1962–1988 period. Monthly average concentrations were highest at the beginning of the period, with maxima around 0.5 fCi m^{-3} . By the mid 1980s, concentrations were <0.01 fCi m^{-3} . Pan and Stevenson conclude that the dominant source of plutonium in the environment has been from fallout resulting from above ground nuclear weapons detonations. The authors suggest that a “post-fallout equilibrium” was achieved around 1984. The average monthly values after 1984 are mostly between 0.0003–0.003 fCi m^{-3} of surface air. Concentrations near Richland were within the range observed in four other U.S. cities through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Environmental Radiation Ambient Monitoring System (ERAMS) network. Those four cities were Portland, Oregon; New York City, New York; Denver, Colorado; and Chicago, Illinois.

Although plutonium in air at Richland and the 300 Areas appears to be mostly weapons fallout, closer to 200 Areas, the Hanford contribution becomes apparent. [Whicker et al.](#) (1997) refer to plutonium measurements in air conducted by the Hanford contractor in the 200 Areas between 1978 and 1995. Concentrations within the 200 Areas were elevated above perimeter and distant community locations and ranged up to about 20 fCi m^{-3} at sampler N-165, located near the Z-19 ditch in the 200-West Area. Concentrations at this sampler were considerably higher than the others in 200 Areas, which were typically 0.001–1 fCi m^{-3} . [Sehmel](#) (1980) presents a range of airborne plutonium concentrations at on-site Hanford resuspension sites in 1972–1975 that are several orders of magnitude higher than fallout levels. The location between the 200 Areas was the highest, ranging between 3 and 8 fCi m^{-3} in 1972.

In the years that we studied in detail for this work (1945–1955), only gross alpha activity was measured routinely. The sketchy air monitoring data showed quarterly average

^m A environmental sink is the place where most of the element in question will ultimately end up.

concentrations up to 43 fCi m⁻³ in 200-West Area ([Figure 4-13](#)), at the end of 1951. During 1951–1955, the highest monthly average concentration of gross alpha activity on vegetation from the 200 Areas occurred in January 1954 near the 200-West Gate ([Figure 4-27](#)).

Elevated concentrations of ¹³⁷Cs and ⁹⁰Sr were often found in the air of the 200 Areas. For example, in 1976, the maximum concentration of ¹³⁷Cs found onsite (0.1 fCi m⁻³) was in 200-West and ⁹⁰Sr (0.09 fCi m⁻³) was in 200-East ([Fix et al. 1977](#)).

Soil. [Poston et al. \(1995\)](#) reviews concentrations of ⁶⁰Co, ⁹⁰Sr, ¹³⁷Cs, U isotopes, ²³⁸Pu, ^{239,240}Pu, and ²⁴¹Am in soil (top 2.5 cm) and vegetation collected from 1983 through 1993 during routine surveillance of the Hanford Site. Some study areas on the site contained elevated concentrations compared to other study areas onsite and offsite. The 200-Area soils had slightly elevated ⁹⁰Sr, ¹³⁷Cs, ²³⁸Pu, ^{239,240}Pu, and ²⁴¹Am. A specific region east of the 200-West Gate had historically contained the highest concentrations of these radionuclides. Soil in the 300 Area had a slightly elevated uranium content. Only ⁹⁰Sr seemed to be decreasing in surface soil over this time interval, attributed to radioactive decay and possibly greater mobility and weathering into the soil. Because of this trend, the ⁹⁰Sr data from Poston et al. would not be appropriate for estimating exposures to onsite workers in much earlier time periods. However, ¹³⁷Cs and ^{239,240}Pu are tightly bound to soil and the majority of the activity is retained in the upper layer of soil. Although the highest individual sample of ¹³⁷Cs in soil was from the 200 Areas (28.1 pCi g⁻¹), the highest median concentration was 0.76 pCi g⁻¹ from 100 Areas. Plutonium-239,240 concentrations in 65 soil samples from around the 200 Areas ranged from 0.00032–0.83 pCi g⁻¹ with a mean of 0.087 and median of 0.014 pCi g⁻¹. Offsite, ^{239,240}Pu concentrations in 154 soil samples ranged from 0.00003–0.033 pCi g⁻¹ with a mean of 0.010 and median of 0.008 pCi g⁻¹.

[Whicker et al. \(1997\)](#) compared measured plutonium concentrations in air and soil with those predicted from various estimates of plutonium release from Hanford facilities. The purpose was to help evaluate which of the widely different release estimates was most consistent with environmental measurements. The authors determined that the quality of the environmental data was sufficient for reflecting the general magnitude of past plutonium emissions from Hanford.

[Whicker et al. \(1997\)](#) reference [Price \(1988\)](#) for ^{239,240}Pu concentrations in soil with distance downwind of the 200-West Area at Hanford. Concentrations of plutonium in soil at distances less than 1 km from the 200 Areas were 40 times higher than background concentrations from weapons fallout (0.4 pCi g⁻¹ vs. 0.01 pCi g⁻¹). By 5 km away, concentrations were indistinguishable from fallout background. There was no statistical change in concentrations between 1983 and 1993 (referencing [Poston et al. 1995](#)).

[Whicker et al. \(1997\)](#) concluded that measured concentrations of plutonium in air and soil at the Hanford Site were not consistent with high plutonium release estimates alleged in legal proceedings. They were consistent with releases reconstructed through 1970 during the Hanford Dose Reconstruction Project ([Heeb et al. 1996](#)). Weapons fallout is the primary contributor to plutonium in the environment of the Hanford Site, except within a few km of the release points in 200 Areas.

We did our own review of [Price \(1988\)](#), which summarizes the historical record of soil sampling results in the Hanford environs from the late 1950s through 1987. Both routine soil monitoring (begun in 1971) and special-purpose studies are included. The author makes the following general observations:

- Soil sampling has not revealed any gross contamination of the offsite environs from past Hanford operations.

- Some onsite soil sampling locations near facilities have received contamination from past operations at Hanford.
- Results have not indicated a gradual buildup or depletion of contamination after 1971 at any given soil sampling location.
- Results were noted to vary greatly among aliquots analyzed from a single sample or among multiple samples collected at a single location.
- Hanford-derived radionuclides have been difficult to identify in the presence of worldwide fallout, except quite close to areas of contamination.

Radiochemical analyses of routine soil samples collected since 1971 have included ^{90}Sr , ^{137}Cs , ^{238}Pu , and $^{239,240}\text{Pu}$ (Price 1988). Americium-241 analyses began in 1982 and uranium in 1973. Some special studies used plutonium isotopic ratios to more accurately determine the source of the contamination. In general, we agree with Price's summary statements highlighted above. In addition, there were some data that give an indication of the exposures to which military and construction workers near 200 Areas could have been exposed (discussed below).

Results from several special studies conducted in 1985 are presented. Nine samples of surface soil (upper 1 in.) were collected onsite east of the 200-West Area. Plutonium contamination was evident. Concentrations of $^{239,240}\text{Pu}$ ranged from 0.039 to 0.33 pCi g^{-1} with a mean of 0.095 pCi g^{-1} . The locations and individual results are shown in Figure 4-43. Four samples were also collected within one mile north of the 200-East Area—the $^{239,240}\text{Pu}$ concentrations were less than those from 200-West Area, ranging from 0.003 to 0.027 pCi g^{-1} with a mean of 0.019 pCi g^{-1} . However, ^{137}Cs and ^{90}Sr were elevated in those samples north of 200 East, ranging up to 9.3 pCi g^{-1} and 1.2 pCi g^{-1} , respectively. About 10 km southeast of the 200 East Area, at a proposed project site west of the Wye Barricade and east of Highway 240, the $^{239,240}\text{Pu}$ concentrations in soil were 0.013-0.019 pCi g^{-1} . This range is about ten times less than measured near the 200 Areas and is probably indistinguishable from fallout, unless more sensitive isotopic ratio techniques were used.

Earlier studies using mass spectrographic analyses of soil samples collected in 1978 and 1982–1984 also showed that the onsite location having the highest amount of Hanford-derived plutonium was near the 200-West Area, at the routine sampling location called “East of 200-West Gate.” The offsite location of maximum Hanford-derived plutonium was near Benton City. Results from this study were highlighted in Price (1988) and were reported in their entirety in the 1985 annual environmental monitoring report (Elder et al. 1986).

Price (1988) also presents the results of a special study conducted in February and March 1970. Samples from the upper 0.5-in. soil were collected at onsite and offsite locations and analyzed for plutonium. There was a large degree of variability between replicate samples at the same location and even between aliquots of the same sample. Results are summarized in Figure 4-44. The “200-East Hill” location is the closest to the most exposed military camp for 200-Area airborne releases. The plutonium concentration in surface soil there in 1970 was 0.12 pCi g^{-1} , about 10 times fallout background.

Price's report referenced an earlier Battelle report that analyzed soil sample results for 1971 through 1976 (Miller et al. 1977). The radionuclides analyzed in these samples were various gamma-emitters, plutonium, uranium, and ^{90}Sr . Probability plotting was used to evaluate the Hanford contribution as opposed to widespread sources, mainly fallout from nuclear weapons testing or natural sources. Miller et al. concluded that the few locations impacted by Hanford

operations were:

- East of the California Nuclear burial site (^{60}Co)
- Columbia River island near North Richland (^{60}Co)
- East of 200 West area, which showed elevated levels of $^{239,240}\text{Pu}$ in soil (0.3 pCi g^{-1})

As there was only one soil sample in the 200 area, it was not possible for [Miller et al. \(1977\)](#) to determine an excess inventory of plutonium. From the probability plots, the median concentrations of various radionuclides in soils were determined and are presented in Table 3 of that report. The concentrations (pCi g^{-1}) of several radionuclides of interest in this study were: ^{65}Zn , 0.07; ^{90}Sr , 0.13; ^{106}Ru , 0.36; ^{137}Cs , 0.6; $^{144}\text{Ce/Pr}$, 0.6; ^{144}Ce , 0.25; and $^{239,240}\text{Pu}$, 0.01.

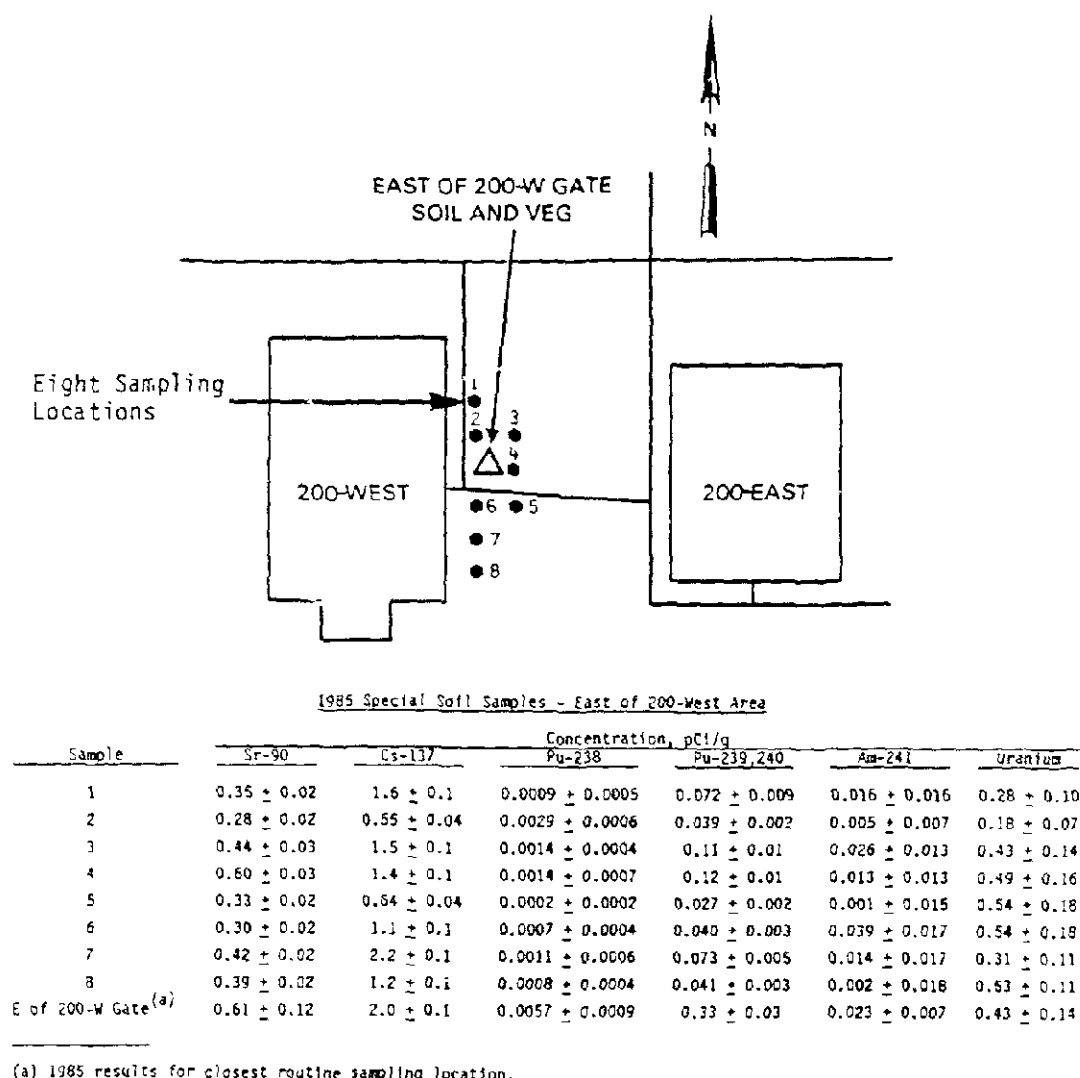
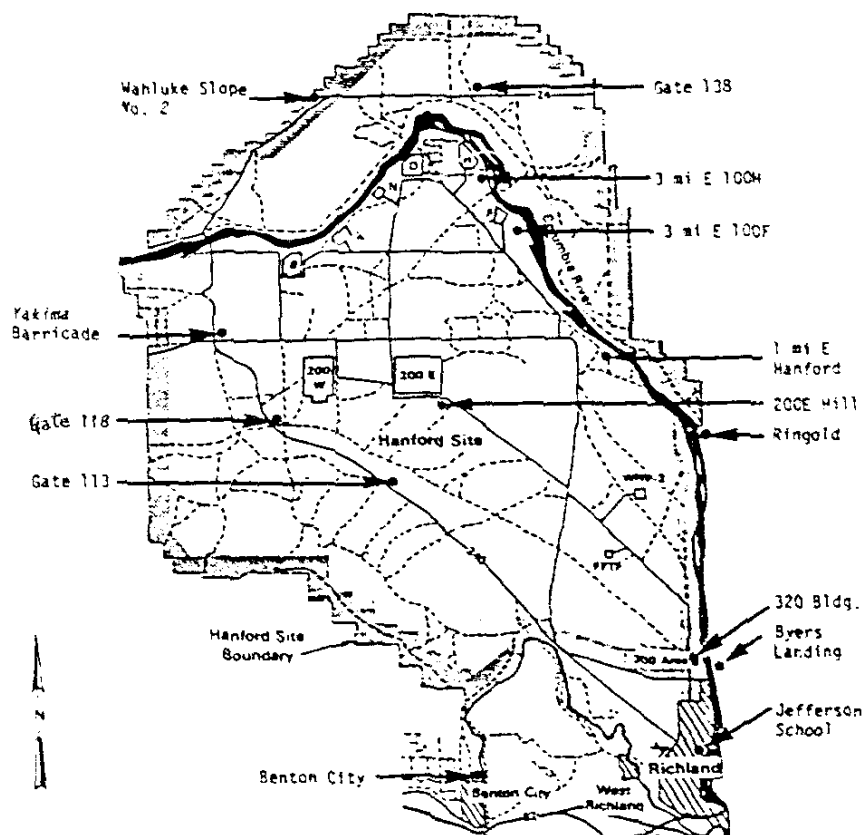


Figure 4-43. Results of a special-purpose soil sampling study east of the 200-West Area, August 1985 ([Price 1988](#)).



February and March 1970 Special Soil Samples
(0.5 inch deep) - Hanford Environs

Location	Concentration Pu-239,240, pCi/g	Location	Concentration Pu-239,240, pCi/g
200E Hill	0.12 ± 0.01 0.13 ± 0.01(a)	Gate 118	0.017 ± 0.003 0.019 ± 0.005
Yakima Barricade	0.028 ± 0.003 0.015 ± 0.002(a) 0.018 ± 0.002(a)	Gate 118	0.014 ± 0.001 0.016 ± 0.001
Wahluke Slope No. 2	0.041 ± 0.003	Gate 138	0.031 ± 0.004 0.023 ± 0.002
Gate 113	0.040 ± 0.004 0.047 ± 0.004(a)	Ringold	0.027 ± 0.003
Jefferson School	0.009 ± 0.002	1 mi E Hanford	0.049 ± 0.041
Benton City	0.009 ± 0.001	3 mi E 100F	0.018 ± 0.003
Byers Landing	0.004 ± 0.001	3 mi E 100F	0.040 ± 0.004
Byers Landing	0.083 ± 0.009	3 mi E 100F	0.017 ± 0.002
320 Bldg.	0.012 ± 0.001 0.011 ± 0.001(a)	3 mi E 100H	0.007 ± 0.001

(a) Separate aliquot from single sample.

Figure 4-44. Sampling locations and results of a special study of $^{239,240}\text{Pu}$ in onsite and offsite surface soils in February-March 1970 (Price 1988).

4.3 Conclusions from Environmental Data: Affected Areas and Times

Any of the environmental data sets we examined for this task could be scrutinized and would be criticized by today's data quality standards. However, taken in total they present a relatively coherent picture of the environmental conditions in which people lived and worked in the first decade of Hanford operations. They are some of the most direct evidence we have to answer the questions raised in this work about onsite exposures. Knowledge of these factors has helped define and develop the tools necessary to estimate radiation doses from short-lived radionuclides and particles released from early Hanford operations.

Several definite but broad conclusions can be made about the most affected areas and times. These conclusions about the "where, when, and what" of past exposures are supported by brief facts listed below. Reference is made to the parts of this section, shown in parentheses, that contain further information.

1. WHERE. The environment near the 200 Areas was most highly contaminated, and contamination was generally spread to the east and southeast of the release points. Concentrations decreased rapidly with distance from the contaminated sources. However, some of the large particles released from REDOX in 1952–1954 were known to have traveled long distances. The data at various locations on and off the site reflect relative contamination levels to which people were exposed.

- Vegetation in the 200-East Area in 1945 and 1946 was 15–20 times as contaminated with total beta activity as vegetation in Richland. Hanford was 3 times as contaminated as Richland (p. 4-22).
- Long-lived beta activity in vegetation collected in 1945–1947 was over 20 times higher in the 200 Areas compared to levels in Richland (p. 4-68).
- The highest measured values of beta activity in air in 1946–1947 were obtained from 200-East (p. 4-11).
- From January 1946 through November 1948, the contamination levels on vegetation at Hanford and Richland were similar, but the location near the military camp at Route 4S, Mile 4 was over 6 times higher (p. 4-24).
- Annual average concentrations of beta activity in air at four 200-Area locations in 1946–1950 (when fallout was relatively low) were 17 times higher than those measured in Pasco (pp. 4-15 and 4-16).
- Large hot particles near T and B Plants in 1947–1948 were most densely deposited near the release points, with a general spread trending to the SE (pp. 4-40 and 4-41).
- Concentrations of nonvolatile beta activity in vegetation in 1949 were highest in the 200 Areas, particularly near the 200-West Gate. About 3 mi away, the activity concentrations were 6 times lower (p. 4-27). Contamination spread was generally to the east and south of the release points (pp. 4-28 and 4-29).
- In 1946–1952 (before significant fallout), the annual average concentrations of beta activity in rain of 200-East and 200-West Areas were 25 times higher than observed in outlying areas (p. 4-21).
- The beta activity concentrations in snow within 2000 ft SE of the REDOX stack in January 1954 were 100 times greater than at the military installation near 200-West (p. 4-22).
- The army camp H-50, 3.4 km S of REDOX, shows the largest range of external exposure rates from REDOX releases. Next most affected were H-61 and H-51, camps to the W of REDOX (p. 4-6).

- Pasco is a reasonable location to evaluate local weapons fallout levels in the 1950s (p. [4-15](#))
- During 1952 through 1955, the median concentration of discrete radioactive particles in air was 16 times greater at 200 West than at Pasco (p. [4-35](#)).
- Ground surveys in 1954 revealed particles like those from REDOX as far away as Pendleton, Oregon, and Mesa, Washington (p. [4-45](#)). The density of particles deposited on the ground was much greater onsite than offsite (pp. [4-51](#) through 4-54).
- Concentrations of plutonium in soil at distances <1 km from the 200 Areas were 40 times higher than regional concentrations from weapons fallout. By 5 km away, concentrations were indistinguishable from fallout in the 1970s and 1980s (p. [4-71](#)). The plutonium concentration in surface soil near an old army camp SE of 200 Areas in 1970 was about 10 times fallout levels (p. [4-72](#)).

2. WHEN. The time periods most affected by releases of large radioactive particles were 1947-1949 and 1952-1955. Iodine releases were highest through 1946.

- Before 1950, annual average radiation levels measured with ionization chambers were highest in 1945, averaging 6.5 mrep d⁻¹ over background near a military camp (p. [4-5](#)).
- Concentrations of beta activity in air were highest during the first three quarters of 1946 (earliest data located). Concentrations had decreased 100-fold by the first quarter of 1948 (pp. [4-11](#) through 4-14).
- The highest annual average concentration of beta activity in rain between 1946 and 1956 was collected from the REDOX area in 1954 (p. [4-21](#)).
- After 1951, maximum monthly exposure rates at three military camps were obtained in December 1953–April 1954 (p. [4-6](#)). A location near a known military camp had a comparable exposure rate in the latter half of 1945 (p. [4-5](#)).
- The highest monthly average concentration of discrete radioactive particles in air occurred in 200 West during September 1953 (p. [4-34](#)). This monitoring began in 1949.
- High REDOX particle densities on the ground were not sustained for long periods of time. Radioactive decay and weathering reduced their impact after 1955 (p. [4-55](#)).

3. WHAT. Iodine-131 dominated onsite environmental measurements before 1948 whereas REDOX releases (mainly ruthenium) dominated in the 1952-1955 interval. Weapons fallout was a confounding factor in the latter time period. Spatial trends observed from iodine-dominated data can be informative for other radionuclides as well. Large corrosion-product particles found in 200 areas in 1947–1948 were a mixture of radionuclides ([Section 4.2.1](#)). Hanford operations produced localized contamination with a variety of radionuclides, including some long-lived radionuclides like ¹³⁷Cs, ⁹⁰Sr, and ²³⁹Pu ([Section 4.2.2](#)).

- In 1945-1946, areas of high exposure rates were reflecting iodine releases, whereas in 1953 and 1954, REDOX releases were responsible (pp. [4-6](#), [4-7](#), [4-10](#))
- In 1946–1949, gross beta activity in air and vegetation around Hanford was likely to be mostly from Hanford releases, especially iodine. After 1951, beta-emitters in fallout became relatively more important, especially offsite (pp. [4-13](#) through 4-16, [4-32](#)).
- Isolated hot particles might not be reflected in environmental measurements of radioactivity in air, rain, and vegetation, unless a particle happened to come in close contact with the sample. For example, in June 1952, an active particle was identified as contributing to an unusually high concentration in a rain sample (p. [4-20](#)). A similar event happened with a vegetation sample located near the southern perimeter of the site in September 1954 (p. [4-31](#)).

- Even with the confounding influence of fallout, the impact of ruthenium releases from REDOX on beta activity in vegetation near the 200 Areas in 1954–1955 is clear ([p. 4-31](#)).
- Ground surveys located large particle contamination effectively, beginning as early as 1947 around T Plant and B Plant ([p. 4-39](#)). Surveys in 1952–1955 document ground contamination from REDOX releases (p. [4-43](#) through 4-56).
- Contamination with alpha-emitting radionuclides is evident in air, vegetation, and soil around 200 Areas and 300 Areas (pp. [4-16](#), [4-32](#), [4-70](#)).
- The maximum REDOX particle density on ground areas in May 1954 was similar to the maximum density of active corrosion products in 1947 ([p. 4-51](#)).
- Highly active particles of corrosion products and ruthenium flakes were large, limiting the probability of inhalation exposure ([Section 4.2.1](#)).

5. EXAMPLE CALCULATIONS

In this section, we provide results of example calculations of radiation doses for various scenarios. The times were selected to coincide with periods when particle releases from the fuel processing facilities were at or near their highest levels. Thus, these results do not reflect the full range of possible exposures to persons who worked and lived onsite during the early years.

The first set of example calculations, presented in Section 5.1, deals with releases from all the facilities and considers a full range of possible exposure pathways. The second set of calculations addresses exposures to large active particles in the Hanford environment. Those examples are given in [Section 5.2](#).

5.1 Exposures to Releases from All Facilities

Four examples of different exposures to releases from all the facilities are presented in this section. At the times considered, the reactor areas were releasing ^{41}Ar and the 200 Areas were releasing particles that contained ^{90}Sr , ^{103}Ru , ^{106}Ru , ^{137}Cs , ^{144}Ce , and ^{239}Pu . Iodine-131 was also being released from the fuel processing facilities in the 200 Areas.

As shown in [Section 3.4.1](#), data files for the release of each radionuclide and each point of release contain both the 50th and the 95th percentile for each month's release, where the reference uncertainty distribution is the estimate of the release for the radionuclide, location, and month specified. It is not unreasonable to make deterministic calculations with the medians (50th percentiles) used as nominal values, but one must keep in mind the ambiguous interpretation of the results. In particular, for complex simulations, it is not precisely known what relation such results would have to central statistics (mean or median) of the propagated distribution. The deterministic result could be misleading, in the sense that it might be misinterpreted to be a valid estimate of one of these central statistics.

On the other hand, the uniform use of the 95th percentiles in a deterministic simulation could substantially overestimate the median and mean of the propagated uncertainty distribution. The event that all releases would be as high as their 95th percentiles is extremely improbable, even with the positive correlations that must exist among releases of different radionuclides from the same facility in the same month. Some experimentation could be done with crude calculations of this kind to assess the extent to which they might be presented as conservative estimates. However, we believe the appropriate approach is to develop a set of scripts for Monte Carlo calculations that would sample the joint distribution of the source term with proper allowance for positive correlations. The percentile data that have been computed and stored in the source term files make this the logical next step, although it is beyond the scope of this Task Order.

For the examples given in this section, we have used only the medians from the source term files. We think this procedure is less likely to provide unreasonable results, particularly for longer-term exposures.

The first example gives an over-all impression of the spatial variation of exposure to past Hanford atmospheric releases. [Figure 5-1](#) shows effective dose contours (rem) overlaid on a base map of the Hanford site. The dose calculation represents a maximum potential exposure rather than a real one, assuming a test subject who is exposed 24 hours per day outdoors between January 1, 1945 through December 31, 1961. Exposure pathways are inhalation and external dose from air submersion and exposure to contaminated ground. Ingestion pathways are excluded. Contributing to the exposure are all radionuclides in the source term data base (^{41}Ar , ^{90}Sr , ^{90}Y ,

^{103}Ru , $^{103\text{m}}\text{Rh}$, ^{106}Ru , ^{106}Rh , ^{131}I , $^{131\text{m}}\text{Xe}$, ^{137}Cs , $^{137\text{m}}\text{Ba}$, ^{144}Ce , ^{144}Pr , and ^{239}Pu) and all release sources (including the Z Plant, which began operations January 1949, and the PUREX Plant, which came on-line January 1956). Iodine-131 contributes the dominant component of the effective dose indicated by the contours. Radionuclide releases for the simulations were based on median monthly estimates, as discussed above. The smoothed contours were calculated by a kriging method with the Surfer 7 mapping program (Golden Software, Inc., 809 14th Street, Golden, CO 80401-1866, USA).

5.1.1 Army Camp H-40

An Army encampment called PSN 330 ([Figure 3-1](#)), or H-40 ([Figure 3-2](#)) was close to and downwind from the 200 Areas. This example considers a hypothetical member of the Armed Forces who was assigned to the H-40 station for the months of April through June, 1954. The defined schedule consisted of 15 days' duty on the site, 24 hours per day, followed by three days at the Hanford townsite, 10 hours per day outdoors and 14 hours indoors, for five cycles (total of 90 days). This period coincided with relatively high releases of the particulate radionuclides. This location is 3.7 km SE from B Plant, 9.1 km ESE from T Plant, 8.9 km E from REDOX Plant, and at distances ranging from 15 to 18 km generally S and SE from the reactors.

[Table 5-1](#) shows the estimated absorbed dose to each ICRP-defined organ for the following nuclide components: ^{41}Ar , ^{131}I + $^{131\text{m}}\text{Xe}$, particles, and total. Examination of the results shows that the thyroid is the organ receiving the largest dose (~30 mrad), nearly all of which is due to releases of ^{131}I . The lungs, skin and bone surfaces received the next highest doses (1-3 mrad).

[Table 5-2](#) shows effective dose for the same nuclides. Use of the effective dose facilitates showing the most important exposure pathways and radionuclides. The results for each nuclide are broken down by inhalation, ingestion, and external exposure modes. Although this time period coincided with relatively high releases of the particulate radionuclides, ^{131}I still would have contributed 4 times higher effective doses than the particulate radionuclides at this time and place. Inhalation was the most important pathway, followed by external exposure from radionuclides (particularly ^{41}Ar) in the air. The total effective dose estimated for this 3-month exposure period was ~3 mrem.

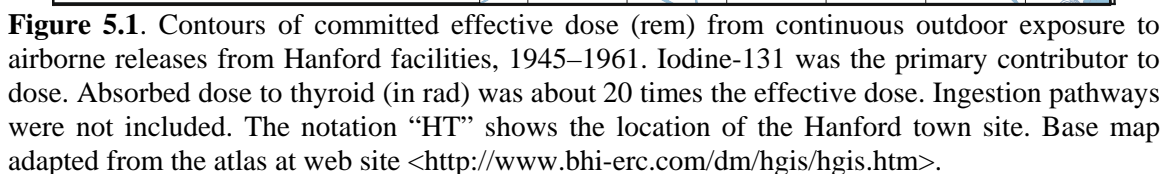


Table 5-1. Committed Absorbed Dose to Organs for Armed Forces Member at Camp H-40, April through June 1954

Organ	Dose (Gy ^a) from each radionuclide or set of radionuclides			
	⁴¹ Ar	¹³¹ I + ^{131m} Xe	Particles	Total
Adrenals	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.4 x 10 ⁻⁷	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.8 x 10 ⁻⁶
Bladder wall	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	5.7 x 10 ⁻⁷	8.9 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.0 x 10 ⁻⁵
Bone surface	1.3 x 10 ⁻⁵	2.9 x 10 ⁻⁷	2.2 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁵
Brain	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	2.0 x 10 ⁻⁷	8.3 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.8 x 10 ⁻⁶
Breast	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.7 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.8 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.1 x 10 ⁻⁵
Oesophagus	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	2.0 x 10 ⁻⁷	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.9 x 10 ⁻⁶
Stomach wall	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.7 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.0 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.9 x 10 ⁻⁶
Small intestine wall	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.4 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.5 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.9 x 10 ⁻⁶
Upper large intestine wall	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.0 x 10 ⁻⁵
Lower large intestine wall	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.6 x 10 ⁻⁷	2.6 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.1 x 10 ⁻⁵
Colon	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁷	2.0 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.1 x 10 ⁻⁵
Kidneys	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.4 x 10 ⁻⁷	8.5 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.8 x 10 ⁻⁶
Liver	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.4 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.7 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.1 x 10 ⁻⁵
Muscle	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.9 x 10 ⁻⁷	8.5 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.8 x 10 ⁻⁶
Ovaries	9.0 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.4 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.0 x 10 ⁻⁵
Pancreas	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.4 x 10 ⁻⁷	8.7 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.8 x 10 ⁻⁶
Red marrow	9.0 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.7 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.1 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.0 x 10 ⁻⁵
Extrathoracic airways	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.3 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.2 x 10 ⁻⁵
Lungs	9.3 x 10 ⁻⁶	5.7 x 10 ⁻⁷	2.0 x 10 ⁻⁵	3.0 x 10 ⁻⁵
Skin	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁵	2.1 x 10 ⁻⁷	2.5 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.7 x 10 ⁻⁵
Spleen	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.4 x 10 ⁻⁷	8.6 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.8 x 10 ⁻⁶
Testes	9.0 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.2 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.0 x 10 ⁻⁵
Thymus	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	2.0 x 10 ⁻⁷	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.9 x 10 ⁻⁶
Thyroid	9.3 x 10 ⁻⁶	2.6 x 10 ⁻⁴	8.5 x 10 ⁻⁷	2.7 x 10 ⁻⁴
Uterus	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.4 x 10 ⁻⁷	8.5 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.8 x 10 ⁻⁶
Remainder	8.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.9 x 10 ⁻⁷	8.6 x 10 ⁻⁷	9.8 x 10 ⁻⁶

^aTo obtain dose in units of mrad, multiply values in table by 1 x 10⁵.

Table 5-2. Committed Effective Dose to Armed Forces Member at Camp H-40, April through June 1954

Radionuclide	Dose (Sv ^a) from particular exposure pathways					Dose from all pathways (Sv)
	Inhalation	Ingestion		External exposure		
		Food	Soil	Air	Ground	
⁹⁰ Sr	7.9 × 10 ⁻⁹	b	1.1 × 10 ⁻⁹	6.2 × 10 ⁻¹⁵	1.0 × 10 ⁻¹¹	9.0 × 10 ⁻⁹
⁹⁰ Y	3.0 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	b	1.1 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.5 × 10 ⁻¹³	2.8 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	6.9 × 10 ⁻¹⁰
¹⁰³ Ru	1.3 × 10 ⁻⁷	b	3.1 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	4.7 × 10 ⁻⁹	3.1 × 10 ⁻⁷	4.5 × 10 ⁻⁷
^{103m} Rh	5.9 × 10 ⁻¹¹	b	1.6 × 10 ⁻¹²	7.1 × 10 ⁻¹³	4.7 × 10 ⁻¹¹	1.1 × 10 ⁻¹⁰
¹⁰⁶ Ru	2.5 × 10 ⁻⁶	b	6.7 × 10 ⁻⁹	0	0	2.5 × 10 ⁻⁶
¹⁰⁶ Rh	0	b	0	8.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁴	3.2 × 10 ⁻⁷	3.2 × 10 ⁻⁷
¹³¹ I	1.3 × 10 ⁻⁵	b	2.4 × 10 ⁻⁹	4.5 × 10 ⁻⁸	6.4 × 10 ⁻⁸	1.3 × 10 ⁻⁵
^{131m} Xe	0	b	0	9.7 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.3 × 10 ⁻⁹	2.3 × 10 ⁻⁹
¹³⁷ Cs	8.8 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	b	4.6 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	5.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁵	9.3 × 10 ⁻¹²	1.3 × 10 ⁻⁹
^{137m} Ba	0	b	0	2.7 × 10 ⁻¹⁴	3.3 × 10 ⁻⁸	3.3 × 10 ⁻⁸
¹⁴⁴ Ce	1.9 × 10 ⁻⁷	b	2.2 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.7 × 10 ⁻¹¹	1.0 × 10 ⁻⁹	1.9 × 10 ⁻⁷
¹⁴⁴ Pr	1.5 × 10 ⁻¹¹	b	2.2 × 10 ⁻¹²	6.0 × 10 ⁻¹²	2.6 × 10 ⁻⁹	2.6 × 10 ⁻⁹
²³⁹ Pu	4.6 × 10 ⁻⁷	b	3.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.4 × 10 ⁻¹⁶	1.8 × 10 ⁻¹³	4.6 × 10 ⁻⁷
⁴¹ Ar	0	b	0	9.4 × 10 ⁻⁶	0	9.4 × 10 ⁻⁶
		b				
¹³¹ I + ^{131m} Xe	1.3 × 10 ⁻⁵	b	2.4 × 10 ⁻⁹	4.6 × 10 ⁻⁸	6.5 × 10 ⁻⁸	1.4 × 10 ⁻⁵
Particles	3.3 × 10 ⁻⁶	b	9.3 × 10 ⁻⁹	4.7 × 10 ⁻⁹	6.7 × 10 ⁻⁷	4.0 × 10 ⁻⁶
Totals	1.7 × 10 ⁻⁵	b	1.2 × 10 ⁻⁸	9.4 × 10 ⁻⁶	7.3 × 10 ⁻⁷	2.7 × 10 ⁻⁵

^aTo obtain dose in units of mrem, multiply values in table by 1 × 10⁵.

^b Food pathways were not evaluated for onsite examples in this report, although onsite workers could have consumed contaminated food produced locally. The dose from food pathways is dominated by ¹³¹I and is illustrated in the last scenario, resident of Ringold.

5.1.2 PUREX Plant Construction Worker in 1954, Resident of Hanford Town Site

For a construction worker at the PUREX site in 200-East Area, we consider the months January through March, 1954. The worker is assumed to be on-site for 10 hours each day and in the Hanford town site (Figure S-1) for 14 hours each night (we performed the calculations for 7 days exposure per week). This location is 1.8 km ESE from B Plant, 7.9 km E from T Plant, 7.8 km E from REDOX Plant, and at distances ranging from 12 to 16 km generally S and SE from the reactors (Figure 5-1). Ingestion of food was not included; however inadvertent ingestion of soil was included.

Table 5-3 shows the estimated absorbed dose to each ICRP-defined organ for the following nuclide components: ⁴¹Ar, ¹³¹I + ^{131m}Xe, particles, and the total. The two largest organ doses were ~20 mrad to thyroid and ~10 mrad to lungs. Table 5-4 shows effective dose for individual nuclides, broken down by inhalation, ingestion, and external exposure modes. Again, inhalation was the most important pathway, followed by external exposure from radionuclides (particularly ⁴¹Ar) in the air. However, at this time and place, ¹⁰⁶Ru and ¹³¹I would have been

about equal contributors to the effective dose, which totaled ~4 mrem for the 3-month exposure period.

Table 5-3. Committed Absorbed Dose to Organs for PUREX Plant Construction Worker, January through March 1954

Organ	Dose (Gy) from each radionuclide or set of radionuclides			
	⁴¹ Ar	¹³¹ I + ^{131m} Xe	Particles	Total
Adrenals	7.6×10^{-6}	1.2×10^{-7}	2.6×10^{-6}	1.0×10^{-5}
Bladder wall	7.6×10^{-6}	5.0×10^{-7}	2.3×10^{-6}	1.0×10^{-5}
Bone surface	1.1×10^{-5}	2.5×10^{-7}	3.5×10^{-6}	1.5×10^{-5}
Brain	7.6×10^{-6}	1.7×10^{-7}	2.0×10^{-6}	9.8×10^{-6}
Breast	8.8×10^{-6}	1.4×10^{-7}	2.7×10^{-6}	1.2×10^{-5}
Oesophagus	7.6×10^{-6}	1.7×10^{-7}	2.7×10^{-6}	1.1×10^{-5}
Stomach wall	7.6×10^{-6}	1.5×10^{-7}	2.6×10^{-6}	1.0×10^{-5}
Small intestine wall	7.6×10^{-6}	1.2×10^{-7}	2.7×10^{-6}	1.0×10^{-5}
Upper large intestine wall	7.6×10^{-6}	1.2×10^{-7}	5.3×10^{-6}	1.3×10^{-5}
Lower large intestine wall	7.6×10^{-6}	1.4×10^{-7}	1.1×10^{-5}	1.9×10^{-5}
Colon	7.6×10^{-6}	1.3×10^{-7}	8.1×10^{-6}	1.6×10^{-5}
Kidneys	7.6×10^{-6}	1.2×10^{-7}	2.2×10^{-6}	9.9×10^{-6}
Liver	7.6×10^{-6}	1.2×10^{-7}	3.1×10^{-6}	1.1×10^{-5}
Muscle	7.6×10^{-6}	1.6×10^{-7}	2.3×10^{-6}	1.0×10^{-5}
Ovaries	7.6×10^{-6}	1.3×10^{-7}	2.4×10^{-6}	1.0×10^{-5}
Pancreas	7.6×10^{-6}	1.2×10^{-7}	2.5×10^{-6}	1.0×10^{-5}
Red marrow	7.7×10^{-6}	1.5×10^{-7}	2.5×10^{-6}	1.0×10^{-5}
Extrathoracic airways	7.6×10^{-6}	1.2×10^{-6}	8.8×10^{-6}	1.8×10^{-5}
Lungs	7.8×10^{-6}	5.0×10^{-7}	1.1×10^{-4}	1.1×10^{-4}
Skin	1.2×10^{-5}	1.8×10^{-7}	3.2×10^{-6}	1.6×10^{-5}
Spleen	7.6×10^{-6}	1.2×10^{-7}	2.4×10^{-6}	1.0×10^{-5}
Testes	7.7×10^{-6}	1.2×10^{-7}	2.2×10^{-6}	1.0×10^{-5}
Thymus	7.6×10^{-6}	1.7×10^{-7}	2.7×10^{-6}	1.1×10^{-5}
Thyroid	7.9×10^{-6}	2.3×10^{-4}	2.2×10^{-6}	2.4×10^{-4}
Uterus	7.6×10^{-6}	1.2×10^{-7}	2.2×10^{-6}	9.9×10^{-6}
Remainder	7.6×10^{-6}	1.6×10^{-7}	2.3×10^{-6}	1.0×10^{-5}

^aTo obtain dose in units of mrad, multiply values in table by 1×10^5 .

The 95th percentile values of the monthly release estimates provide a basis for making worst-case calculations of the radiation doses to persons living and working on and near the Hanford Reservation for brief periods. Because it is not likely that the 95th percentiles of each of the estimates represent actual releases for many months in sequence, the central (50th percentile) estimates are more appropriate for use when making dose estimates for extended periods. This is particularly true for 1954, when additional subjective conservatism has been applied to develop a release distribution with bounds that are well above the best estimates. The central values were used for the two scenarios just described. We also examined the distributions of the sums of the releases of the three radionuclides that were most important during the two 3-month periods. This review suggests that had the distributions of the release estimates been used in the simulations, the ^{131}I contribution to the calculated doses could have had a 95th percentile 2-3 times the median. The ^{103}Ru and ^{106}Ru release distribution estimates were broader, and the uncertainty associated with those source terms is estimated to be a factor of 5-6.

Table 5-4. Committed Effective Dose to PUREX Plant Construction Worker, January through March 1954

Radionuclide	Dose (Sv ^a) from particular exposure pathways					Dose from all pathways (Sv)
	Inhalation	Ingestion		External exposure		
		Food	Soil	Air	Ground	
⁹⁰ Sr	5.0 x 10 ⁻⁹	b	1.6 x 10 ⁻⁹	3.7 x 10 ⁻¹⁵	5.4 x 10 ⁻¹²	6.6 x 10 ⁻⁹
⁹⁰ Y	1.9 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	b	1.5 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	9.2 x 10 ⁻¹⁴	1.5 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	5.0 x 10 ⁻¹⁰
¹⁰³ Ru	3.5 x 10 ⁻⁶	b	1.6 x 10 ⁻⁹	1.1 x 10 ⁻⁷	6.4 x 10 ⁻⁷	4.2 x 10 ⁻⁶
^{103m} Rh	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁹	b	8.3 x 10 ⁻¹²	1.8 x 10 ⁻¹¹	9.6 x 10 ⁻¹¹	1.6 x 10 ⁻⁹
¹⁰⁶ Ru	1.1 x 10 ⁻⁵	b	1.1 x 10 ⁻⁸	0	0	1.1 x 10 ⁻⁵
¹⁰⁶ Rh	0	b	0	8.1 x 10 ⁻¹¹	2.0 x 10 ⁻⁷	2.0 x 10 ⁻⁷
¹³¹ I	1.2 x 10 ⁻⁵	b	5.8 x 10 ⁻⁹	3.8 x 10 ⁻⁸	6.1 x 10 ⁻⁸	1.2 x 10 ⁻⁵
^{131m} Xe	0	b	0	8.1 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.3 x 10 ⁻⁹	2.1 x 10 ⁻⁹
¹³⁷ Cs	5.7 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	b	6.5 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	3.3 x 10 ⁻¹⁵	5.0 x 10 ⁻¹²	1.2 x 10 ⁻⁹
^{137m} Ba	0	b	0	9.4 x 10 ⁻¹²	1.8 x 10 ⁻⁸	1.8 x 10 ⁻⁸
¹⁴⁴ Ce	1.2 x 10 ⁻⁷	b	3.8 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.0 x 10 ⁻¹¹	7.0 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.2 x 10 ⁻⁷
¹⁴⁴ Pr	4.7 x 10 ⁻¹¹	b	3.6 x 10 ⁻¹²	1.8 x 10 ⁻¹¹	1.7 x 10 ⁻⁹	1.8 x 10 ⁻⁹
²³⁹ Pu	2.8 x 10 ⁻⁷	b	4.9 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	8.2 x 10 ⁻¹⁷	9.5 x 10 ⁻¹⁴	2.8 x 10 ⁻⁷
⁴¹ Ar	0	b	0	8.0 x 10 ⁻⁶	0	8.0 x 10 ⁻⁶
¹³¹ I + ^{131m} Xe	1.2 x 10 ⁻⁵	b	5.8 x 10 ⁻⁹	3.8 x 10 ⁻⁸	6.2 x 10 ⁻⁸	1.2 x 10 ⁻⁵
Particles	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁵	b	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁸	1.1 x 10 ⁻⁷	8.5 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.6 x 10 ⁻⁵
Totals	2.7 x 10 ⁻⁵	b	2.1 x 10 ⁻⁸	8.1 x 10 ⁻⁶	9.2 x 10 ⁻⁷	3.6 x 10 ⁻⁵

^aTo obtain dose in units of mrem, multiply values in table by 1×10^5 .

^b Food pathways were not evaluated for onsite examples in this report, although onsite workers could have consumed contaminated food produced locally. The dose from food pathways is dominated by ^{131}I and is illustrated in the last scenario, resident of Ringold.

5.1.3 Member of the Public, Resident of Ringold

We estimated the dose to a member of the public at Ringold, east of the Site, resulting from a year's exposure throughout 1954. The individual is assumed to spend 10 hours per day outdoors at this location and 14 hours indoors. Annual intakes of locally produced food are as follows: 200 kg of vegetables, 100 kg of meat, and 300 L of milk.

The calculation somewhat conservatively assumes year-round availability of the contaminated foodstuffs, although realistically the grazing pathway would not be available during the winter. This location is 22 km ESE from B Plant, 28 km E from T Plant and REDOX Plant, and at distances ranging from 21 to 33 km generally SE and ESE from the reactors.

Table 5-5 shows the estimated absorbed dose to each ICRP-defined organ for the following nuclide components: ^{41}Ar , ^{131}I + $^{131\text{m}}\text{Xe}$, particles, and the total. The thyroid is the organ that is estimated to receive the largest dose, which is nearly 20 times the dose to the lung.

Table 5-5. Absorbed Dose to Organs for One-Year (1954) Resident of Ringold

Organ	Dose (Gy ^a) from each radionuclide or set of radionuclides			
	^{41}Ar	^{131}I + $^{131\text{m}}\text{Xe}$	Particles	Total
Adrenals	1.8×10^{-5}	2.8×10^{-7}	2.3×10^{-6}	2.1×10^{-5}
Bladder wall	1.8×10^{-5}	2.8×10^{-6}	2.3×10^{-6}	2.3×10^{-5}
Bone surface	2.7×10^{-5}	6.6×10^{-7}	6.8×10^{-6}	3.4×10^{-5}
Brain	1.8×10^{-5}	5.9×10^{-7}	1.9×10^{-6}	2.1×10^{-5}
Breast	2.1×10^{-5}	3.3×10^{-7}	2.3×10^{-6}	2.4×10^{-5}
Oesophagus	1.8×10^{-5}	6.3×10^{-7}	2.3×10^{-6}	2.1×10^{-5}
Stomach wall	1.8×10^{-5}	1.0×10^{-6}	2.7×10^{-6}	2.2×10^{-5}
Small intestine wall	1.8×10^{-5}	2.8×10^{-7}	3.6×10^{-6}	2.2×10^{-5}
Upper large intestine wall	1.8×10^{-5}	3.9×10^{-7}	1.0×10^{-5}	2.8×10^{-5}
Lower large intestine wall	1.8×10^{-5}	6.1×10^{-7}	2.5×10^{-5}	4.4×10^{-5}
Colon	1.8×10^{-5}	4.9×10^{-7}	1.7×10^{-6}	3.5×10^{-5}
Kidneys	1.8×10^{-5}	2.6×10^{-7}	2.1×10^{-6}	2.0×10^{-5}
Liver	1.8×10^{-5}	2.7×10^{-7}	3.4×10^{-6}	2.2×10^{-5}
Muscle	1.8×10^{-5}	5.6×10^{-7}	2.1×10^{-6}	2.1×10^{-5}
Ovaries	1.9×10^{-5}	2.9×10^{-7}	2.5×10^{-6}	2.2×10^{-5}
Pancreas	1.8×10^{-5}	3.1×10^{-7}	2.3×10^{-6}	2.1×10^{-5}
Red marrow	1.9×10^{-5}	4.5×10^{-7}	3.7×10^{-6}	2.3×10^{-5}
Extrathoracic airways	1.8×10^{-5}	1.8×10^{-6}	5.5×10^{-6}	2.5×10^{-5}
Lungs	1.9×10^{-5}	8.8×10^{-7}	6.2×10^{-5}	8.2×10^{-5}
Skin	3.0×10^{-5}	4.0×10^{-7}	3.8×10^{-6}	3.4×10^{-5}
Spleen	1.8×10^{-5}	2.8×10^{-7}	2.2×10^{-6}	2.0×10^{-5}
Testes	1.9×10^{-5}	2.5×10^{-7}	2.1×10^{-6}	2.1×10^{-5}
Thymus	1.8×10^{-5}	6.3×10^{-7}	2.3×10^{-6}	2.1×10^{-5}
Thyroid	1.9×10^{-5}	1.5×10^{-3}	2.1×10^{-6}	1.5×10^{-3}
Uterus	1.8×10^{-5}	3.0×10^{-7}	2.2×10^{-6}	2.0×10^{-5}
Remainder	1.8×10^{-5}	5.3×10^{-7}	2.1×10^{-6}	2.1×10^{-5}

^aTo obtain dose in units of mrad, multiply values in table by 1×10^5 .

Table 5-6 shows effective dose for individual nuclides, showing the contributions due to inhalation, ingestion, and external exposure pathways. Because the individual was assumed to consume locally produced food, the dose from ^{131}I is predominant. The total effective dose estimate for 1954 was ~10 mrem. For comparison, the annual absorbed dose to the thyroid of a resident of Ringold in 1945 has been estimated to be ~33,000 mrad (Farris et al. 1994), or ~1600 mrem, over 100 times higher than in 1954.

Table 5-6. Committed Effective Dose (Sv) to One-Year (1954) Resident of Ringold

Radionuclide	Dose (Sv) from particular exposure pathways					Dose from all pathways (Sv)
	Inhalation	Ingestion		External exposure		
		Food	Soil	Air	Ground	
⁹⁰ Sr	1.1 × 10 ⁻⁸	2.0 × 10 ⁻⁷	1.3 × 10 ⁻⁹	7.6 × 10 ⁻¹⁵	8.6 × 10 ⁻¹²	2.1 × 10 ⁻⁷
⁹⁰ Y	4.4 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	2.0 × 10 ⁻¹²	1.3 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.9 × 10 ⁻¹³	2.4 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	8.1 × 10 ⁻¹⁰
¹⁰³ Ru	1.8 × 10 ⁻⁶	3.2 × 10 ⁻⁷	5.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	5.3 × 10 ⁻⁸	4.0 × 10 ⁻⁷	2.5 × 10 ⁻⁶
^{103m} Rh	3.4 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.4 × 10 ⁻¹³	2.9 × 10 ⁻¹²	3.5 × 10 ⁻¹²	6.0 × 10 ⁻¹¹	4.1 × 10 ⁻¹⁰
¹⁰⁶ Ru	6.3 × 10 ⁻⁶	1.5 × 10 ⁻⁶	9.8 × 10 ⁻⁹	0	0	7.8 × 10 ⁻⁶
¹⁰⁶ Rh	0	0	0	1.1 × 10 ⁻⁹	3.4 × 10 ⁻⁷	3.4 × 10 ⁻⁷
¹³¹ I	1.4 × 10 ⁻⁵	6.3 × 10 ⁻⁵	3.3 × 10 ⁻⁹	4.2 × 10 ⁻⁸	6.5 × 10 ⁻⁸	7.7 × 10 ⁻⁵
^{131m} Xe	0	0	0	9.0 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.4 × 10 ⁻⁹	2.3 × 10 ⁻⁹
¹³⁷ Cs	1.3 × 10 ⁻⁹	2.0 × 10 ⁻⁷	5.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	6.8 × 10 ⁻¹⁵	7.9 × 10 ⁻¹²	2.0 × 10 ⁻⁷
^{137m} Ba	0	0	0	2.4 × 10 ⁻¹¹	2.8 × 10 ⁻⁸	2.8 × 10 ⁻⁸
¹⁴⁴ Ce	2.7 × 10 ⁻⁷	1.9 × 10 ⁻⁹	3.4 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	2.0 × 10 ⁻¹¹	1.1 × 10 ⁻⁹	2.7 × 10 ⁻⁷
¹⁴⁴ Pr	1.3 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	7.4 × 10 ⁻¹³	3.2 × 10 ⁻¹²	4.4 × 10 ⁻¹¹	2.8 × 10 ⁻⁹	2.9 × 10 ⁻⁹
²³⁹ Pu	6.2 × 10 ⁻⁷	1.6 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	4.2 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.7 × 10 ⁻¹⁶	1.6 × 10 ⁻¹³	6.2 × 10 ⁻⁷
⁴¹ Ar	0	0	0	1.9 × 10 ⁻⁵	0	1.9 × 10 ⁻⁵
¹³¹ I + ^{131m} Xe	1.4 × 10 ⁻⁵	6.3 × 10 ⁻⁵	3.3 × 10 ⁻⁹	4.3 × 10 ⁻⁸	6.6 × 10 ⁻⁸	7.7 × 10 ⁻⁵
Particles	9.0 × 10 ⁻⁶	2.2 × 10 ⁻⁶	1.3 × 10 ⁻⁸	5.4 × 10 ⁻⁸	7.7 × 10 ⁻⁷	1.2 × 10 ⁻⁵
Totals	2.3 × 10 ⁻⁵	6.5 × 10 ⁻⁵	1.6 × 10 ⁻⁸	1.9 × 10 ⁻⁵	8.4 × 10 ⁻⁷	1.1 × 10 ⁻⁴

5.2 Exposure to Large Particles Deposited on Ground Surfaces

The SURVEY spreadsheet tool ([Section 3.5](#)) was used to evaluate the exposure to large radioactive particles deposited on ground surfaces. Results of two example calculations are discussed below. The first example is a field survey technician working in the 200 Areas in 1947 and the second is an offsite resident near Ringold in 1954.

5.2.1 Onsite Survey Technician, 1947

The first example calculation is a maximum exposure condition for a hypothetical field worker such as an environmental survey technician. This person's work required walking in the contaminated areas of ground around the T Plant and B Plant stacks. The deposition density of active particles at the work location was based on the surveys conducted there in 1947. This contamination level was represented in the SURVEY spreadsheet by a custom distribution in which half the area had a deposition density of 5-10 particles ft^{-2} and the other half had a density of 1-5 particles ft^{-2} . These ranges represent the heavy and medium density zones measured in

1947 and mapped in Figures [4-30](#) and [4-31](#). The ground surveys in 1947 did not extend to residence areas such as the Hanford town site. However, the lowest deposition density measured around the stacks was 0.01 particles ft⁻² (Figures 4-30 and 4-31). For this example, we assumed the particle deposition density at the residence location was 0.005-0.01 particles ft⁻². The exposure duration at work in this example was 8 hours per day, 5 days per week, for 12 weeks, or 60 working days. The distributions of the uncertain input assumptions were presented in [Table 3-7](#).

The SURVEY spreadsheet provides four predictions: the number of particles inhaled during the exposure period, the number of particles contacting the body or skin during one work day, and the number of particles ingested inadvertently from contaminated skin in a day. Table 5-7 includes the percentiles that describe the uncertainty distributions for these predictions for the onsite survey technician.

**Table 5-7. Percentiles for Predicted Contact with Large Active Particles in 200 Areas:
Onsite Survey Technician in 1947**

Percentile of distribution	Estimated number of particles			
	Inhaled during exposure period	Contacting body during 1 work day	Contacting skin during 1 work day	Ingested during 1 work day
0%	0.01	0.3	0.04	0.00009
10%	0.30	2	0.3	0.0008
20%	0.63	3	0.5	0.0012
30%	1.2	4	0.7	0.0017
40%	1.9	5	0.9	0.0023
50%	3.0	6	1.1	0.0029
60%	4.4	7	1.3	0.0037
70%	6.7	9	1.7	0.0048
80%	10	11	2.2	0.0065
90%	17	14	2.9	0.0092
100%	91	24	7.3	0.031

The median estimate (50th percentile) is 3 particles inhaled in this 3-month period. The uncertainty distribution allows us to express the certainty (or probability) that a single particle would have been encountered. There is a 73% certainty that a single resuspended particle would have been inhaled during the 60 work days. The SURVEY spreadsheet does not address the fraction of particles inhaled that would have been exhaled without deposition. (See Section 3.6 for a discussion of deposition of particles in the respiratory tract following inhalation.) If the particles were large, the probability of deposition in the deep lung would be low, and the particle is likely to have been either blown from the nose or cleared from the upper respiratory tract and ingested.

The SURVEY spreadsheet addresses the pathways of exposure from contaminated ground surfaces. Inhalation of active particles directly from the airborne plume from the stacks would be in addition to the inhalation of resuspended particles predicted by SURVEY. During times when active particles were being released in large quantities, direct inhalation from the plume would have been more important than resuspension, if the person were in the contaminated plume. For

example, H.M. Parker had estimated that a person working outside in the 200 Areas would have the potential to inhale between 5 and 30 active particles per month between May and September 1948 ([Figure 4-29](#)).

The example calculation assumes no respiratory protection was used. From the site memos and reports at the time, we know that respiratory protection was used in some of the most highly contaminated areas.

In contrast to inhalation, the external contact pathways are computed based on a single working day because of the likelihood that removal of clothing and washing of skin would occur. This exposure duration might be appropriately lengthened for another scenario (e.g. a person in an Army camp). However, the spreadsheet does not incorporate the retention of the particle on clothing or skin, so the predicted estimates represent even brief contact of a particle with the body. As discussed in [Section 3.5.1](#), the persistence of particulate contamination on the body is rarely more than a few hours.

The median estimate is 6 particles contacting the body per work day ([Table 5-7](#)). Using the predicted uncertainty distributions, there is a 99% certainty that at least one particle would have contacted the body and a 54% certainty that one particle would have contacted exposed skin during one working day. No attempt has been made to reconstruct the type of protective clothing that might have been worn by the worker. The results illustrate the high probability of body contact with active particles in these highly contaminated areas. Section 3.6 discusses dosimetric results for the skin in the case of a particle that remains attached to the body for a certain length of time.

In contrast to inhalation and body contact, the inadvertent ingestion of an active particle from contamination on the skin is a low-probability event ([Table 5-7](#)). Even the 90th percentile estimate is 0.009 particles ingested from contaminated skin in a work day. However, another mechanism for exposure of the GI tract is clearance of a large inhaled particle from the upper respiratory tract and subsequent swallowing ([Section 3.6](#)).

A requested feature of the computational tools developed in this work was the ability to evaluate the sensitivity of the results to various input parameters. [Table 5-8](#) illustrates the sensitivity of the four predictions in the survey technician example to ten uncertain input assumptions. Sensitivity is the amount of uncertainty in a prediction that is a result of both the uncertainty (probability distribution) and the model sensitivity of an assumption. Model sensitivity is the overall effect that a change in an assumption produces in the prediction. This effect is solely determined by the formulas in the spreadsheet model. Sensitivity is measured by the rank correlation coefficient between the assumption and prediction cells of the spreadsheet ([Decisioneering 1996](#)).

The most important input assumption affecting the predicted particles inhaled is the resuspension factor used when the person is working at the contaminated area ([Table 5-8](#)). The next most important is the particle deposition density at the work location, followed by the fraction of the activity that is inhalable and the inhalation rate at work. The hours per day spent at the work location and the conditions at the residence location are relatively unimportant.

For external contact with active particles, the two most important contributors to uncertainty of the predictions are the particle deposition density at the work location and the ground-to-body contact probability ([Table 5-8](#)). The fraction of the body that is exposed skin is important for the predicted contact with skin as well as inadvertent ingestion. Again, conditions at the residence location and the hours per day spent at work are relatively unimportant.

**Table 5-8. Sensitivity^a of SURVEY Predictions to Ten Input Assumptions:
Onsite Survey Technician (1947) Example**

Input assumption	Estimated number of particles			
	Inhaled	Contacting body	Contacting skin	Ingested
Particle deposition density at work location	0.36	0.72	0.68	0.61
Particle deposition density at residence location	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02
Fraction of airborne particles that are inhalable	0.15	b	b	b
Ground-to-body contact probability	b	0.65	0.62	0.55
Inhalation rate at work ($\text{m}^3 \text{h}^{-1}$)	0.14	b	b	b
Resuspension factor at work (m^{-1})	0.89	b	b	b
Resuspension factor at residence (m^{-1})	<0.02	b	b	b
Hours per day at work location	<0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03
Fraction of surface area of body that is exposed skin	b	b	0.29	0.25
Transfer from skin to ingestion	b	b	b	0.44

^aValues in table are the rank correlation coefficients for each prediction. The rank correlation coefficient is a measure of the sensitivity of the predicted value to the assumption ([Decisoneering](#) 1996). A larger correlation coefficient indicates that the assumption has a greater effect on the prediction. See Table 3-7 for distributions of input assumptions.

^bPrediction does not depend on this input assumption.

Because the number of particles potentially encountered is small, there are a large number of dose outcomes, depending on where the active particle deposits in the body and the activity per particle. The reader is referred to Sections 3.6.2 and 3.6.3, which contain dose consequences resulting from ingestion and inhalation of highly radioactive particles like some of those released in the past from Hanford.

5.2.2 Offsite Resident North of Ringold, 1954

Our second example for exposure to large particles deposited on the ground is for an offsite resident north of Ringold in 1954. This is a time of high ground contamination from REDOX Plant ruthenium particles. Generally, the particle deposition densities at offsite areas from REDOX releases were less than 1 particle per 1000 ft² (Table 4-8). However, in September–October 1954, there was an offsite area east of the site and north of Ringold that had particle deposition densities of 1-10 particles per 1000 ft² (Figure 4-33, equivalent to 100 to 1000 ft² per particle). By December 1954, the particle deposition density there was 2-20 times less, at >2000 ft² per particle (Figure B-22, equivalent to <0.5 particles per 1000 ft²). In this example, we conservatively assume that the particle deposition density at the person’s residence and work location was 1-10 particles per 1000 ft² for a 3-month period and was 0.5-1.0 particles per 1000 ft² for the remainder of the year. The other assumption distributions are the same as described for the onsite worker example, with the exception that the duration of the work day is 16 hours (range 15-17) rather than 8.

Table 5-9 presents the percentiles for the predicted contact with large active particles offsite in 1954. In contrast to the onsite worker example, there are no values greater than one, indicating low probability of contact at these particle densities. Examining the median values, there was roughly a 1 in 100 chance of inhalation of a particle during the year and a 2 in 1000 chance of a particle contacting the body during a 16-hour work day. The chance of inadvertent ingestion of a particle in a work day was one in a million.

Table 5-9. Percentiles for Predicted Contact with Large Active Particles: Offsite Resident in 1954

Percentile of distribution	Estimated number of particles			
	Inhaled during exposure period	Contacting body during 1 work day	Contacting skin during 1 work day	Ingested during 1 work day
0%	1×10^{-4}	3×10^{-4}	4×10^{-5}	5×10^{-8}
10%	2×10^{-3}	8×10^{-4}	1×10^{-4}	4×10^{-7}
20%	4×10^{-3}	1.2×10^{-3}	2.2×10^{-4}	5×10^{-7}
30%	6×10^{-3}	1.6×10^{-3}	2.9×10^{-4}	7×10^{-7}
40%	8×10^{-3}	2.0×10^{-3}	3.7×10^{-4}	9.6×10^{-7}
50%	1×10^{-2}	2.3×10^{-3}	4.5×10^{-4}	1.2×10^{-6}
60%	1.5×10^{-2}	2.8×10^{-3}	5.4×10^{-4}	1.6×10^{-6}
70%	2×10^{-2}	3×10^{-3}	6.8×10^{-4}	2×10^{-6}
80%	3×10^{-2}	5×10^{-3}	1×10^{-3}	3×10^{-6}
90%	6×10^{-2}	1×10^{-2}	3×10^{-3}	7×10^{-6}
100%	6×10^{-1}	5×10^{-2}	1×10^{-2}	5×10^{-5}

Experimentation with the SURVEY spreadsheet leads us to conclude that an active particle density of several hundred particles per 1000 ft² (or only a few ft² per particle) is necessary before it becomes likely (that is, >10% chance) that inhalation or body contact would have occurred within a 3-month exposure period. Survey maps show that these particle densities were restricted to onsite areas close to the release points (Appendix B).

APPENDIX A

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Document Database

A document database was established to keep track of documents reviewed that were relevant to this Task Order. As stated in the scope of work, this database is a required deliverable for this work. Microsoft® Access 97 is the software used. The fields in the database are:

- Document Date (month/day/year)
- Title
- Authors
- Citation (This is often the HW or other report number. Otherwise, a journal volume and number, etc.)
- Description (text summary of contents relevant to this task order)
- Copies to (for RAC tracking purposes)
- Hanford Reading Room Number

Most documents are available for review in the Hanford reading room and can be located there by their accession number, which is included in our database. In addition, the Department of Energy maintains a site on the internet <<http://www2.hanford.gov/declass/d20pydeclass.asp>> called the Hanford Declassified Document Retrieval System. Many of the HW- reports can be viewed on screen or downloaded from that location.

Currently there are more than 300 documents in the database. At least one of these documents (HW-89072) is a compilation of material extracted from over 150 other weekly or monthly reports.

In our reference call-outs in the text of this report, we use the HW- number for those reports issued by the Hanford contractor. Early on in the review of documents, using the HW- number was judged to be prudent, to avoid the possible mix-ups associated with the multiple documents produced in the same year by the same author (e.g. Parker 1948a, 1948b, 1948c, etc.). In addition, the author's name was sometimes illegible on these old documents, whereas at least one page would clearly show the HW- number. Use of the HW- number also permits identification of the document in the database (in the citation field) without uncertainty. Another unambiguous number is the Hanford reading room accession number. However, this is not useful at other library locations, and not all documents we used were in the Hanford reading room. If that number is desired, it can be obtained from the database.

There are two listings in this appendix—Table A-1 is a complete bibliography of the database contents, sorted alphabetically by author. Table A-2 is a list of the HW- reports, ordered by HW- number. This table allows the reader of the hard-copy text to locate the author and date of HW reports cited in the text. Further information (such as the Hanford reading room number) can then be obtained by referring to the author-ordered listing.

Table A-1. Complete Bibliographic List of Documents by Sorted by Author

- Adley, F.E. 1948. *Report of a Study of the Fate of 200 Area Stack Gases*. HW-9864. Hanford Reading Room Number 1088. May 21.
- Adley, F.E. 1950. *Natural Atmospheric Particulate Background at the Hanford Works*. HW-29698. Hanford Reading Room Number 8810. December 19.
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- Andersen, B.V. 1956. November Monthly Report Regional Monitoring. One page memo to A.R. Keene. December 3.
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Table A-2. List of HW Reports Sorted by HW- Number

CITATION	DATE	AUTHORS	TITLE	READING ROOM NUMBER
HW-10242 del	6/10/48	Singlevich, W	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works and Vicinity for the Period January - February - March - 1948	1090
HW-10261	6/11/48	Thorburn, R.C	Radio-active Particle Investigation	8241
HW-10758	8/17/48	Healy, J.W	Long-lived Fission Activities in the Stack Gases and Vegetation at the Hanford Works	1091
HW-10941	9/7/48	Parker, H.M	Further Comments on Report ARSC-8	8806
HW-11082	9/15/48	Stainken, F.A.R	Primary Report on the Chronology of the Separations Plant Stack Discharge Active Particle Contamination Problem at Hanford Works	7432
HW-11333	10/15/48	Singlevich, W	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period April - May - June, 1948	8575
HW-11348	10/25/48	Parker, H.M	Action Taken with Respect to Apparent Enhanced Active Particle Hazard	8493
HW-11479	11/5/48	Patterson, C.M	Contamination in the 200 Areas	4927
HW-11529	11/10/48	Work, J.B	Decontamination of Separation Plant Ventilation Air	8238
HW-11534	11/3/48	Singlevich, W	H.I. "Environs" Report for Month of October, 1948	4928
HW-12677 del	3/10/49	Singlevich, W	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works and Vicinity for the Period July, August, September, 1948	1094
HW-12948	4/1/49	Singlevich, W	H.I. "Environs" Report for Month of March, 1949	5611
HW-13743 del	6/22/49	Singlevich, W. and H.J. Paas	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period October, November, December, 1948	1095
HW-14243 del	12/23/49	Singlevich, W. and H.J. Paas	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period January, February, March, 1949	1096
HW-15234	11/29/49	Healy, J.W	Your Reference CWI	4943
HW-15802	1/27/50	DeLong, C.W	Collection and Analysis of Active Particles	10669
HW-17003 DEL	3/2/50	Paas, H.J. and W. Singlevich	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period October, November, December, 1949	1098
HW-17381-DEL	5/1/50	Jenne, D.E. and J.W. Healy	Dissolving of Twenty Day Metal at Hanford ("Green Run Report")	7294
HW-17434 del	4/3/50	Paas, H.J. and W. Singlevich	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period April, May, June, 1949	1099
HW-18223	7/3/50	Stevenson, C.G	Hanford Codes and Jargon	9384
HW-18258	7/1/50	Healy, J.W. and L.C. Schwendiman	Counter Calibrations in the Health Instrument Methods Group	7946
HW-18258-APP	11/16/56	Thomas, C.W. and D.M. Polinsky	Tabulation of the Isotopic Counting Correction Factors and Decay Schemes	8025
HW-18409	7/25/50	Parker, H.M	Feasibility of Reduction of Cooling Time - Separations Process	1101
HW-18446	7/28/50	Paas, H.J. and	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the	1102

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		W. Singlevich	Hanford Works for the Period January, February, March, 1950	
HW-18615	8/30/50	Paas, H.J. and W. Singlevich	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period July, August, September 1949	1103
HW-19454	11/24/50	Paas, H.J. and W. Singlevich	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period April, May, June, 1950	1105
HW-20136	7/15/51	Healy, J.W., R.C. Thorburn, and Z.E. Carey	H.I. Control Laboratory Routine Chemical Procedures	2471
HW-20502	2/26/51	Hilst, G.R	The Determination of Probable Trajectories for Airborne Wastes Emitted in the Hanford Works Area	4972
HW-20700	4/6/51	Paas, H.J. and W. Singlevich	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period July, August, September, 1950	1106
HW-20810	4/12/51	Singlevich, W	Radioactive Particles in the Atmosphere January 1951--March 1951	4370
HW-20888	4/20/51	Parker, H.M	Components of Radiation Exposure of Military Personnel within the Hanford Reservation	9386
HW-21121	4/20/51	Gamertsfelder, C.C	Measurement of Beta Radiation in Field Situations	7280
HW-21214	6/1/51	Paas, H.J. and W. Singlevich	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period January, February, March, 1951	1108
HW-21566	7/13/51	Paas, H.J	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period October, November, December, 1950	1109
HW-22072	8/31/51	Thorburn, R.C	A Report of Particle Contamination February 20, 1951 to August 15, 1951	1111
HW-22313	10/8/51	Anonymous	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period April, May, June, 1951	1112
HW-23133	12/29/51	Paas, H.J	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period July, August, September, 1951	1113
HW-23517	2/15/52	Paas, H.J. and C.W. Thomas	Report of Particle Contamination--October-December 1951	4982
HW-24123	3/25/52	Lindberg, B.G	Radiological Sciences Department Investigation Radiation Incident, Class I, No. 199	6964
HW-24203	4/22/52	Paas, H.J	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period October, November, December, 1951	1114
HW-24727	6/20/52	Honstead, J.F.	Monitoring Survey -- Richland to Arco, Period May 9-11, 1952	4375
HW-24885	7/1/52	General Electric	Analysis of Radioactive Material Found in 200 Area	8423
HW-24932	7/3/52	Gill, W.E., D.E. Wisheart, and F.E. Adley	291Stack Gas Particulates Interim Report	8503
HW-25097	6/20/52	Lindberg, B.G	Radiological Sciences Department Investigation Radiation Incident, Class I, No. 206	6966
HW-25866	10/15/52	Paas, H.J	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period January, February, March, 1952	1117
HW-26493	12/15/52	Paas, H.J	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the	1118

			Hanford Works for the Period April, May, June, 1952	
HW-27431	3/16/53	Ebright, D.P	Radiological Sciences Department Investigation Radiation Incident, Class I, No. 225	6967
HW-27447	3/16/53	Ebright, D.P	Radiological Sciences Department Investigation Radiation Incident, Class I, No. 246	6965
HW-27510	4/15/53	Paas, H.J	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period July, August, September, 1952	1119
HW-27641	4/20/53	Paas, H.J	Radioactive Contamination in the Environs of the Hanford Works for the Period October, November, December, 1952	1120
HW-28009	5/22/53	Paas, H.J	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period January, February, March 1953	1121
HW-28300	6/22/53	Paas, H.J	Radioactive Particles in the Hanford Environs November-December 1952	1122
HW-28780	7/22/53	Adley, F.E., W.E. Grill, H.B. Perry, R.H. Scott, and D.E. Wisehart	Particulates Emitted by 291-S Stack	4990
HW-28925	8/4/53	Paas, H.J., R.E. Adley, P.L. Eisenacher, D.L. Reid, J.J. Fuquay, and D.E. Jenne	Radioactive Particle Fallout in the Hanford Environs from Nevada Nuclear Explosions, Spring 1953	2533
HW-29346	9/5/53	Donelson, R.N	Emission of Crystals from Redox Stack	8494
HW-29514	10/2/53	Paas, H.J	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period April, May, June 1953	1123
HW-29698	12/19/50	Adley, F.E	Natural Atmospheric Particulate Background at the Hanford Works	8810
HW-30174	12/5/53	Paas, H.J	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period July, August, September 1953	1124
HW-30337	12/23/53	Zahn, L.L	Review of Exhaust Ventilation Air Filtration Requirements for Purex	9078
HW-30492	1/4/54	Schwendiman, L.C	Standard Practices Counting Manual	3498
HW-30744	1/29/54	Paas, H.J	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period October, November, December 1953	1125
HW-30764	1/28/54	Lindberg, B.G	Radiological Sciences Department Investigation Radiation Incident, Class I, No. 333	4993
HW-30809	2/8/54	Mobley, W.N	Discussion of Ruthenium Problem in Redox Plant	10891
HW-30935	3/17/54	Zahn, L.L	Facilities Required for Correction of Ammonium Nitrate Emission Problem at Redox	8825
HW-31417	4/9/54	Maider, J.E	Redox Plant -- Ruthenium Contamination Control	10889
HW-31818	5/10/54	Paas, H.J	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period January, February, March 1954	1126
HW-32056	6/7/54	Maider, J.E	Redox Plant - Ruthenium Contamination Control	10907
HW-32175	6/23/54	Gill, W.E. and D.E. Wisehart	A Study of Certain Properties of Ruthenium Compounds found in the REDOX Process	10905
HW-32209	11/10/54	Adley, F.E., J.J.	Redox Stack Gas Particulates	4998

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		Fuquay, W.E. Gill, R.E. Scott, and D.E. Wisehart		
HW-32262	7/1/54	Schwendiman, L.C	Evaluation of Routine REDOX Stack Sampling Procedures and Radiochemical Analysis	8964
HW-32292	7/1/54	Schwendiman, L.C	An Application of Fluorescent Pigment to the Measurement of Particle Inhalation Probabilities	4999
HW-32319	1/7/54	Clukey, H.V	Ventilation for Radiation Protection at Redox	9264
HW-32473	7/16/54	Ebright, D.P	A History of the Redox Ruthenium Problem	1127
HW-32808	8/19/54	Parker, H.M	Control of Ground Contamination	6401
HW-3-2894-del	7/27/45	Healy, J.W	Special Studies Reports for Weeks Ending 5-20-45 through 12-30-45	7509
HW-33068	9/15/54	Parker, H.M	Status of Ground Contamination Problem	1128
HW-33437	10/10/54	Parker, H.M	Radiological Sciences Report, Research & Development Activities July - September, 1954	4414
HW-33479	10/14/54	Tomlinson, R.E. and F.J. Leitz	Ruthenium in the Purex Process	8424
HW-33754	11/10/54	Parker, H.M	Fallout Comparisons	1129
HW-33830	11/22/54	Helgeson, G.L	Redox Particle Study, Progress Report Sept. 1, 1954 to Oct. 28, 1954	8954
HW-33857	11/18/54	Baumgartner, W.V	Radiation Monitoring Unit Investigations of the Radioactive Particles found in the 200-West Area	5002
HW-33896	11/24/54	Paas, H.J. and G.E. Pilcher	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period April, May, June 1954	1130
HW-34408	1/10/55	Parker, H.M	Radiological Sciences Report, Research & Development Activities October - December, 1954	4006
HW-34882	1/21/55	Irish, E.R	Technical Appraisal of Redox Ruthenium Problems and Their Resolution	8429
HW-35043	2/21/55	Gill, W.E	Penetration of Respiratory Protective Equipment by Ruthenium at Building 202-S	5007
HW 3-5402 (some pages "3- 5406")	3/27/47	Turner, L.D	The Trend of Contamination Observed in the Air, Columbia River, and Vegetation, at the Hanford Engineer Works for 1946	1077
HW-35496	2/24/55	Harmon, M.K	Addendum to HW-34882, "Technical Appraisal of Redox Ruthenium Problems and their Resolution"	10899
HW-3-5511	5/9/47	Turner, L.D	The Trend of Contamination Observed in the Air, the Columbia River, Vegetation, and Waste at the Hanford Engineer Works for the Period January 1, 1947 to March 25, 1947	1078
HW-35542	3/1/55	Healy, J.W	A Preliminary Estimate of Wind Pickup and Impaction of Particles	5009
HW-36112	4/6/55	Browne, W.G	T Emission Problem - Bismuth Phosphate Plant	1131
HW-36301	4/10/55	Parker, H.M	Radiological Sciences Report, Research & Development Activities January - March, 1955	4416
HW-36504	4/20/55	Pilcher, G.E., J.K Soldat, and Z.E. Carey	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period July, August, September 1954	1132
HW-36505	4/29/55	Regional Radiation Measurements Unit	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period October, November, December 1954	1133
HW-36506	5/15/55	Regional Radiation Measurements	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period January, February, and March 1955	1134

		Unit		
HW-36760	3/15/55	Dockum, N.L. and J.W. Healy	Spot Diameter Method of Quantitative Autoradiography of Ru106 Particles in Lung Tissue	5016
HW-38566	8/9/55	Regional Radiation Measurements Unit	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period April, May, June 1955	1135
HW-39073	8/3/55	Hill, O.F., J.M. Smith, G.B. et al.	Symposium on Iodine Problem	1136
HW-39429	10/10/55	Andersen, B.V. and J.K. Soldat	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period July, August, September 1955	1137
HW-40871	2/6/56	Andersen, B.V. and J.K. Soldat	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period October, November, December 1955	1138
HW-41422	3/1/56	Thompson, R.C., M.H. Weeks, O.L. Hollis, J.E. Ballou, and W. D. Oakley	Physiological Parameters for Assessing the Hazard of Exposure to Ruthenium Radiioisotopes	10782
HW-41500	2/16/56	Kornberg, H.A.	Biology Research - Annual Report 1955	4428
HW-41519	3/1/56	Thompson, R.D., O.L. Hollis, and W.D. Oakley	Evaluation of Biological Hazards from Ruthenium Particulates. I. Studies of Percutaneous Absorption, Gastrointestinal Absorption, and Gastrointestinal Holdup	5043
HW-41638	2/24/86	Bustad, L.K. and J.L. Terry	Basic Anatomical, Dietary, and Physiological Data for Radiological Calculations	1139
HW-43012	5/28/56	Andersen, B.V. and J.K. Soldat	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period January, February, March 1956	1140
HW-44215	8/7/56	Andersen, B.V. and J.K. Soldat	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period April, May, June 1956	1141
HW-46726	12/7/56	Andersen, B.V., M.W. McConiga, and J.K. Soldat	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period July, August, September 1956	1144
HW-48374	2/25/57	Andersen, B.V., M.W. McConiga, and J.K. Soldat	Radioactive Contamination in the Hanford Environs for the Period October, November, December 1956	1146
HW-49549 A	4/10/57	Schmidt, W.C.	Treatment of Gaseous Effluents	4447
HW-53449 deleted version	11/22/57	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for October, 1957	11451
HW-53967 deleted version	12/23/57	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for November, 1957	11453
HW-54319 deleted version	1/21/58	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for December, 1957	11662
HW-54636	1/25/58	Selby, J.M. and J.K. Soldat	Summary of Environmental Contamination Incidents at Hanford 1952--1957	1157
HW-54821 deleted version	2/21/58	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for January, 1958	11663
HW-55215	3/21/58	Operation	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report	7182

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deleted version HW-55569 RD	4/1/58	Managers Roberts, R.E	for February, 1958 History of Airborne Contamination and Control -- 200 Areas	1162
HW-55571 deleted version	4/21/58	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for March, 1958	11458
HW-57644	10/7/58	Andersen, B.V	Regional Monitoring Activities September, 1958	7347
HW-58051 deleted version	11/21/58	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for October, 1958	11358
HW-58305 deleted version	12/22/58	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for November, 1958	11361
HW-59849 deleted version	4/20/59	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for March, 1959	11778
HW-60915 deleted version	7/22/59	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for June, 1959	11773
HW-61082	7/13/59	Postma, A.K. and L.C. Schwendiman	Radioactive Particles in the 234-5 Building Ventilation Exhaust	13453
HW-61366 deleted version	8/21/59	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for July, 1959	11667
HW-62179 deleted version	10/21/59	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for September, 1959	11658
HW-62593 deleted version	11/20/59	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for October, 1959	11765
HW-62864 deleted version	12/21/59	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for November, 1959	11469
HW-63706 deleted version	2/22/60	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for January, 1960	11761
HW-64371	5/9/60	Junkins, R.L., E.C. Watson, I.C. Nelson, and R.C. Henle	Evaluation of Radiological Conditions in the Vicinity of Hanford for 1959.	108
HW-66646 deleted version	9/21/60	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for August, 1960	11650
HW-66958	10/21/60	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for September, 1960	11770
HW-67252 deleted version	11/21/60	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for October, 1960	12076
HW-67459	12/21/60	Operation Managers	Chemical Processing Department Monthly Report for November, 1960	12078
HW-67520	12/9/60	Uebelacker, D.L.	The Source of Activity Contained in Radioactive Fallout from the Redox 291-S Stack	2475
HW-68392	2/6/61	Warren, J.H	Control of I-131 Releases to Atmosphere	7777
HW-68435	6/1/61	Foster, R.F. and I.C. Nelson	Evaluation of Radiological Conditions in the Vicinity of Hanford for 1960	109
HW-69205-REV	8/27/62	McConnon, D	The Status of Gaseous Effluent Monitoring at HAPO December 1961	3955
HW-7002 or HEW-7002 DE87 003659	7/1/47	Thorburn, R.C	Detection of Plutonium in Desert Flora	4902
HW-70844	8/24/61	Uebelacker, D.L	Filter Efficiencies and Activity Level of the Off- gas System for the Redox Multipurpose Dissolver	8974
HW-7-1115	1/8/45	Parker, H.M. and C.C. Gamertsfelder	Weekly H.I. Reports on 200 Area and Environs for 1-5-45 thru 2-13-46 (#1 thru 58)	7509

HW-7-1228	1/27/45	Parker, H.M	Monthly Reports -- H.I. Section -- for 1945	7513
HW-7-2271	7/25/45	Botsford, C.W	Study of Calibration of Victoreen Integrators	7488
HW-7-2604	10/22/45	Cantril, S.T. and J.W. Healy	Iodine Metabolism with Reference to I131	4898
HW-7317	8/12/47	Healy, J.W	The Trend of Contamination Observed in the Air, the Columbia River, Vegetation, and Waste at the HEW for the Period 3/25/47 to 6/30/47	1083
HW-7-3194	1/11/46	Gamertsfelder, C.C	H.I. Report on the 200 Areas and Environs for the Week Ending January 9, 1945	7161
HW-7-3217	1/14/46	Parker, H.M.	Tolerable Concentration of Radio-Iodine on Edible Plants	1080
HW-7405	8/28/47	Patterson, C.M	H.I. Report on the 200 Areas and Associated Laboratories for the Week Ending August 27, 1947	11242
HW-7-4275	6/18/46	Apple, R.S	Activities Discharged Into the Atmosphere	8579
HW-7-5042	9/18/46	Healy, J.W. and C.C. Gamertsfelder	H.I. Environs Reports -- Sept. 1946 thru May 1947	5608
HW-7-5145	10/3/46	Parker, H.M	H.I. Section Report for September 1946	8729
HW-7-5301	11/4/46	Parker, H.M	H.I. Section Report for October 1946	8730
HW-7-5372	11/19/46	Parker, H.M	Some Considerations on the Habitability of the Hanford Camp Site	7750
HW-7539	9/10/47	Patterson, C.M	#140 - H.I. Report on the 200 Areas and Associated Laboratories for the Week Ending September 10, 1947	4903
HW 7-5463 del	12/5/46	Seymour, F.P	A Study of Total Amounts of Active Waste Released in All Manners by the H.E.W. Process to Date	1082
HW-7-5520-Del	12/18/46	Work, J.B	Disposal of Separation Plant Off-Gases	7172
HW-7-5605	1/3/47	Parker, H.M	H.I. Section Report for December 1946	8731
HW-7-5934	3/11/47	Gamertsfelder, C.C	Effects on Surrounding Areas Caused by the Operations of the H.E.W	7104
HW-7695	10/2/47	Patterson C.M	#143 - H.I. Report on the 200 Areas and Associated Laboratories for the Week Ending October 1, 1947	4904
HW-7865	10/22/47	Mickelson, M.L	Preliminary Report on Existing Active Particle Hazard -- 200 Areas	3944
HW-7920	10/30/47	Parker, H.M	Action Taken on the Spot Contamination in the Separations Plant Areas	4356
HW-7932	11/3/47	MacCready, W.K	Installation of Air Filters -- 200 Areas	4906
HW-8108	11/26/47	Bell, R.S	Active Particle Investigation -- 200 Areas: Establishment of Physical Control	8108
HW-81746	1/1/64	Perkins, R.W.	Physical and Chemical Forms of I-131 from Fallout and Chemical Processing Plants	4638
HW-8429	12/22/47	Zuerner, L.V	Particle Distribution 200-West	6399
HW-8430	11/28/47	Roos, L.D	Particle Distribution 200-East	4910
HW-84619	4/12/65	Backman, G.E	Summary of Environmental Contamination Incidents at Hanford, 1958-1964	1205
HW-8549	12/28/47	Singlevich, W	The Trend of Contamination in the Air, Columbia River, Rain, Sanitary Water, Vegetation, and Wastes, at the Hanford Works and Vicinity for the Period July, August, September, 1947	8578
HW-8624	1/20/48	Parker, H.M	Progress Report on "Action Taken on the Spot Contamination in the Separations Plant Areas"	4912
HW-8667	1/27/48	Greager, O.H. and W. Cready	Stack Gas Decontamination -- Separations Plants	4913

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HW-89066	3/1/58	Andersen, B.V	Regional Monitoring - Data Summary (1957)	1163
HW-89072	10/1/89	Cleavenger, P.M. and S.P. Gydesen	Stack Gas Disposal Extracts: March 1947-January 1952	8820
HW-9091	3/5/48	Overbeck, W.P	Location of Redox Test Unit	4916
HW-9141	3/10/48	Parker, H.M	Spot Contamination on Potential Building Sites	4918
HW-9175	3/12/48	Gross, C.N	Stack Gas Decontamination, Separation Plants: Development of Decontamination Systems	6400
HW-9259	3/22/48	Parker, H.M	Review of the Stack Discharge Active Particle Contamination Problem	1086
HW-9372	4/1/48	Parker, H.M	Meteorological Consultation March 19, 1948	11312
HW-9476	4/1/48	Church, P.E	Meteorological Information	11313
HW-9496	3/20/48	Singlevich, W	The Trend of Contamination in the Air, Columbia River, Rain, Sanitary Water, Vegetation, and Wastes, at the Hanford Works and Vicinity for the Period October, November, December, 1947	8577
HW-9864	5/21/48	Adley, F.E	Report of a Study of the Fate of 200 Area Stack Gases	1088
HW-9871	5/24/48	Singlevich, W	Radioactive Contamination in the Columbia River and in the Air and Radiation Levels Measured in the Air at Hanford Works and Vicinity for 1945, 1946, 1947, and Early 1948	1089
HWN-1991	7/26/57	Roberts, R.E	CPD - Waste Storage and Experience	9899
HW-SA-3176	10/1/63	Fuquay, J.J. and C.L. Simpson	Use of Meteorological Measurements for Predicting Dispersion from Releases Near Ground-Level	4696
HW-SA-3742	10/15/64	Perkins, R.W., C.A. Thomas, and J.M. Nielsen	Air-borne Radionuclide Measurements and Physical Characteristics Determination	7761

APPENDIX B

MAPS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING LOCATIONS

MAP 4

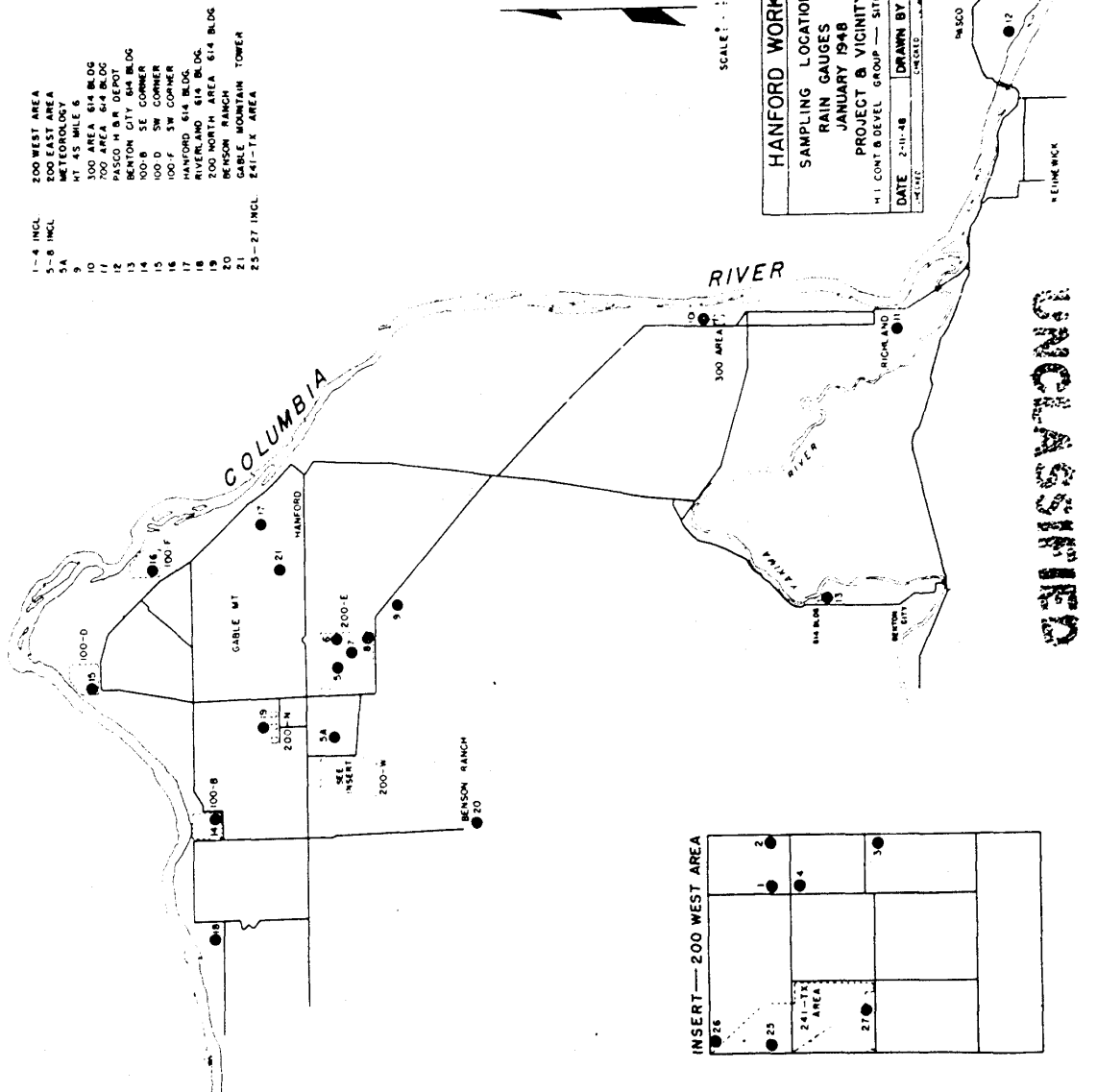


Figure B-1. Locations of rain gauges in January 1948. These samples were analyzed for beta activity. Map from [HW-9496](#).

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MAP 6

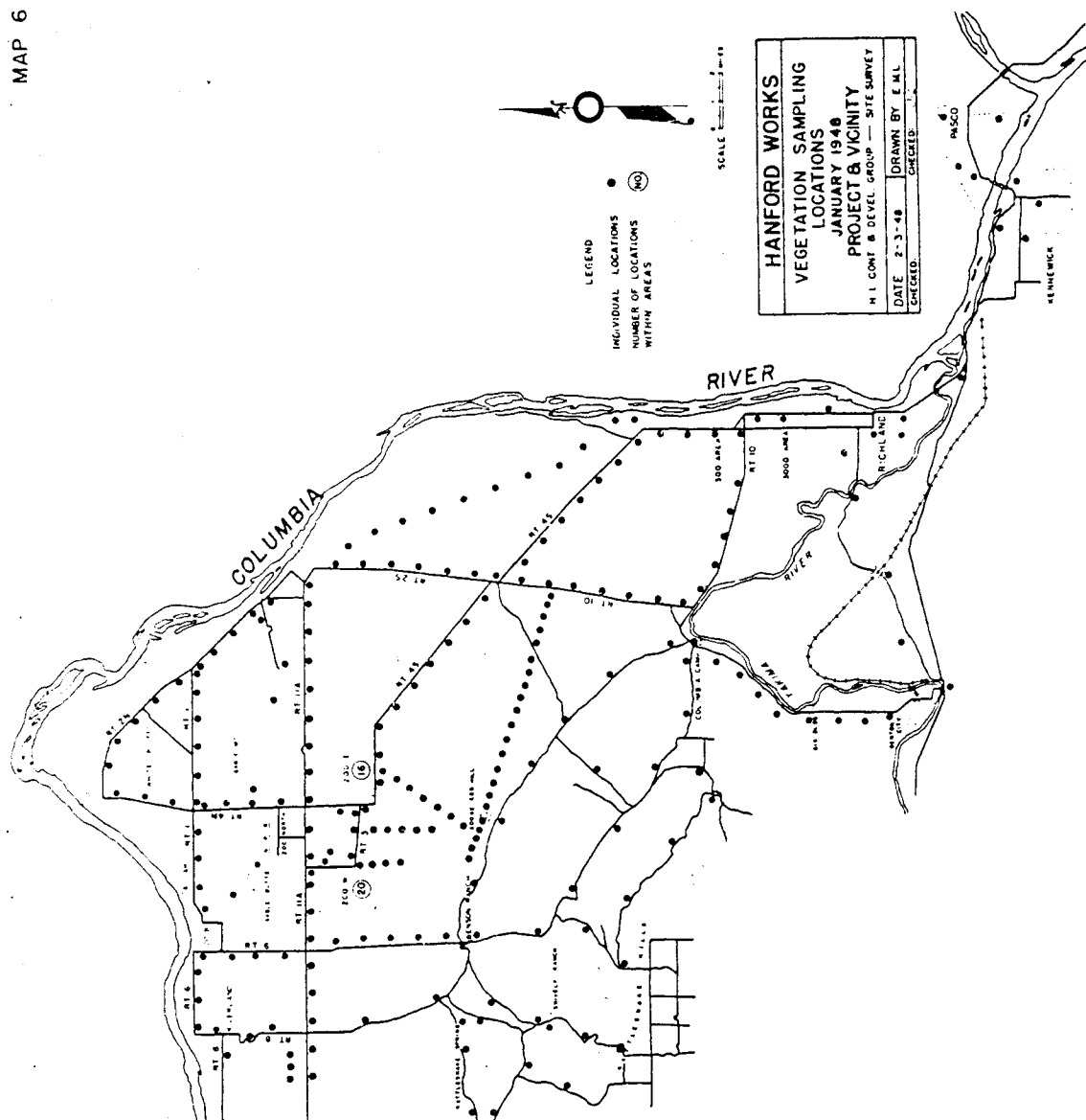


Figure B-2. Locations of vegetation sampling in January 1948. These samples were analyzed for total beta activity. Map from [HW-9496](#). Note location of Columbia Camp along the northern bend of the Yakima River.

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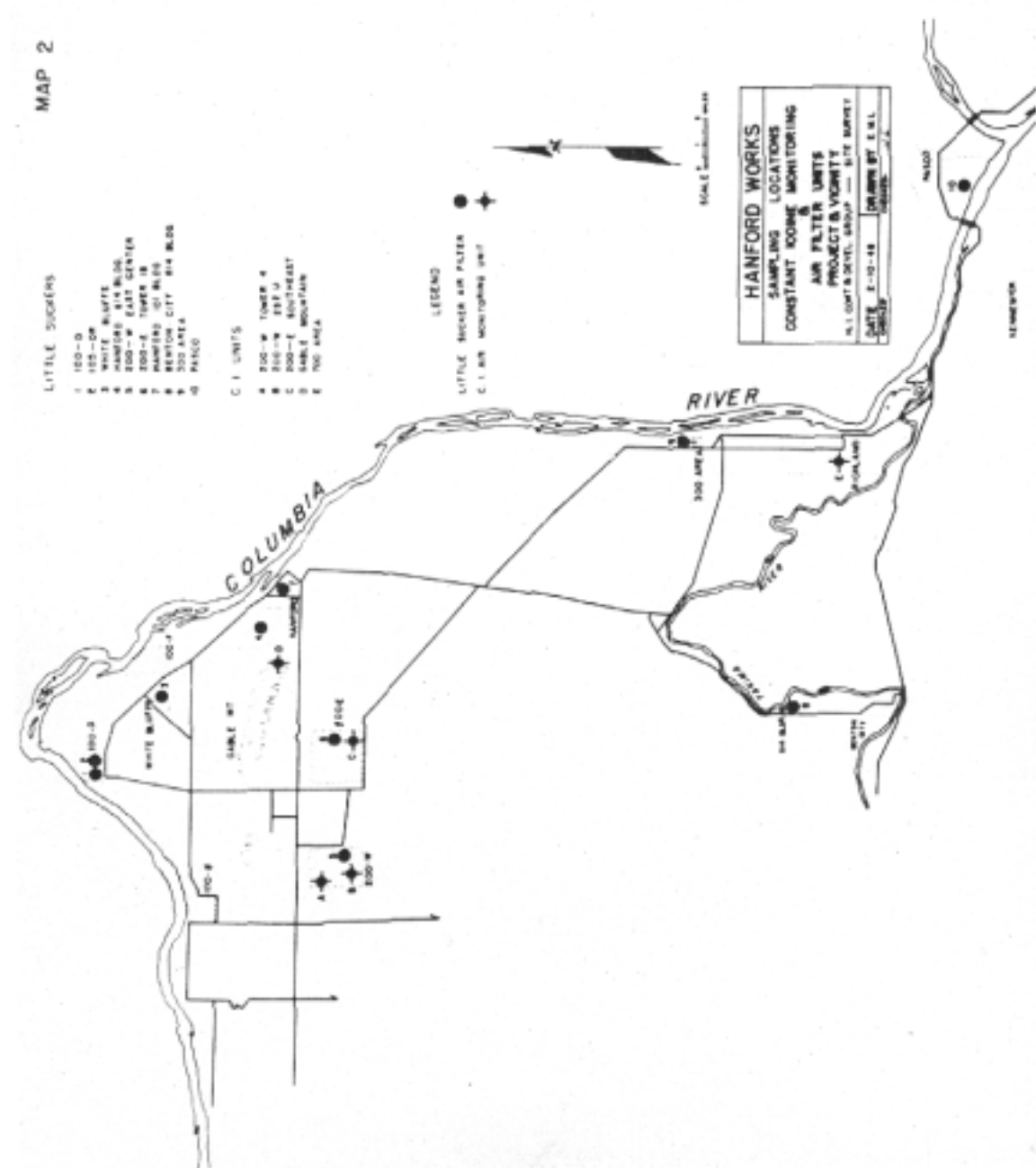


Figure B-3. Locations of air sampling in January 1948. Map from [HW-9496](#).

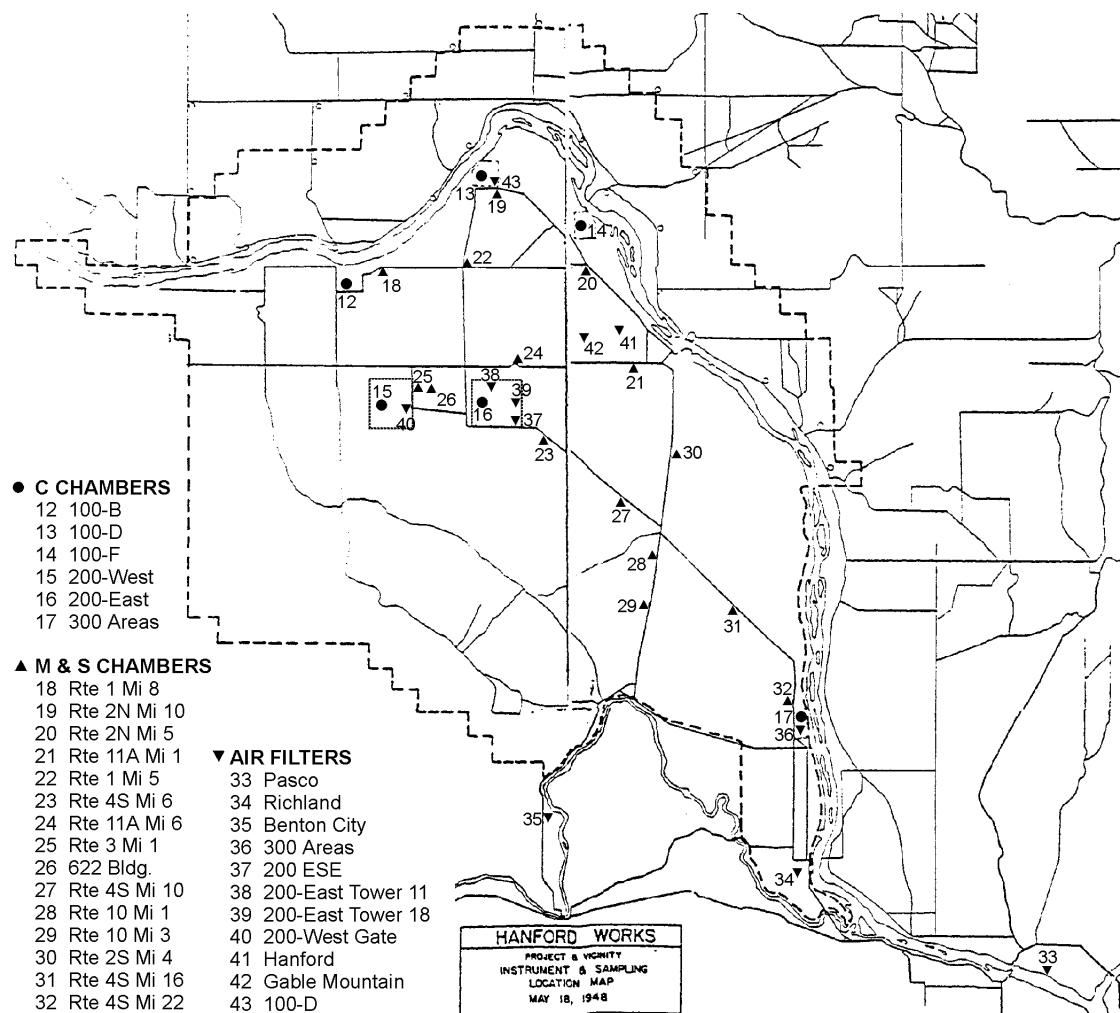


Figure B-4. Locations for environmental monitoring of airborne radioactivity on the Hanford Works in May 1948. Legibility of the source map ([HW-9871](#)) was poor, so the legend and location symbols and numbers were redrawn. Also, river monitoring stations were removed from the original figure.

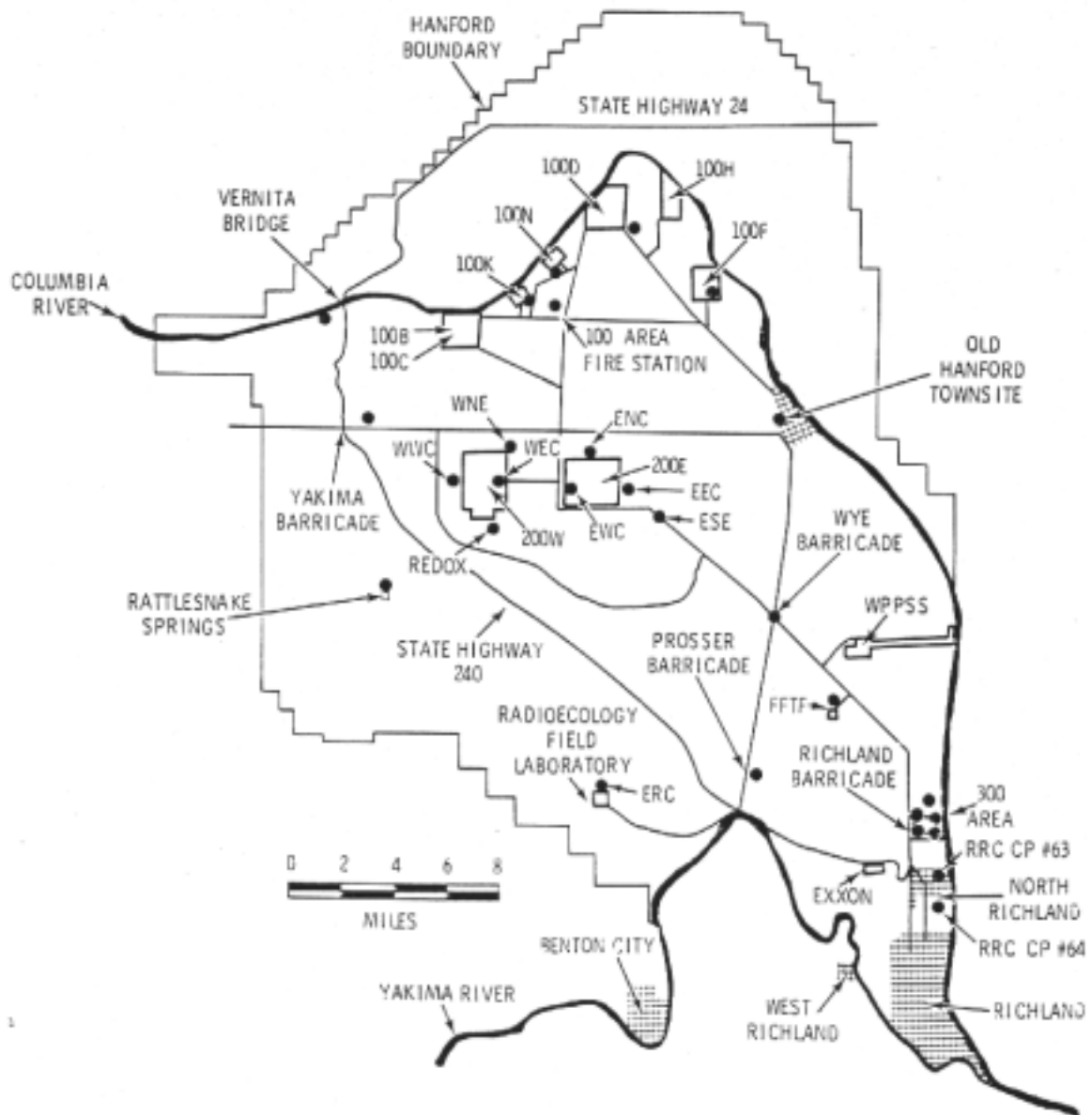


Figure B-5. Onsite and North Richland air monitoring locations in 1976
([Fix et al.](#) 1977).

APPENDIX C

MAPS OF SPATIAL EXTENT OF PARTICLE CONTAMINATION ON GROUND AND VEGETATION

INTRODUCTION

This appendix contains a number of maps that illustrate the spatial extent of radioactive particle contamination on ground and vegetation of the Hanford Works in the 1940s and 1950s. Some key maps are also reproduced in the main text. The order is chronological within two parts, close-in surveys and site-wide (or larger) surveys. Brief notations are given in the figure captions; however, most discussion is provided in the main text. Because the scope of this task order does not emphasize iodine, similar maps for that nuclide are not reproduced here, although many are available.

PART I: CLOSE-IN SURVEYS

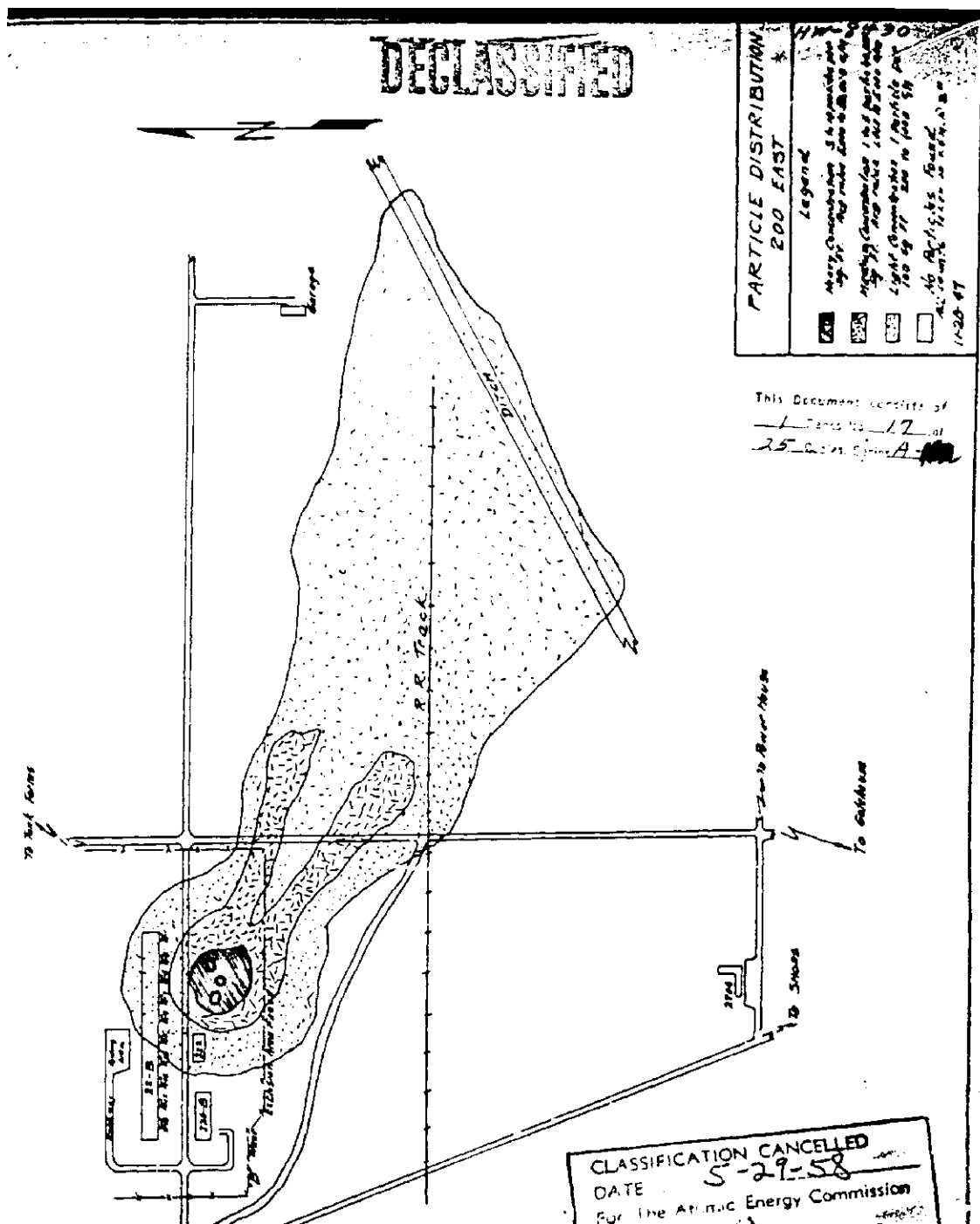


Figure C-1. Distribution of particles in 200-East, November 28, 1947 (HW-8430). The “heavy concentration” zone around the B Plant stack is 5–10 particles per ft² (5000–10,000 cpm). The “medium concentration” zone is 1–5 particles per ft² (1000–5000 cpm). The “light concentration” zone is 1 particle per 100 ft² or 0.01 particles per ft² (200–1000 cpm). The survey results extend about 900 m SE of the B Plant stack, still within the boundaries of 200-East.

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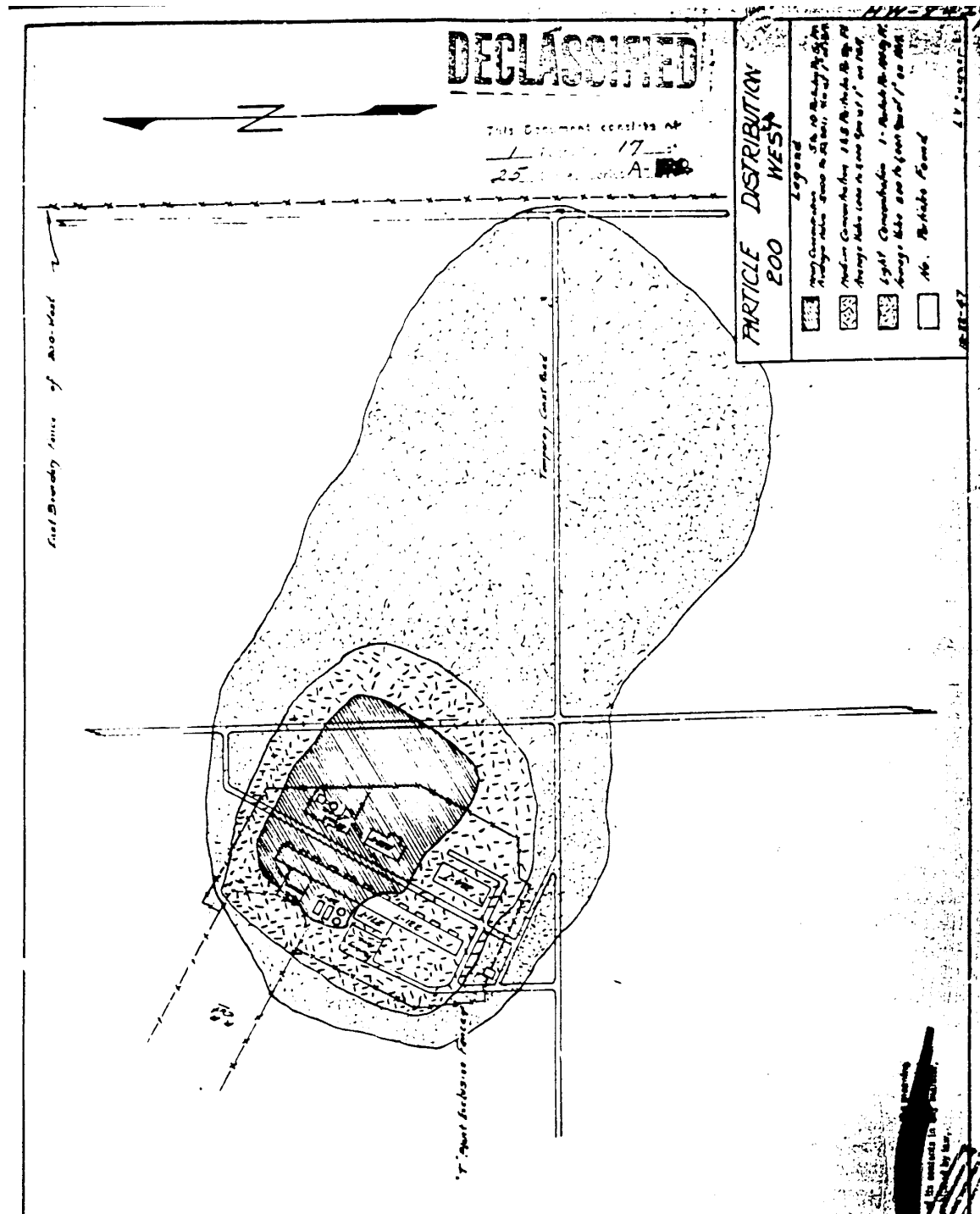


Figure C-2. Distribution of particles in 200-West, December 22, 1947 (HW-8429). The "heavy concentration" zone around the T Plant stack is 5–10 particles per ft² (5000–10,000 cpm). The "medium concentration" zone is 1–5 particles per ft² (1000–5000 cpm). The "light concentration" zone is 1 particle per 100 ft² or 0.01 particles per ft² (200–1000 cpm). The survey results extend about 800 m to the east boundary fence of 200-West.

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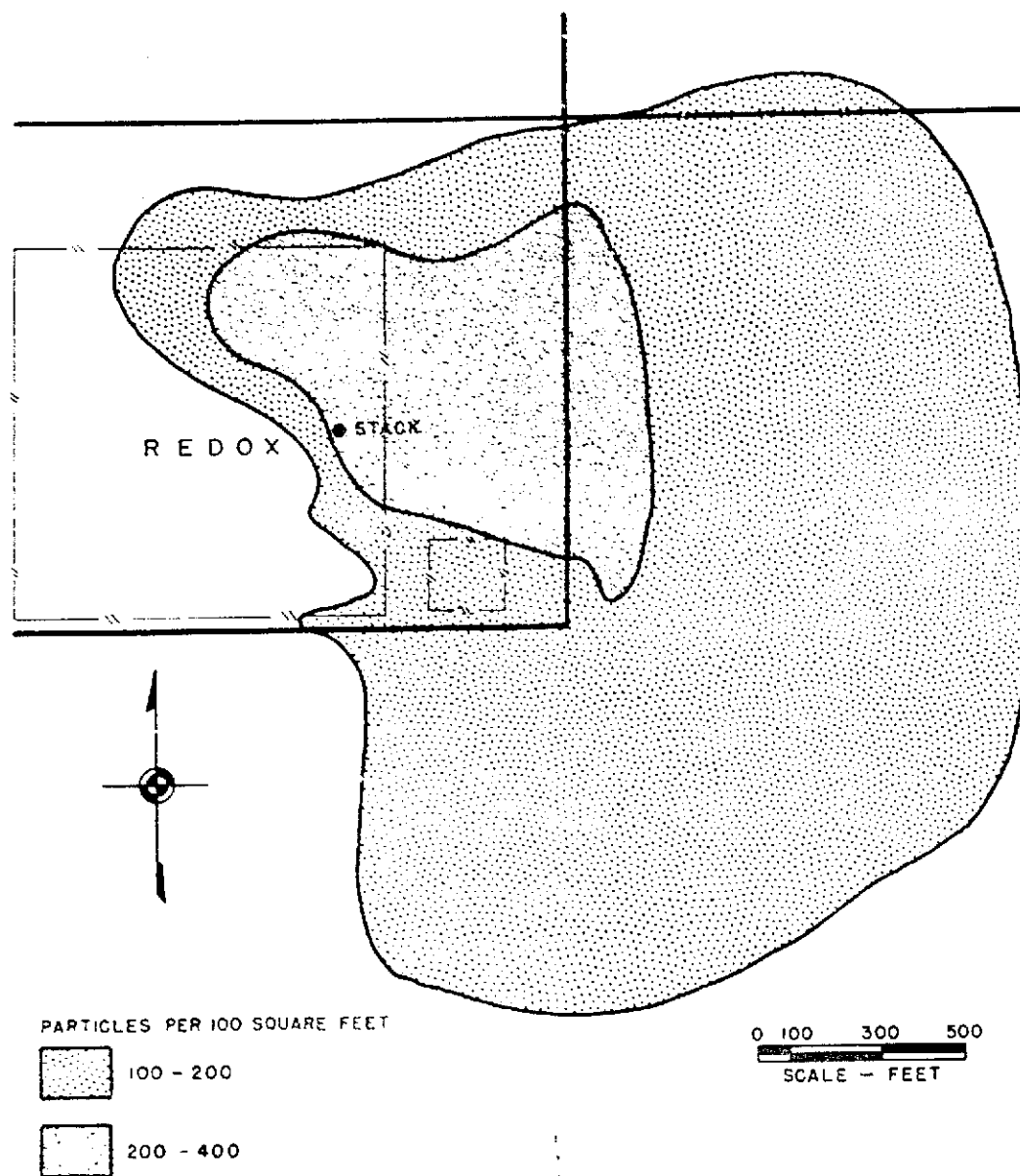


FIGURE - 11
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
200 WEST
MARCH 30 - MAY 3, 1952

Figure C-3. Ground contamination pattern in 200-West, March 30-May 3, 1952. Figure 11 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-54636.

DRAFT

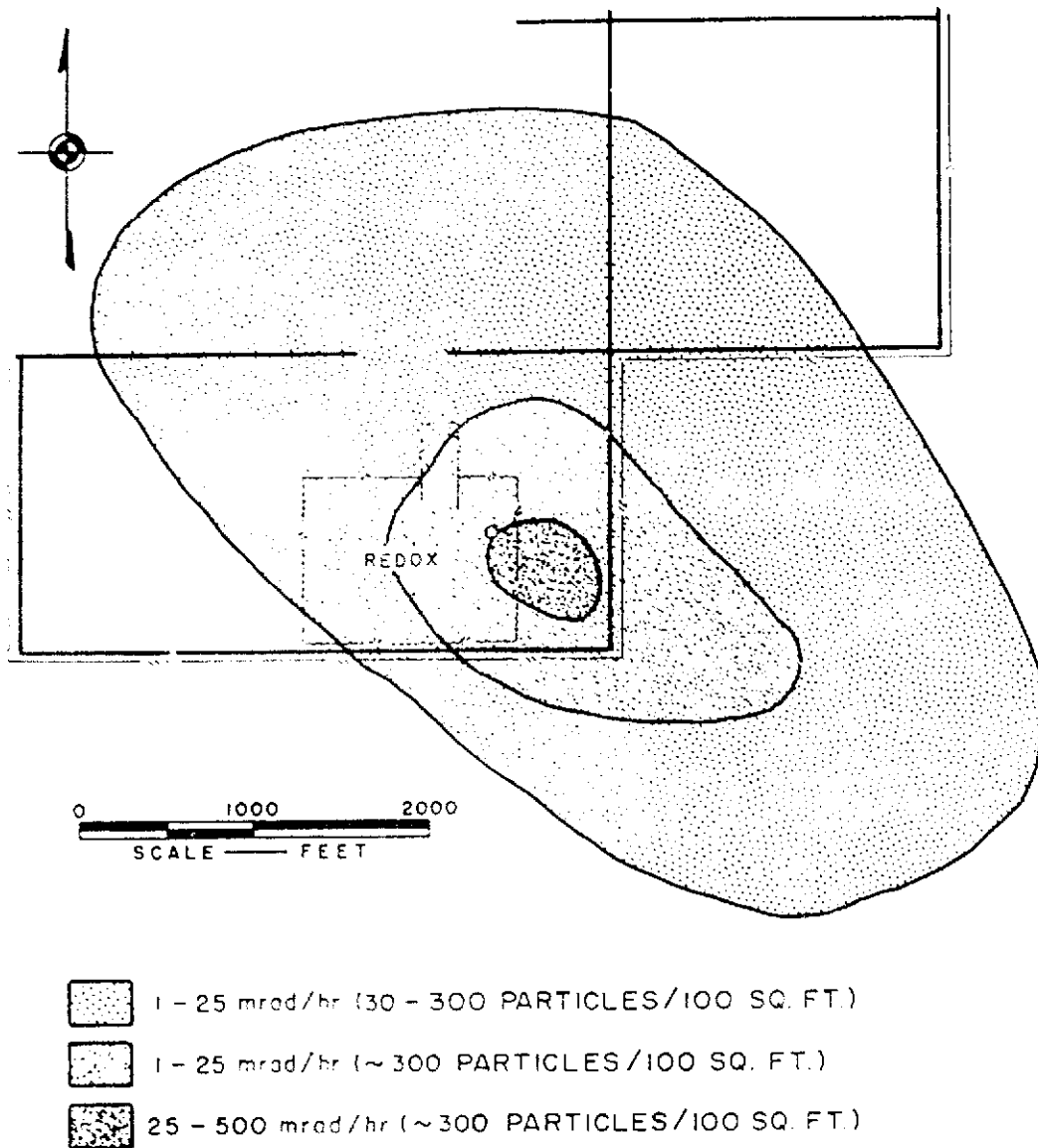


FIGURE -12
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
200 WEST
JUNE, 1952

Figure C-4. Ground contamination pattern in 200-West, June 1952. Figure 12 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-54636.

DRAFT

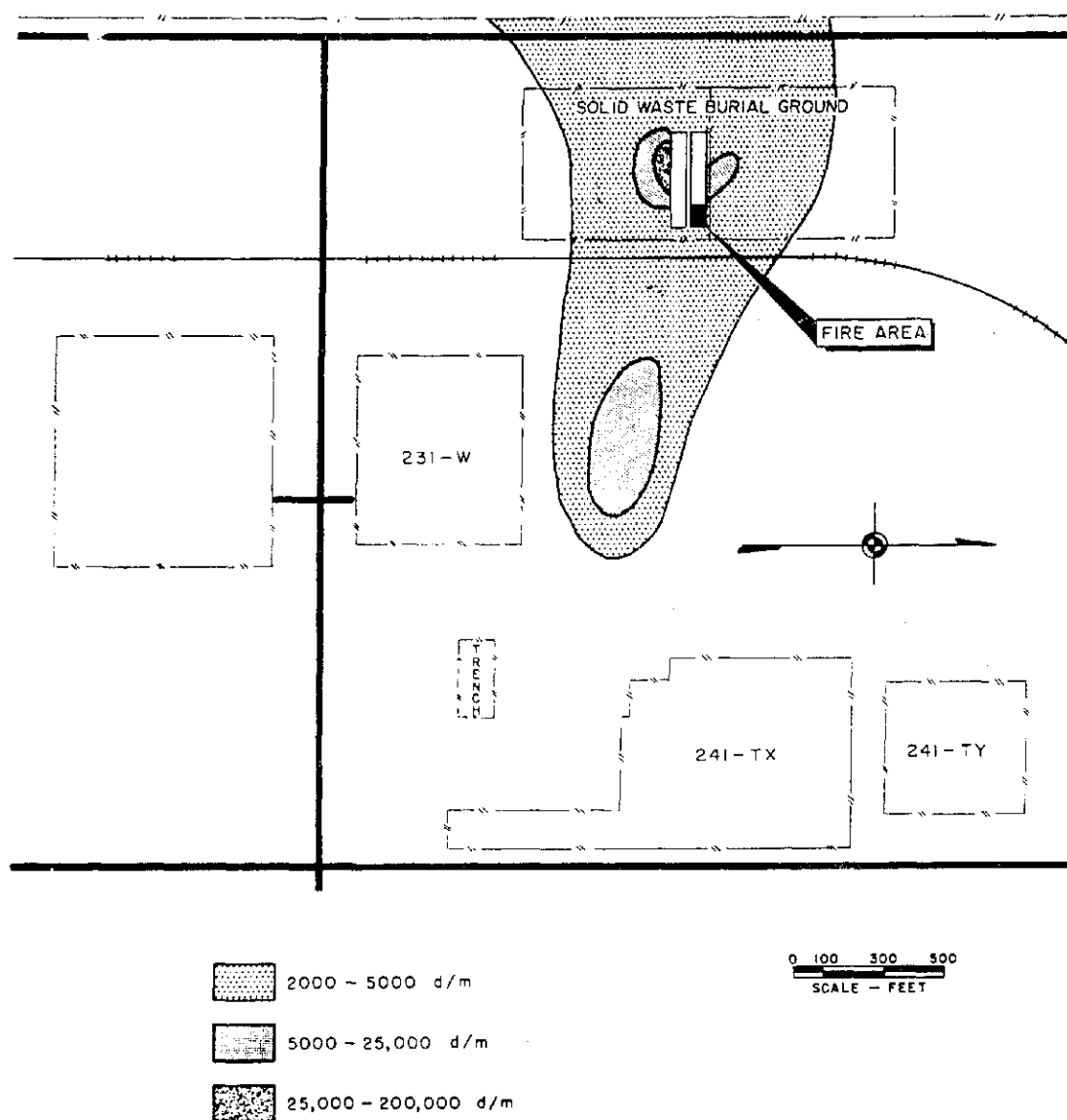


FIGURE - 39
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
200 WEST
JULY 9, 1952

Figure C-5. Ground contamination pattern in 200-West, July 9, 1952. Figure 39 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-54636.

DRAFT

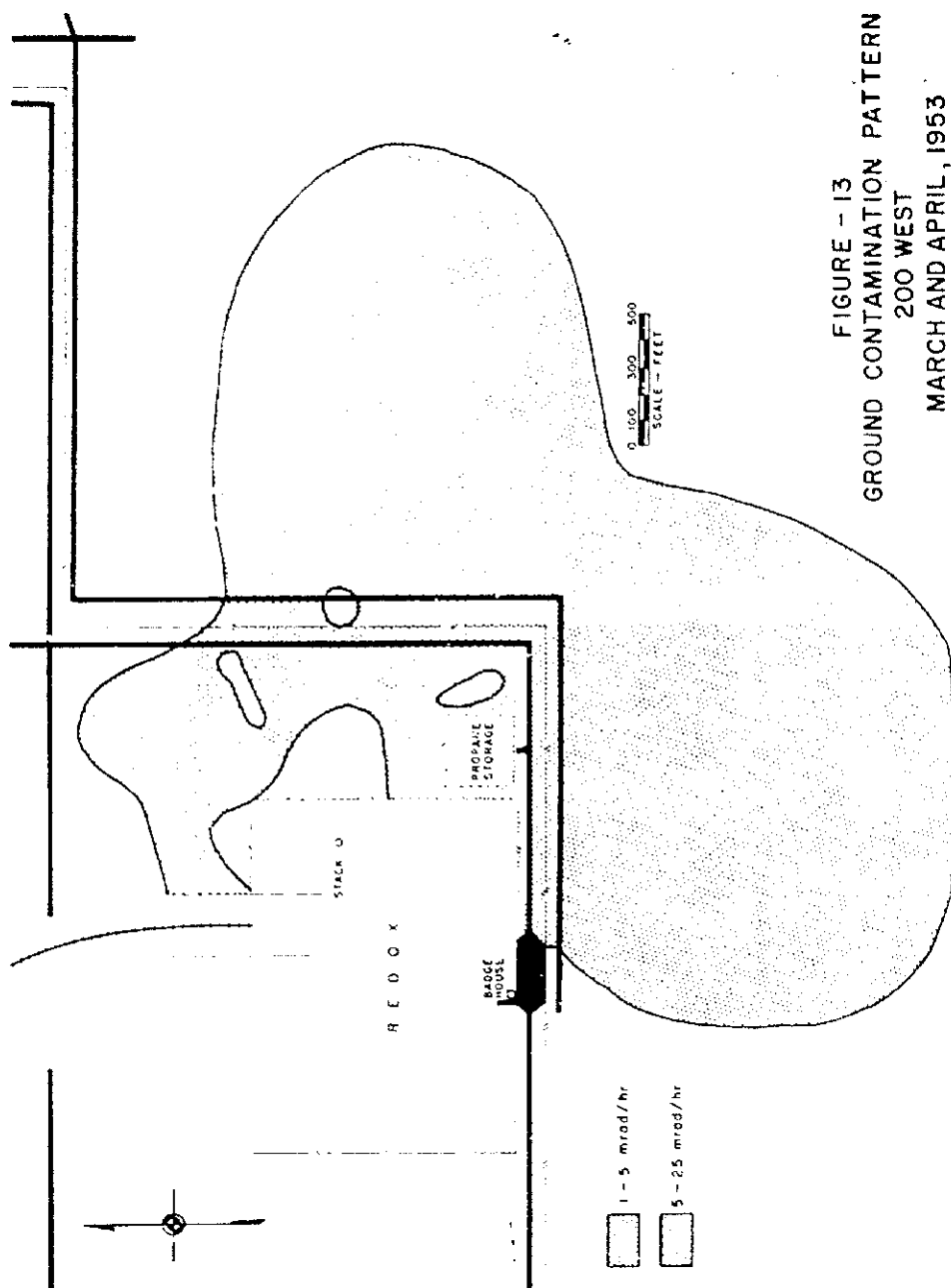


Figure C-6. Ground contamination pattern in 200-West, March and April 1953. Figure 13 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-54636.

DRAFT

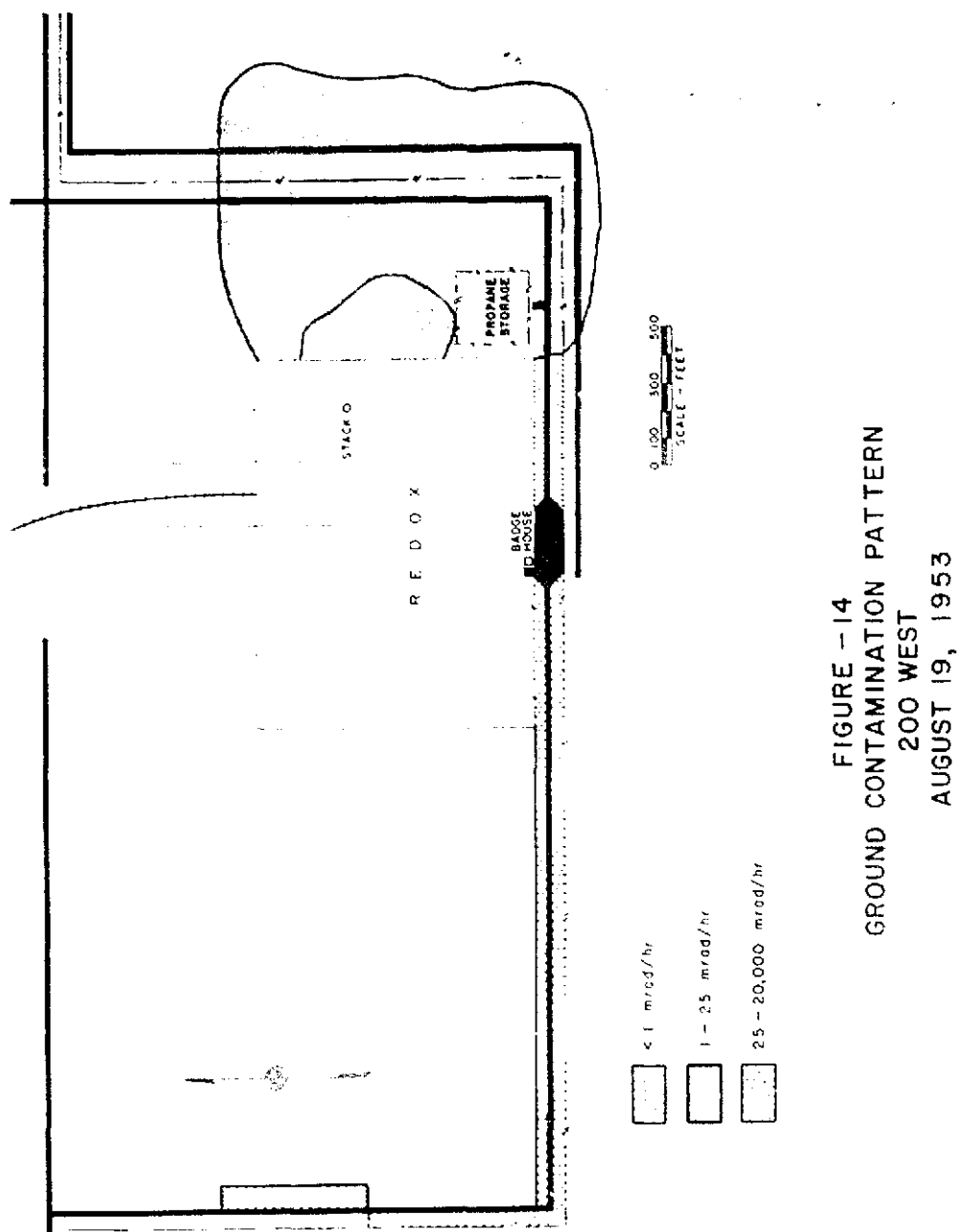


Figure C-7. Ground contamination pattern in 200-West, August 19, 1953. Figure 14 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-54636.

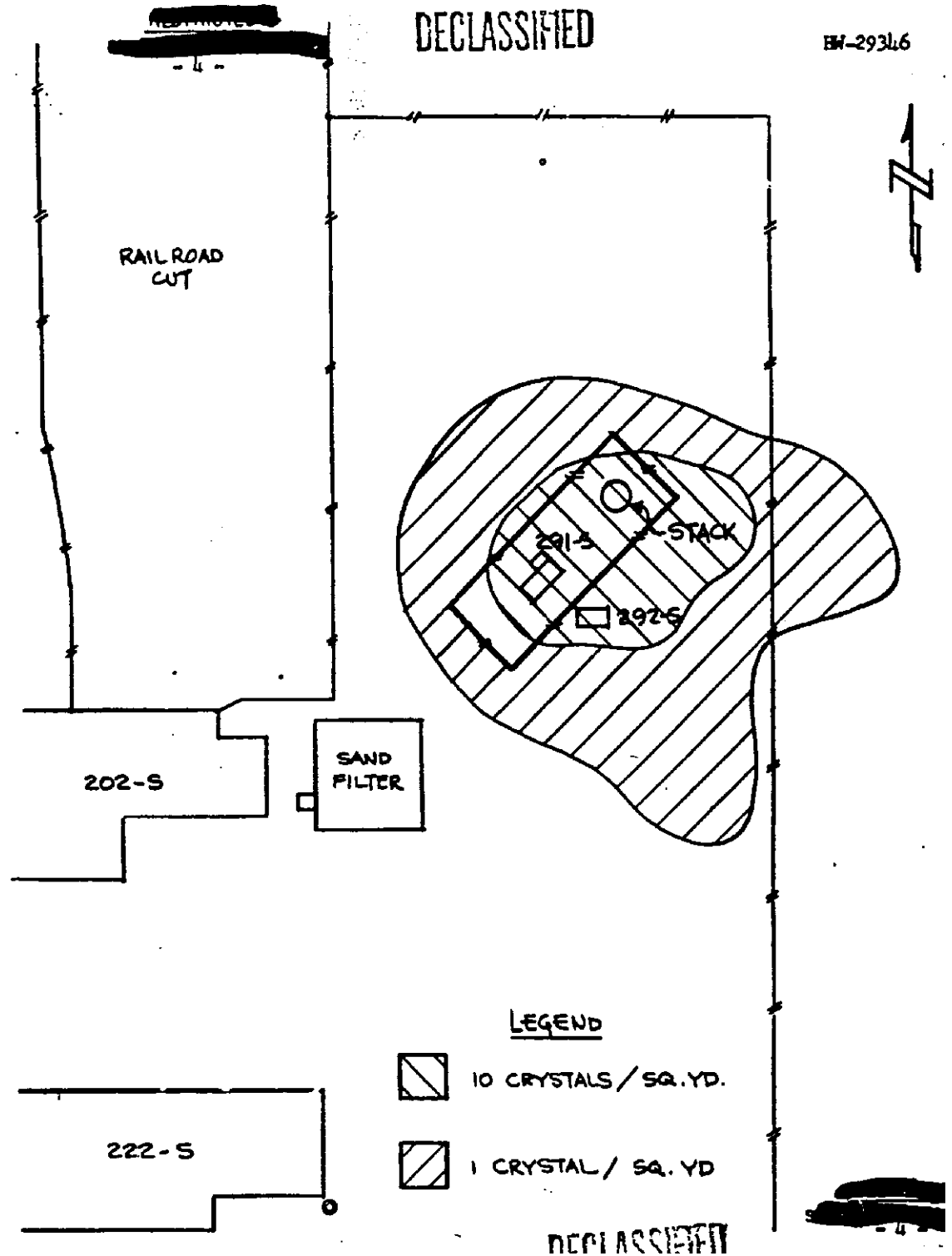


Figure C-8. Visible ruthenium crystals around the REDOX stack from an emission that occurred August 14, 1953 (HW-29346). Finer particles, detectable by instruments, were much more frequent and more widely spread than the visible crystals.

DRAFT

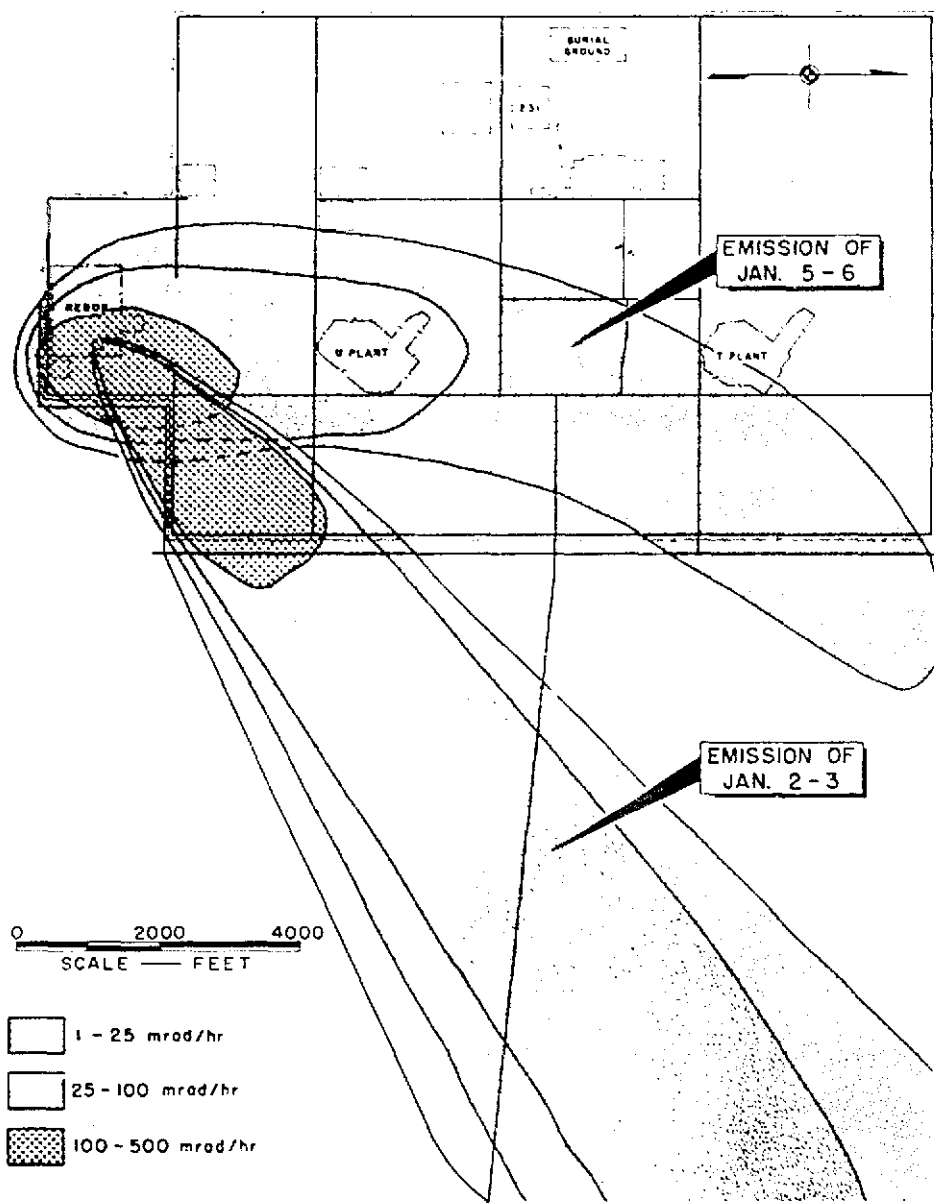


FIGURE - 16
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
200 WEST
JANUARY 2-9, 1954

Figure C-9. Ground contamination pattern, 200-West, January 2-9, 1954. Figure 16 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-54636.

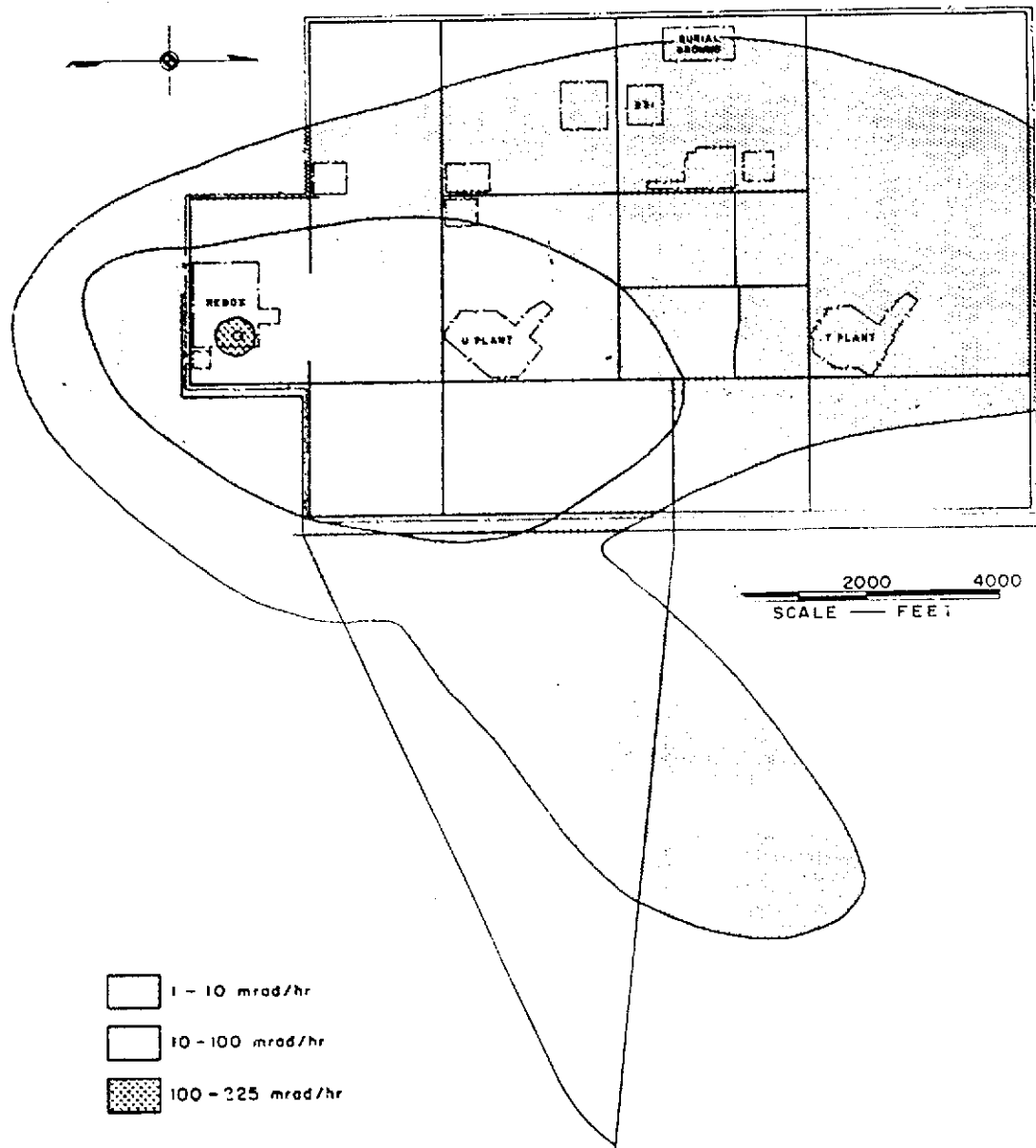


FIGURE -17
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
200 WEST
FEBRUARY 15-19, 1954

Figure C-10. Ground contamination pattern, 200-West, February 15-19, 1954. Figure 17 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-54636.

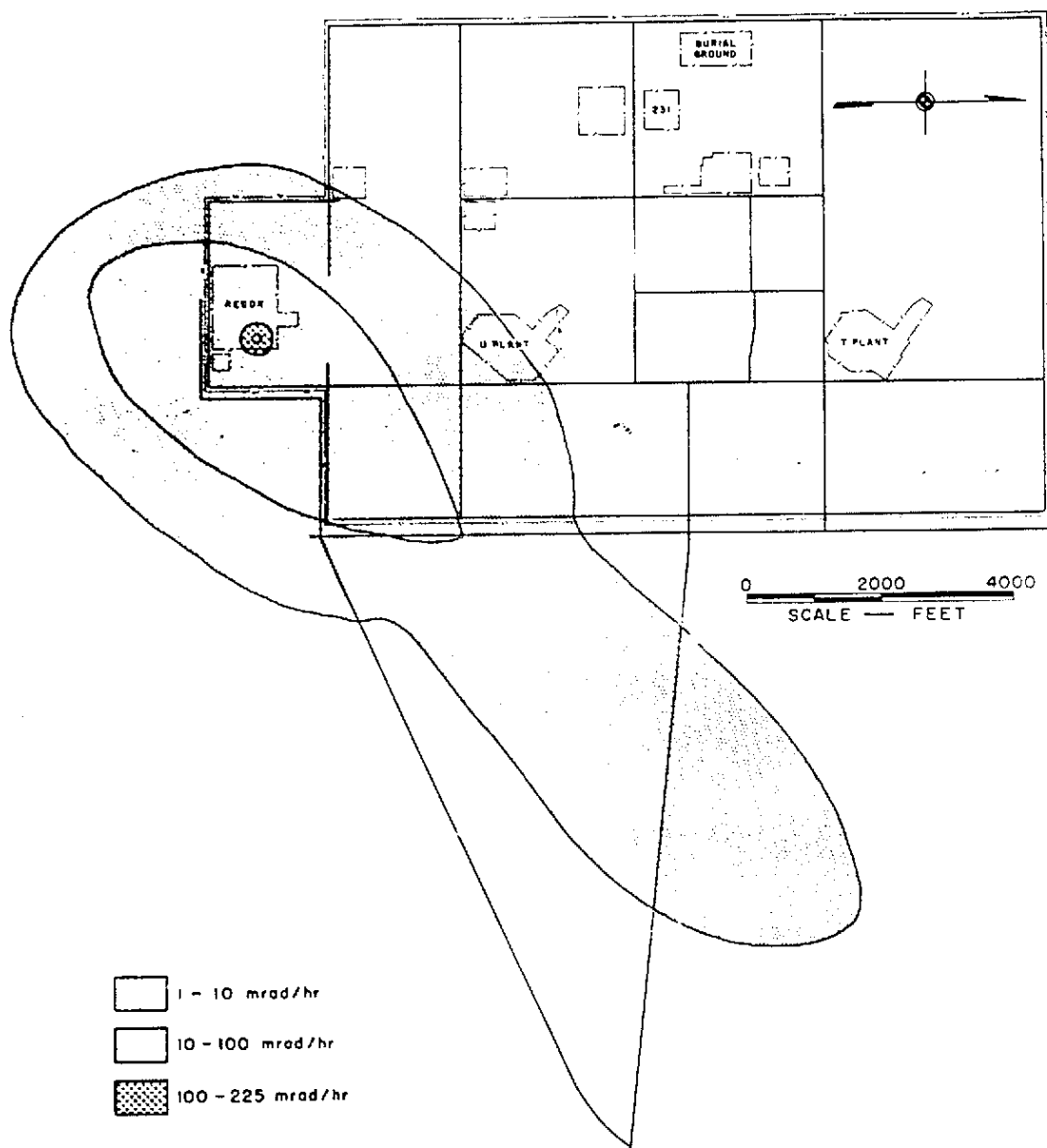


FIGURE - 18
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
200 WEST
MARCH 1-5, 1954

Figure C-11. Ground contamination pattern, 200-West, March 1-5, 1954. Figure 18 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-54636.

DRAFT

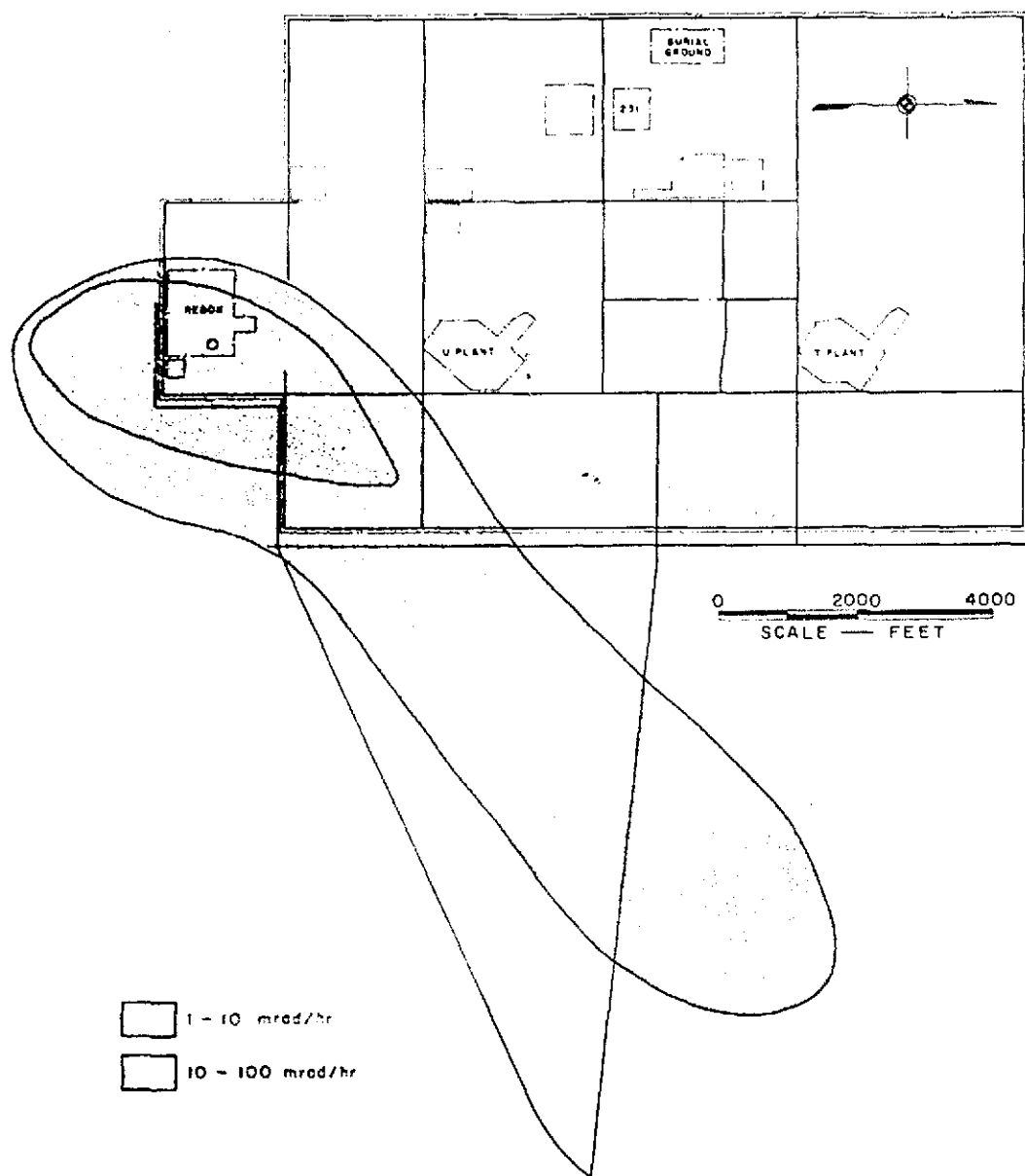


FIGURE - 19
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
200 WEST
MARCH 22-26, 1954

Figure C-12. Ground contamination pattern, 200-West, March 22-26, 1954. Figure 19 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-54636.

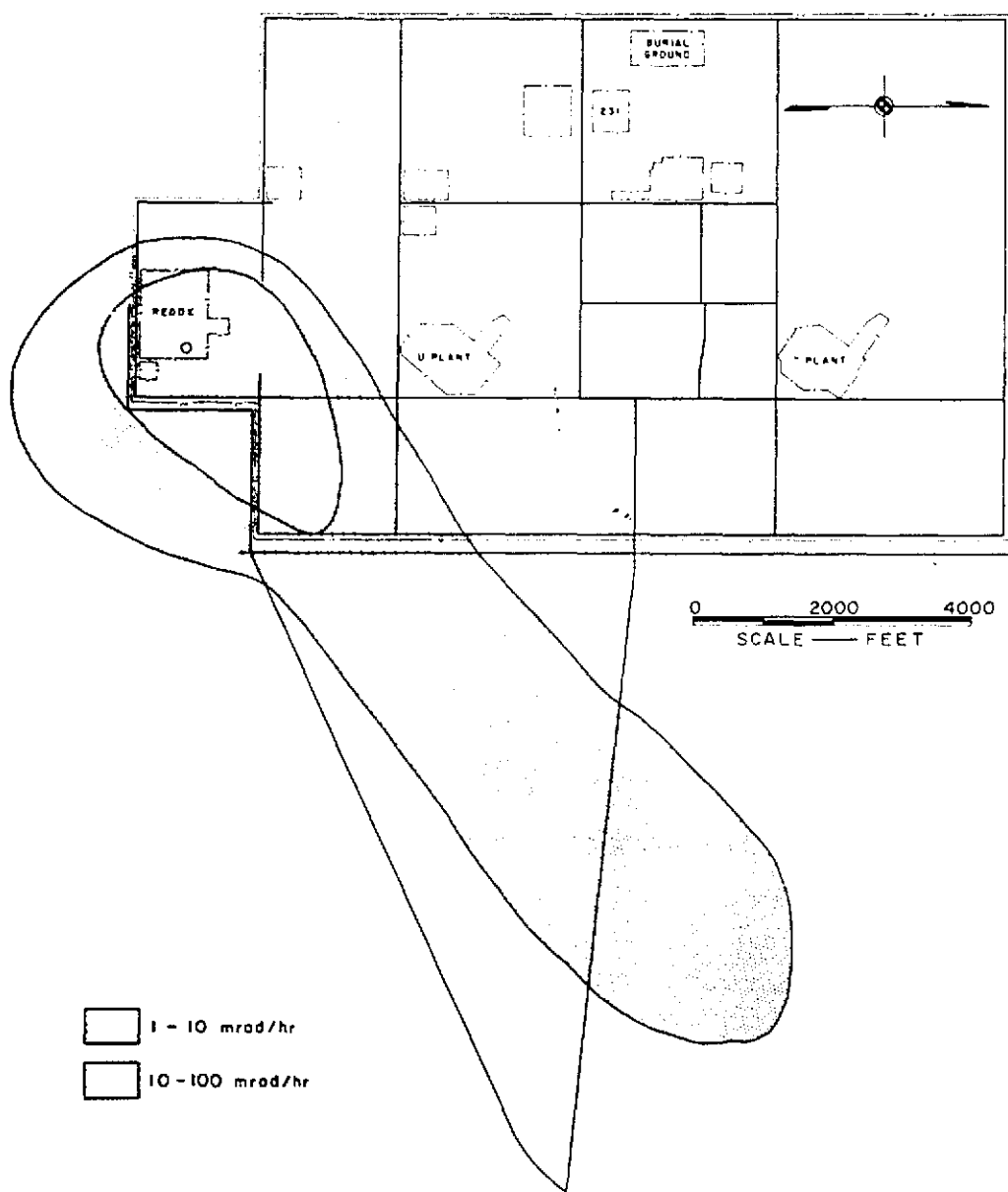


FIGURE - 20
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
200 WEST
MAY 17 - 21, 1954

Figure C-13. Ground contamination pattern, 200-West, May 17-21, 1954. Figure 20 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-54636.

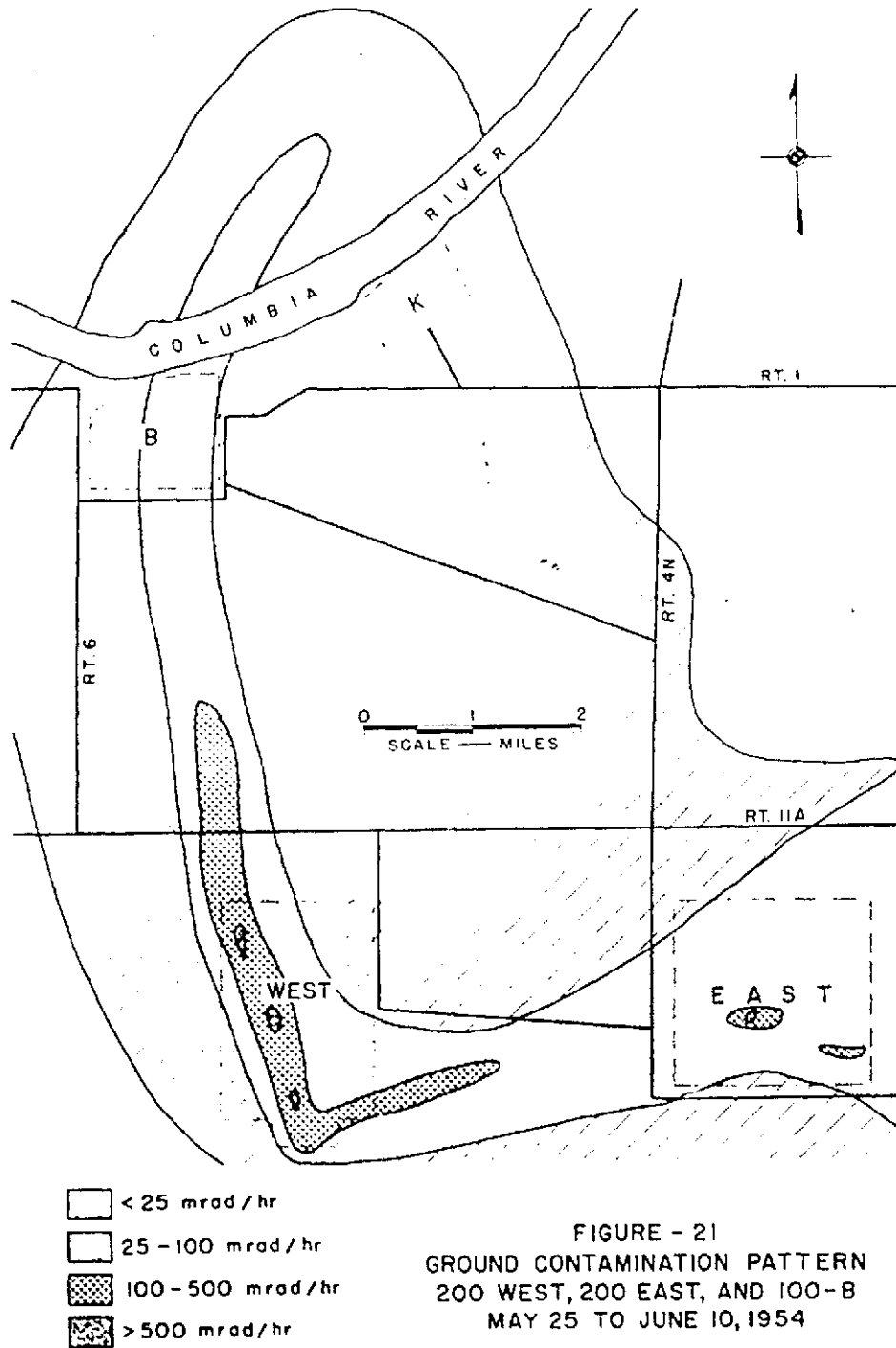


Figure C-14. Ground contamination pattern in 200-West, 200-East, and 100-B, May 25 to June 10, 1954. Figure 21 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-54636.

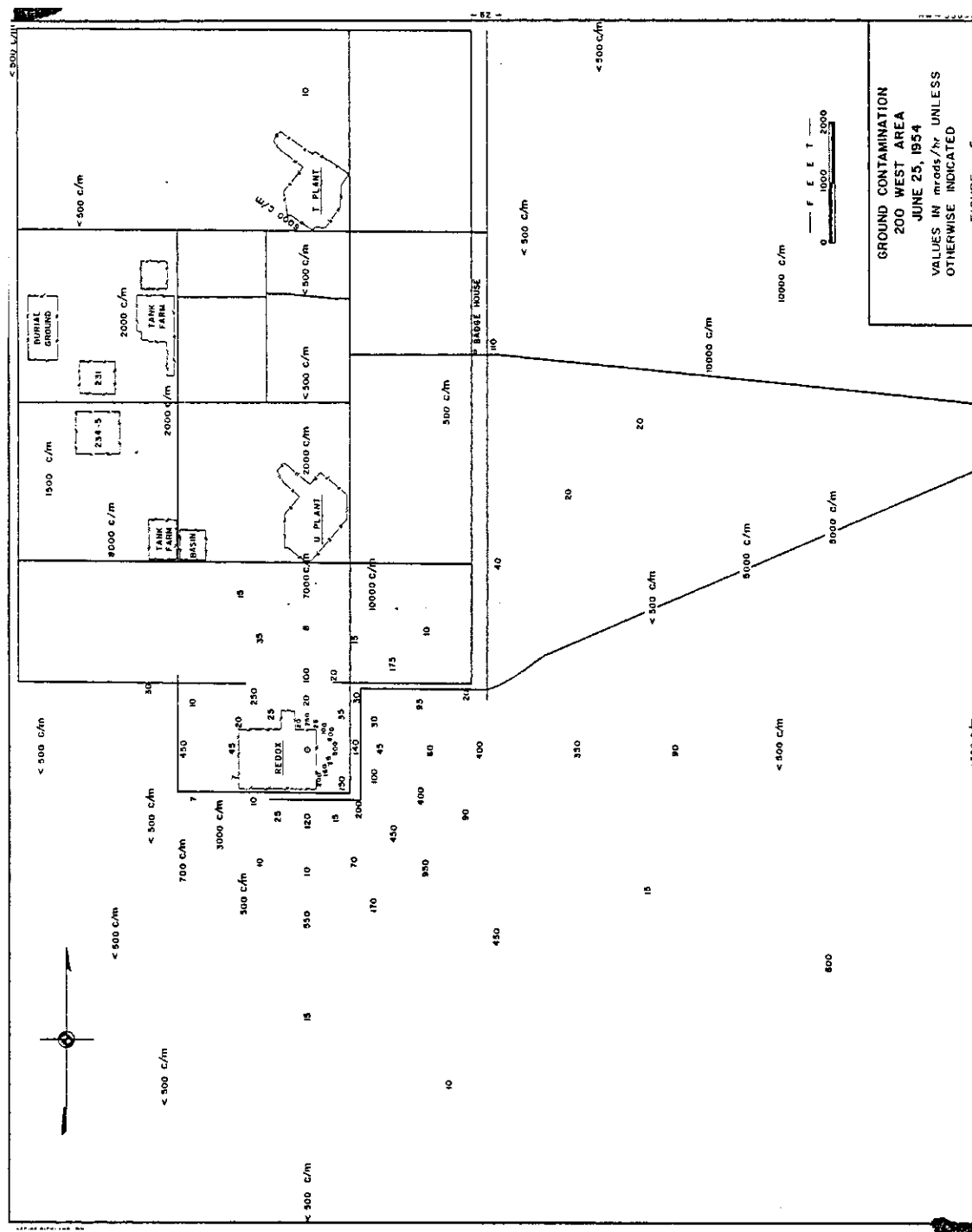


Figure C-15. Ground contamination in 200-West Area, June 1954. Reproduced from Figure 5 of HW-33896. This survey did not extend as far as the nearest military encampment. Values are either cpm general area contamination or mrad hr⁻¹ from active particles. The highest values are 950 mrad hr⁻¹ at 2700 feet SE of the stack and 10,000 cpm 3000 ft NNE of the stack.

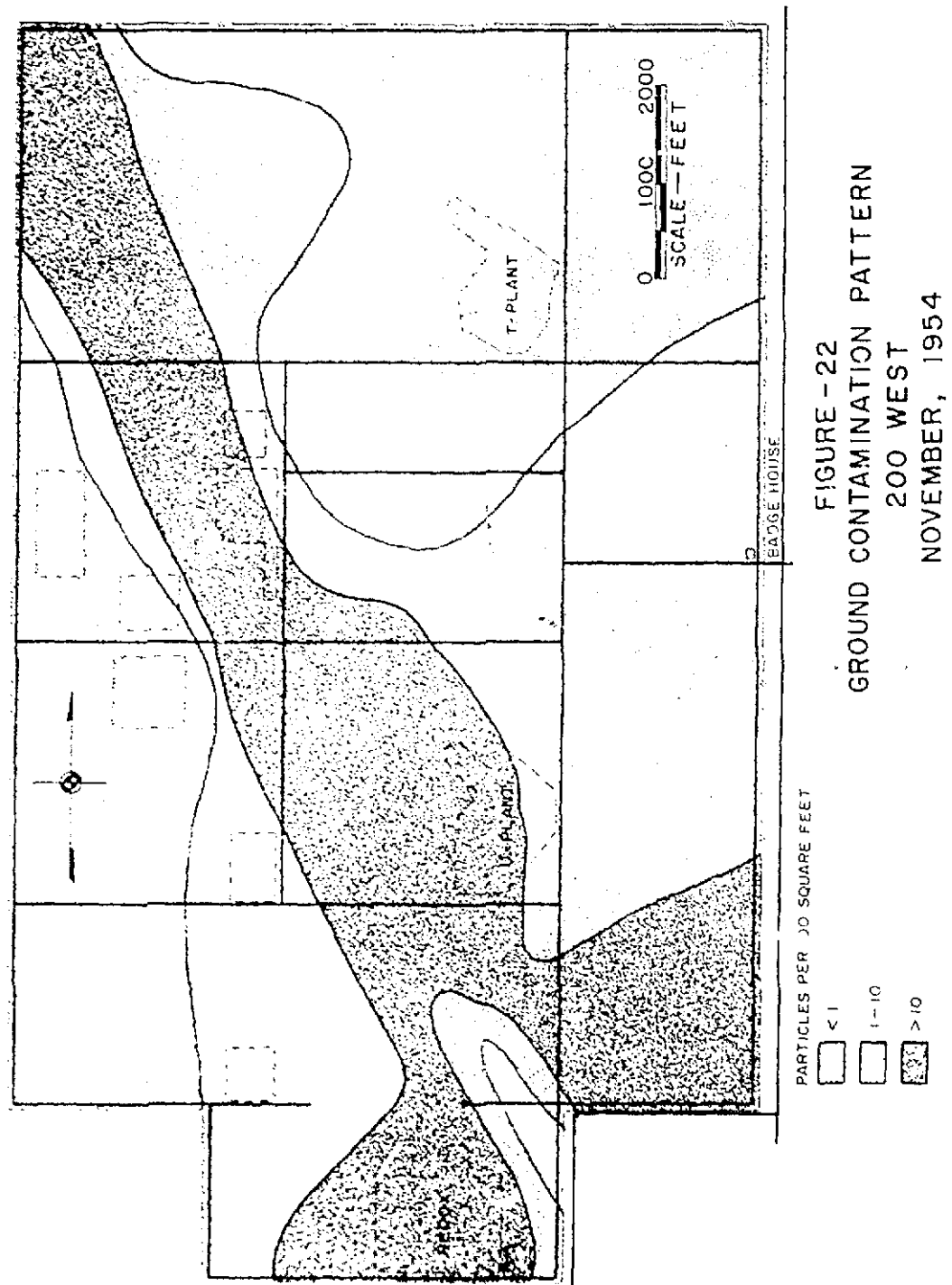


Figure C-16. Ground contamination pattern, 200-West, November 1954. Figure 22 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-54636.

DRAFT

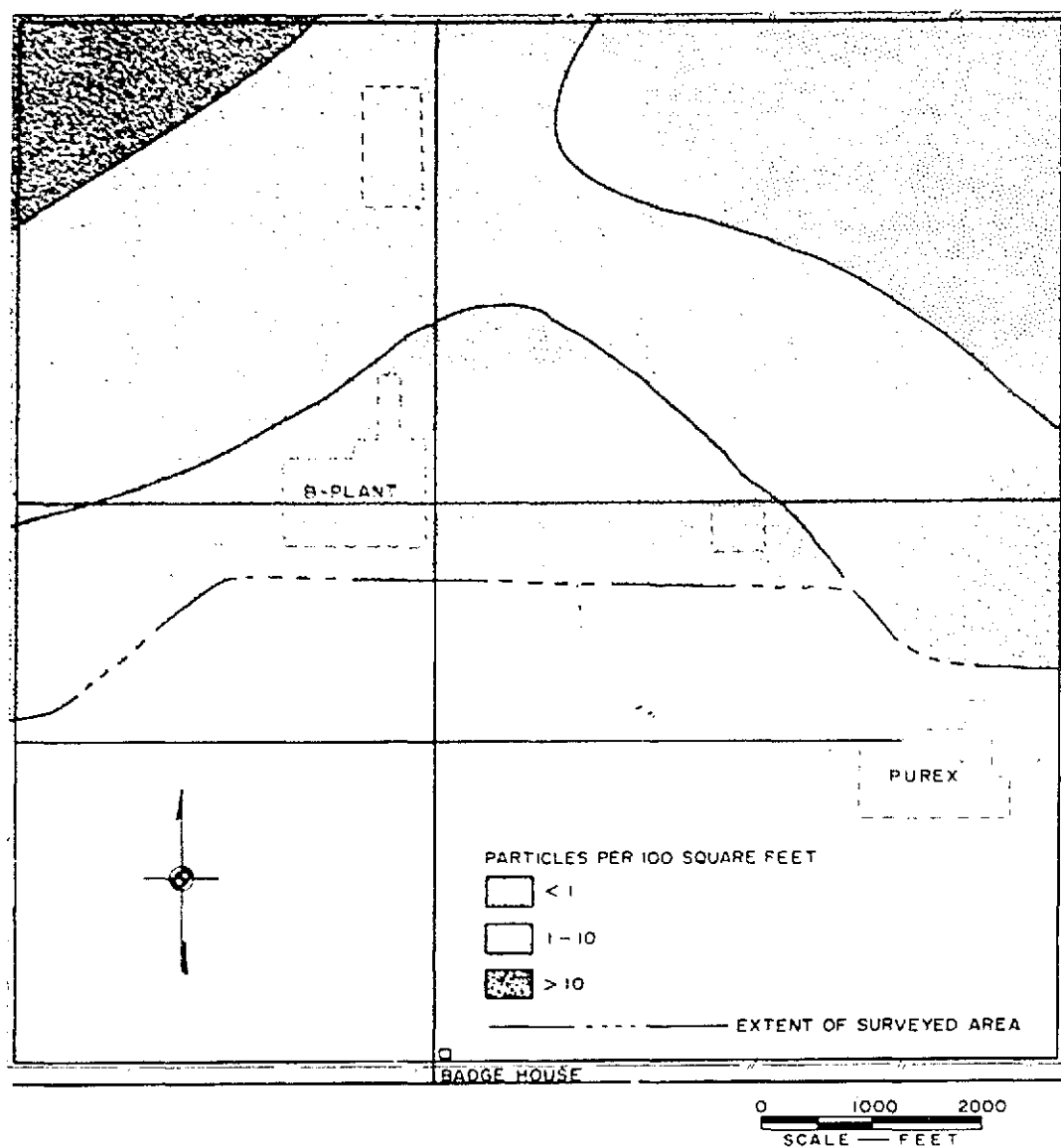


FIGURE - 23
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
200 EAST
JANUARY, 1955

Figure C-17. Ground contamination pattern, 200-East, January 1955. Figure 23 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-54636.

DRAFT

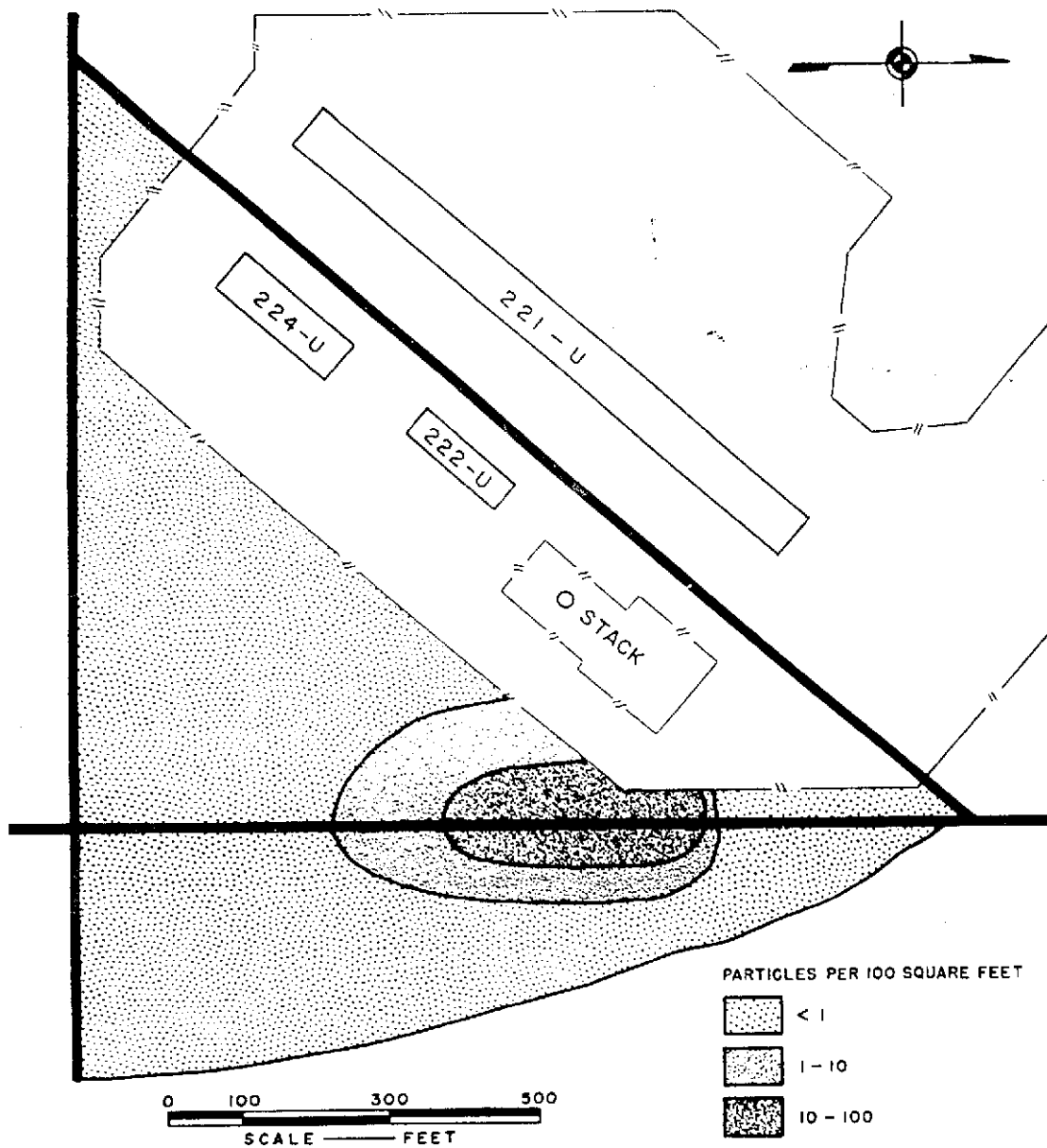


FIGURE - 40
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
200 WEST
JUNE 4, 1956

Figure C-18. Ground contamination pattern, 200-West, June 4, 1956. Figure 40 from Selby and Soldat (1956). HW-54636.

DRAFT

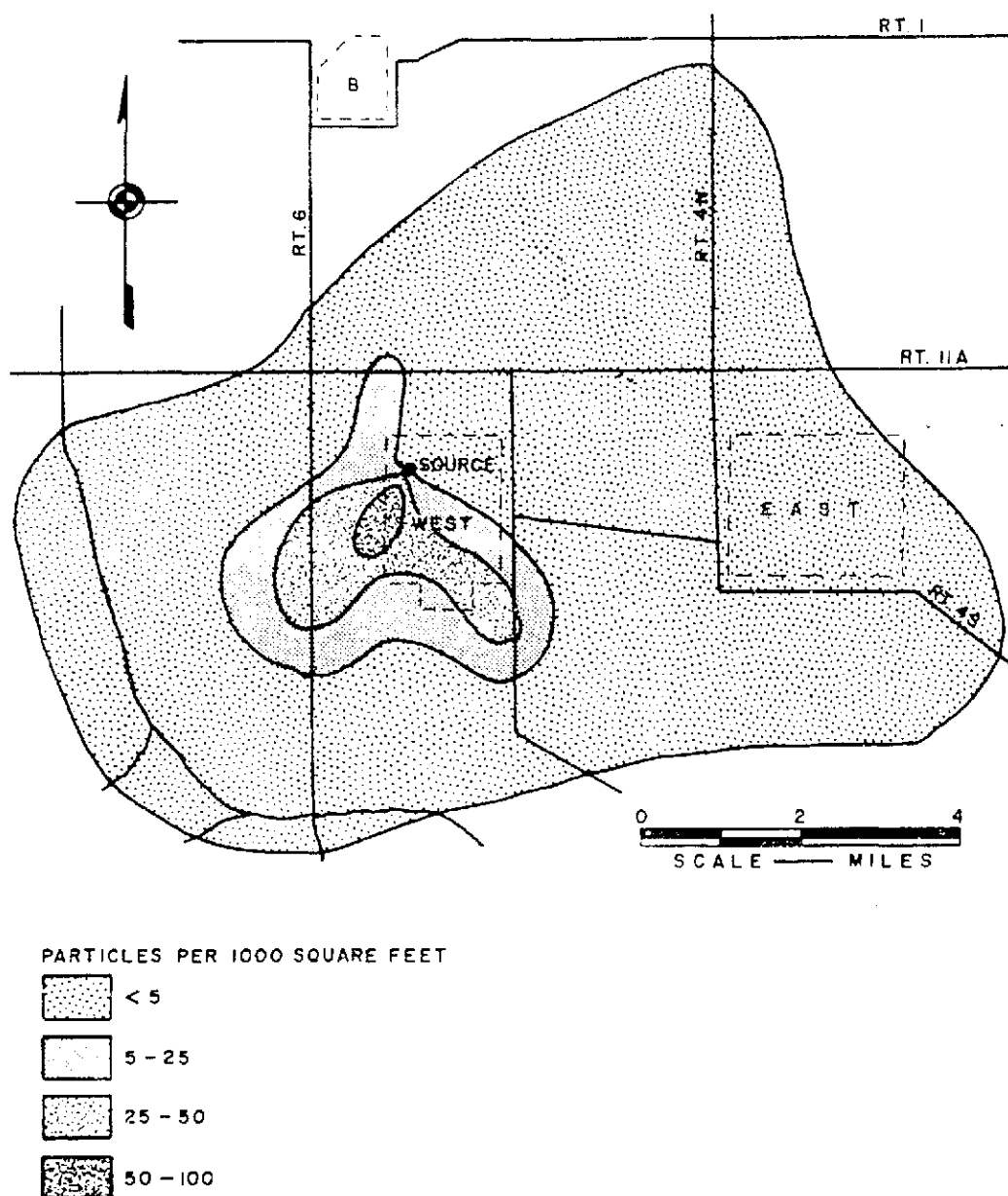


Figure C-19. Ground contamination pattern, 200-West Area and vicinity, November 7-12, 1957.
Figure 41 from Selby and Soldat (1956), HW-45636.

DRAFT

SITE-WIDE (OR LARGER) SURVEYS

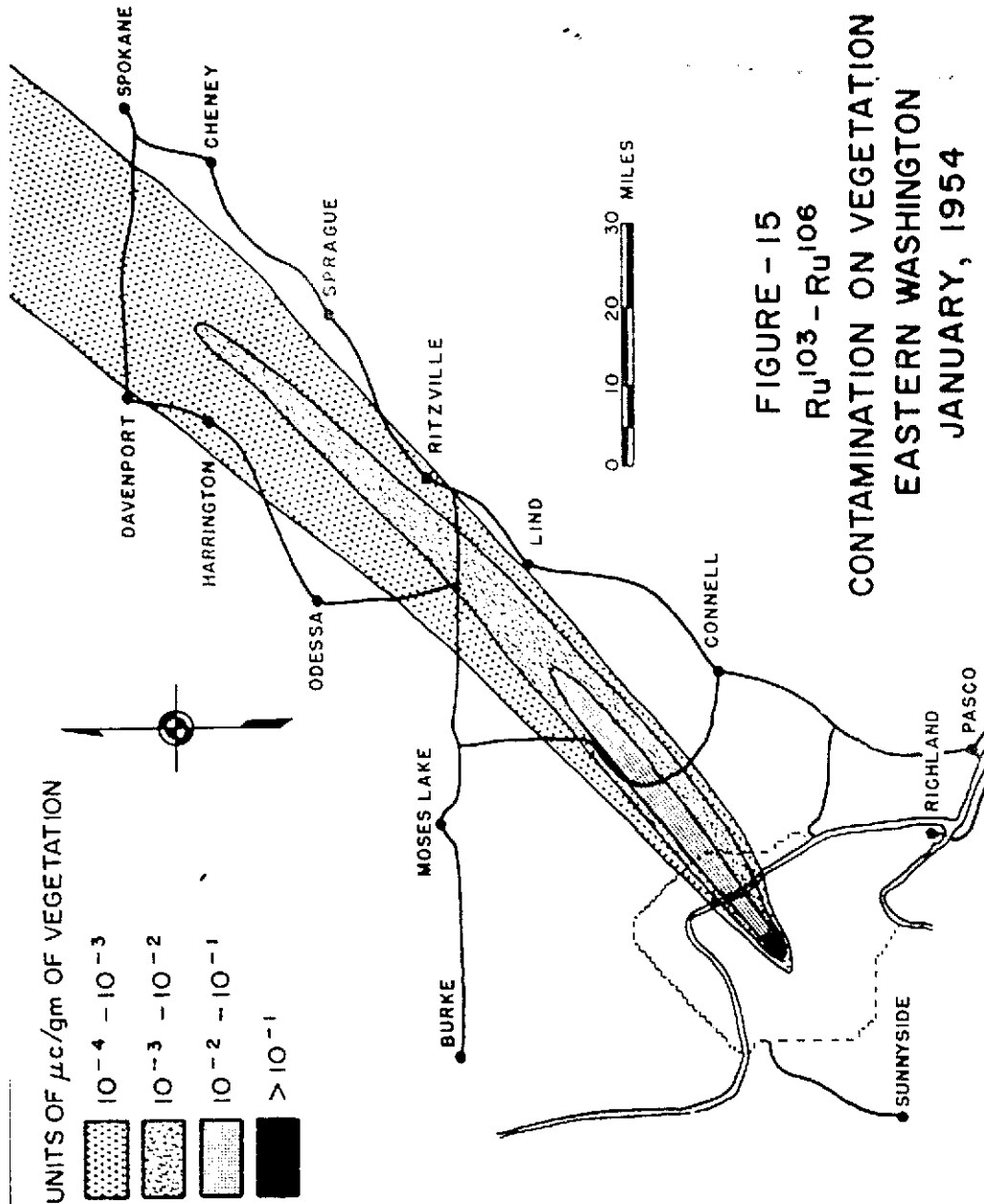


Figure C-20. Ruthenium contamination on vegetation of Eastern Washington, January, 1954. Figure 15 from Selby and Soldat (1965), HW-54636.

DRAFT

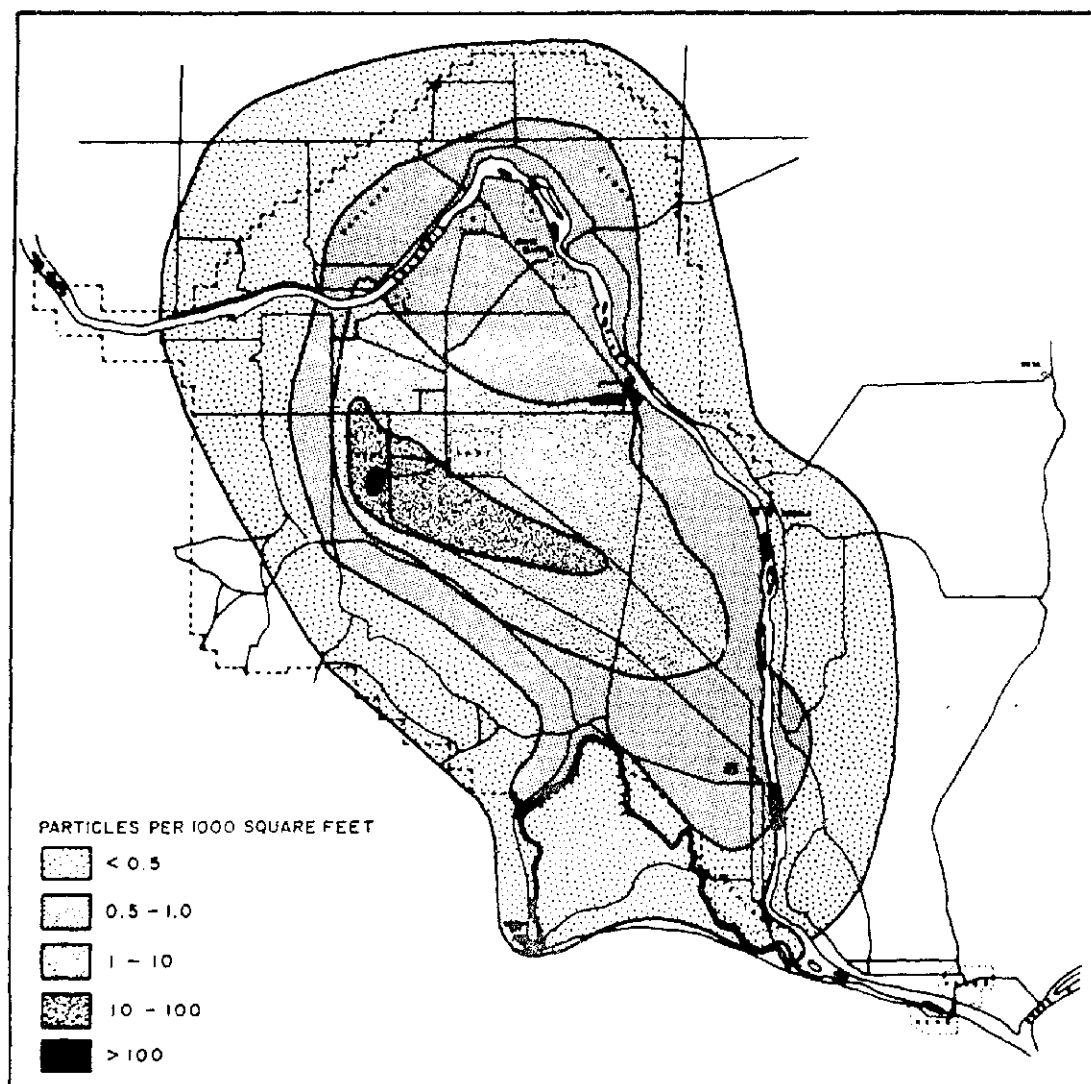


FIGURE 24
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
HANFORD AND VICINITY
JULY AND AUGUST, 1954

Figure C-21. Ground contamination pattern, Hanford and vicinity, July and August, 1954. Figure 24 from Selby and Soldat (1965), HW-54636.

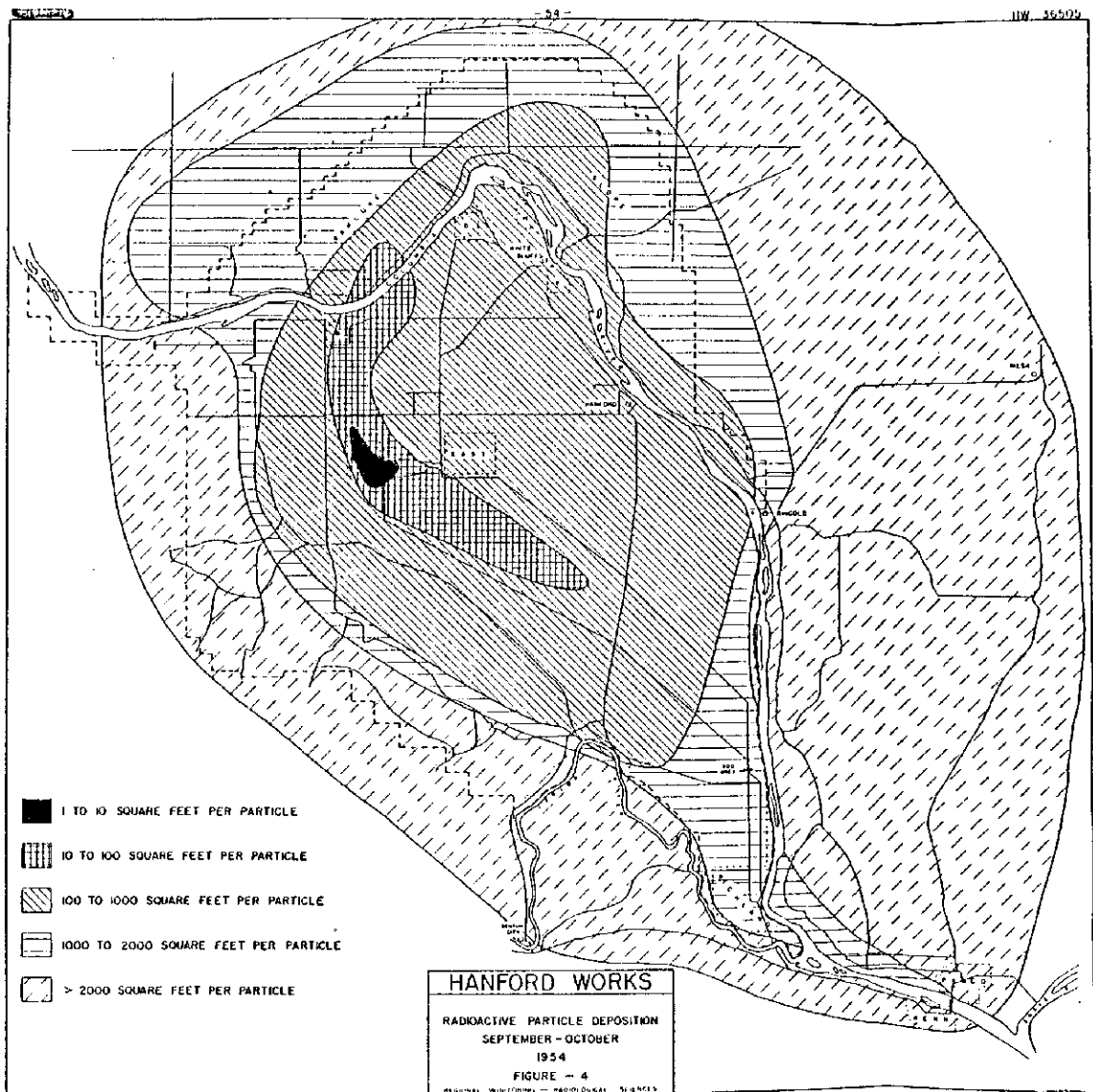


Figure C-22. Radioactive particle deposition on and around the Hanford site, September-October 1954. Figure 4 from HW-36505. The highest contamination zone near 200-West was one particle per 1-10 square feet. In the lowest zone shown here, one particle was found in an area greater than 2000 square feet.

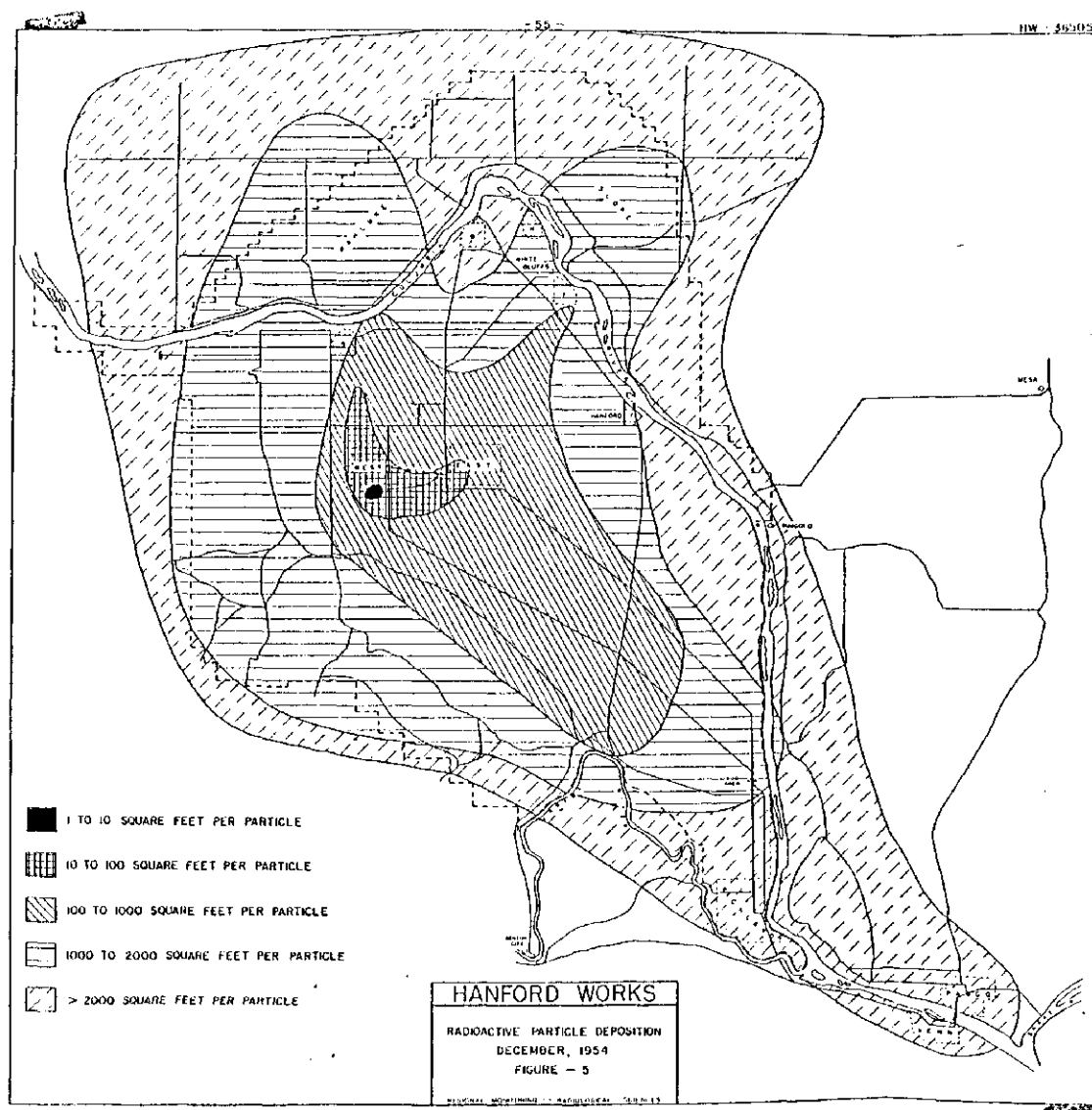


Figure C-23. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, December 1954. Figure 5 from HW-36505.

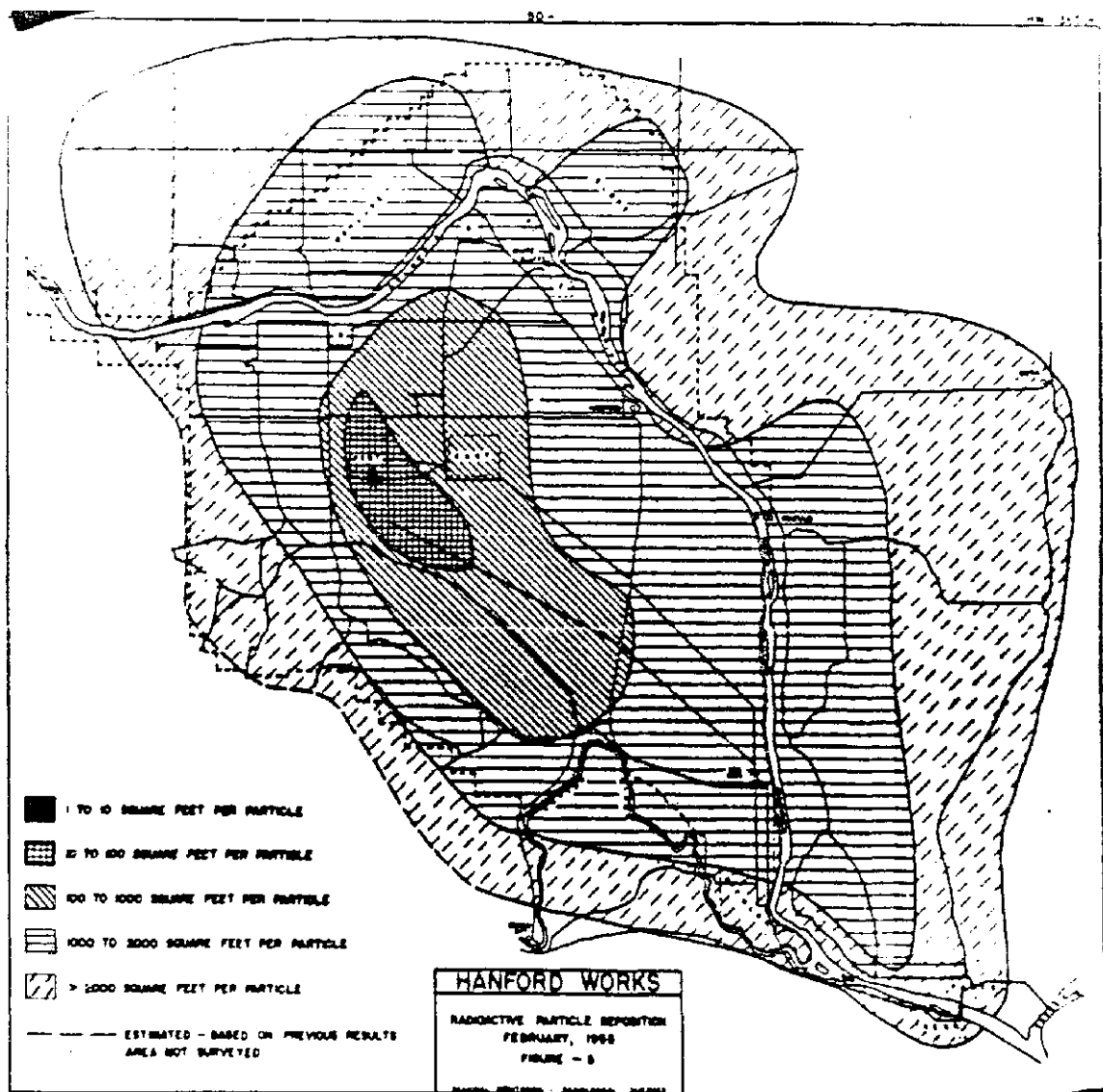


Figure C-24. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, February 1955. Figure 5 from HW-36506.

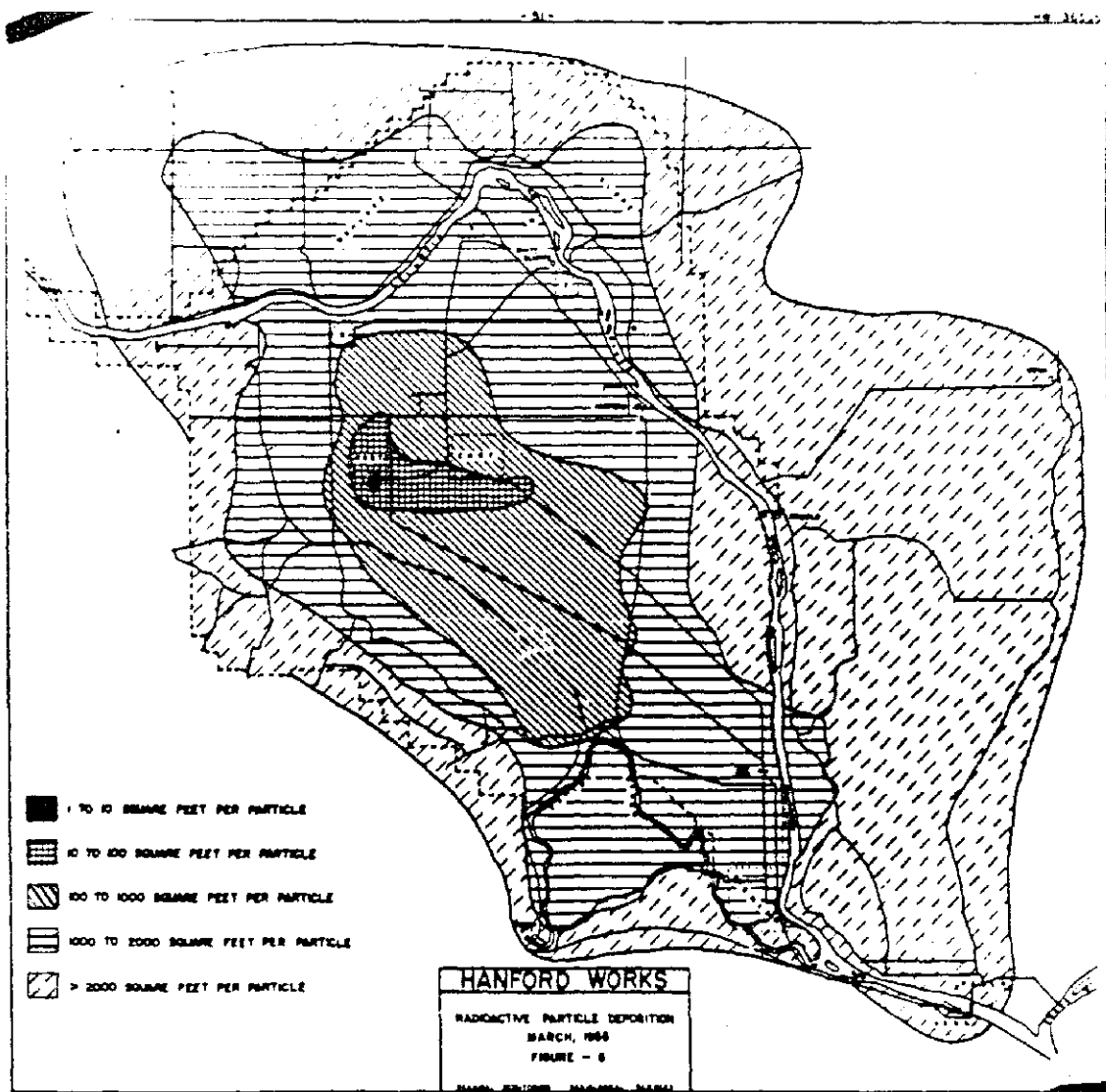


Figure C-25. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, March 1955. Figure 6 from HW-36506.

DRAFT

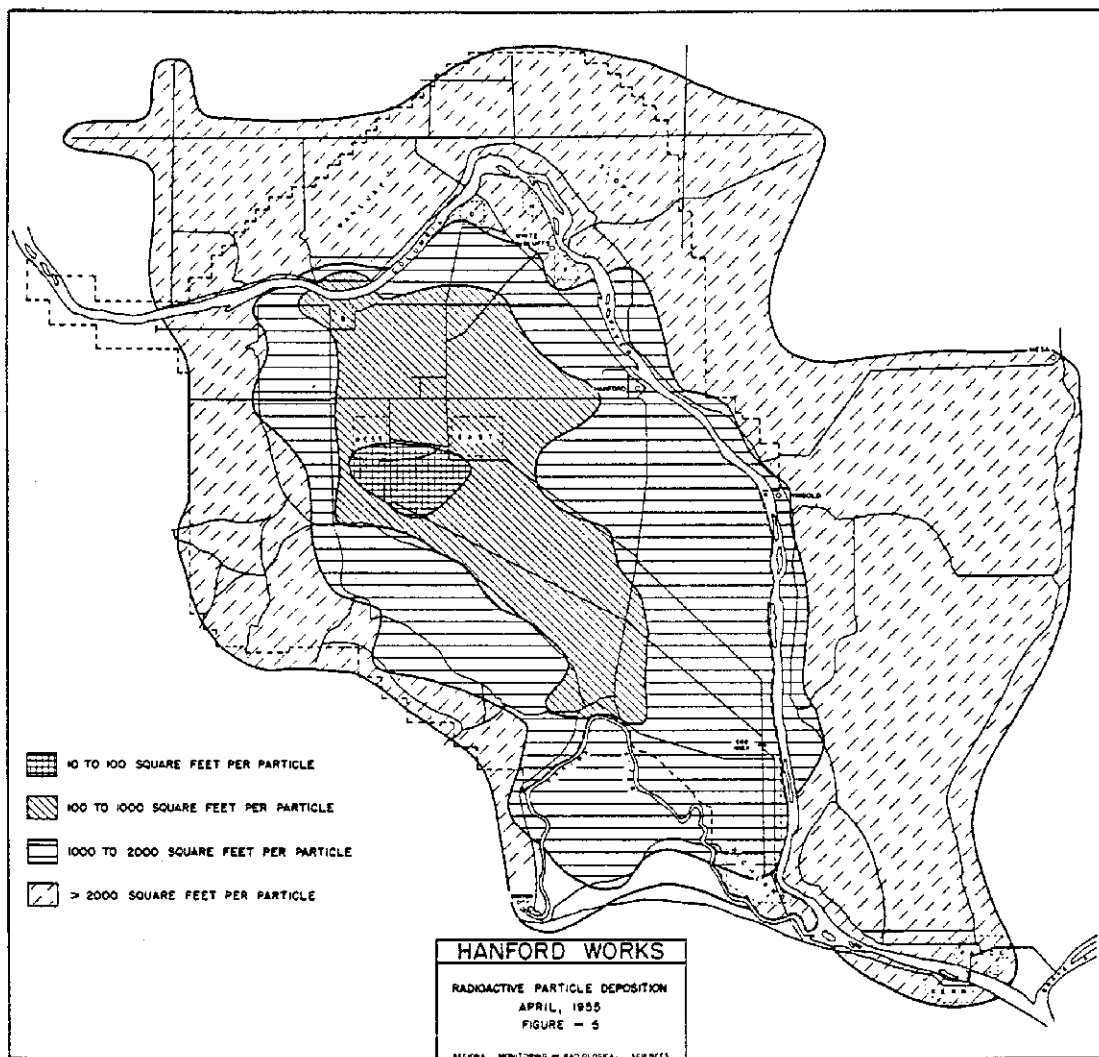


Figure C-26. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, April 1955. Figure 5 from HW-38566.

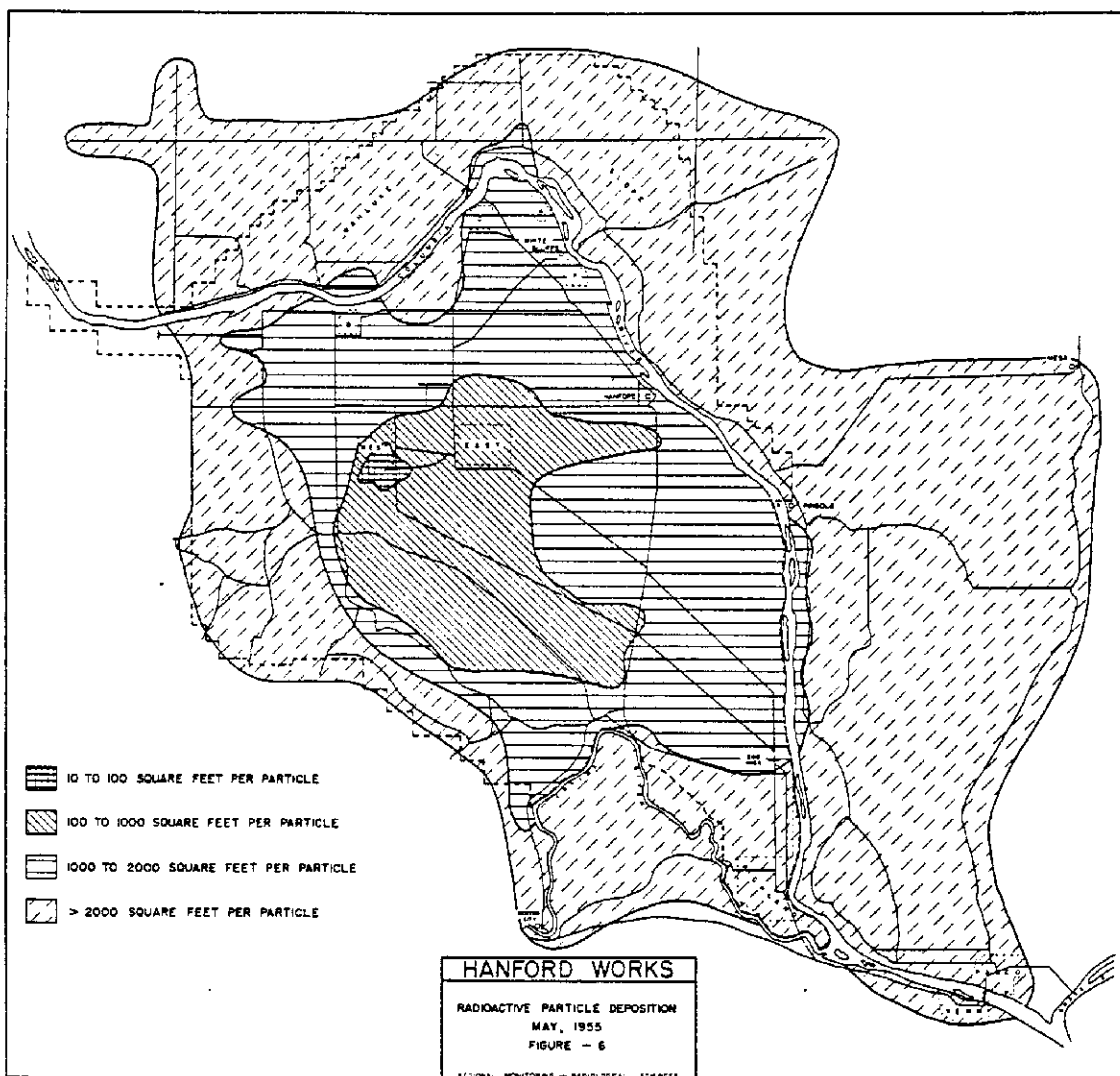


Figure C-27. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, May 1955. Figure 6 from HW-38566.

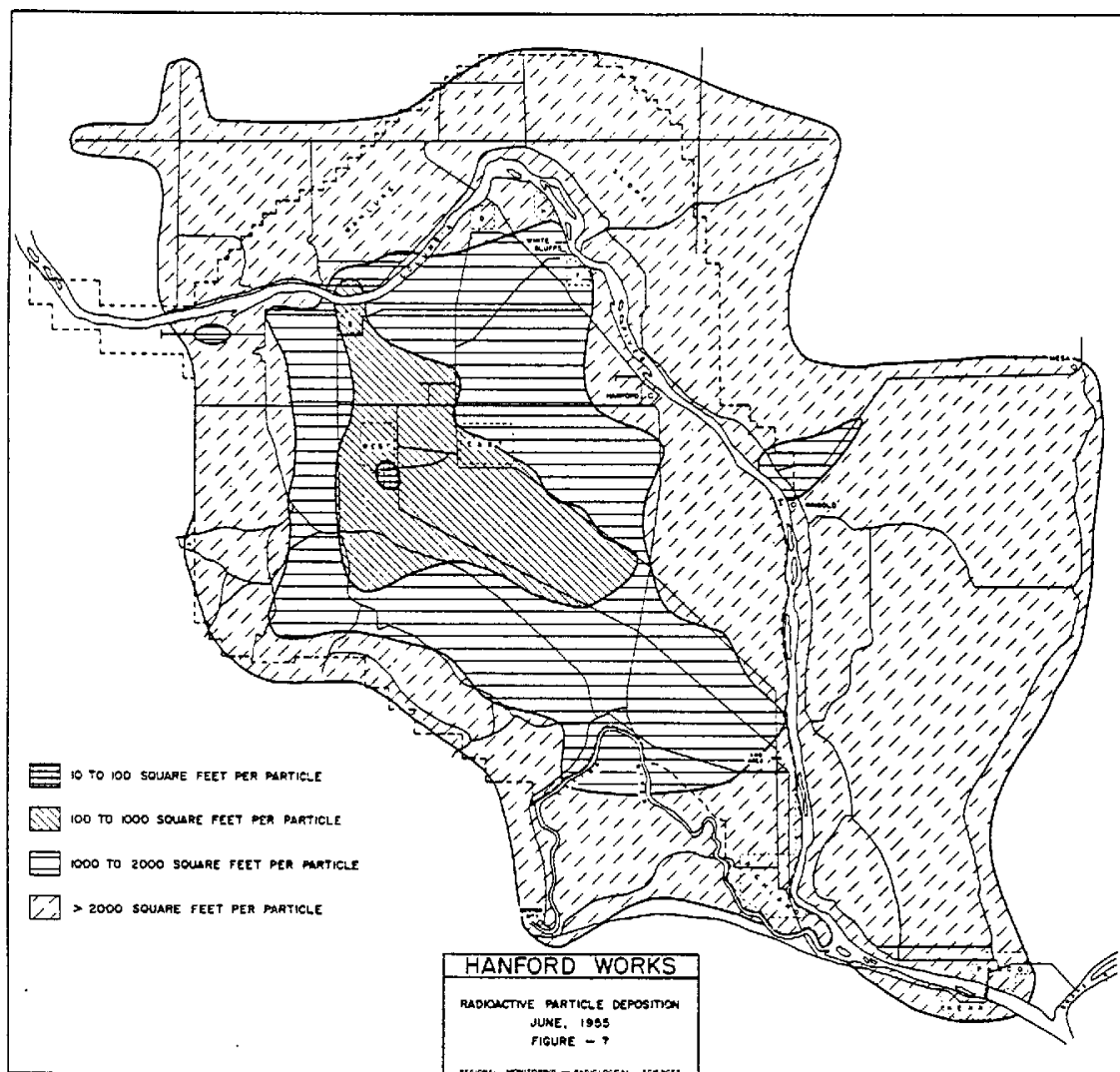


Figure C-28. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, June 1955. Figure 7 from HW-38566.

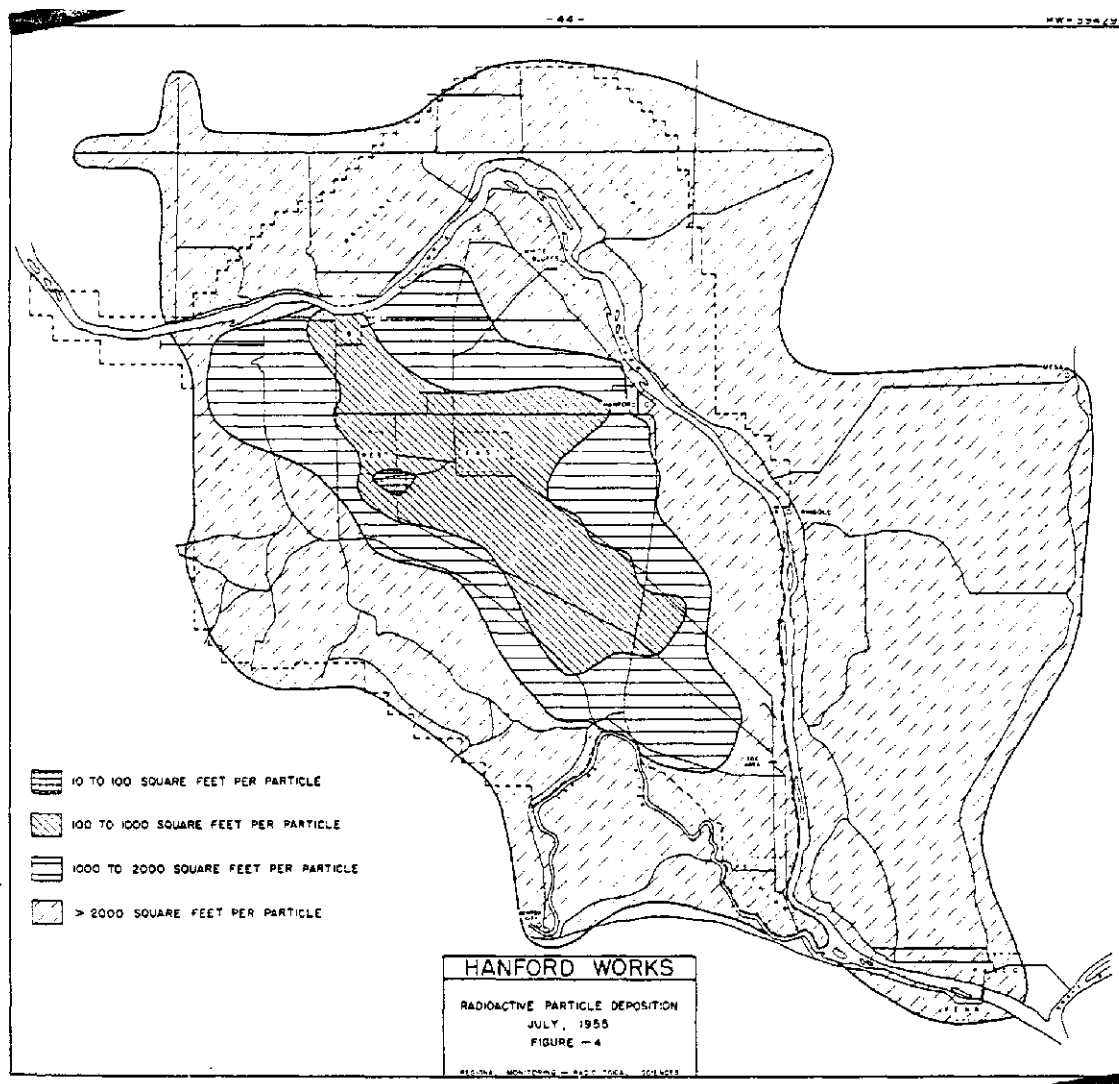


Figure C-29. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, July 1955. Figure 4 from HW-39429.

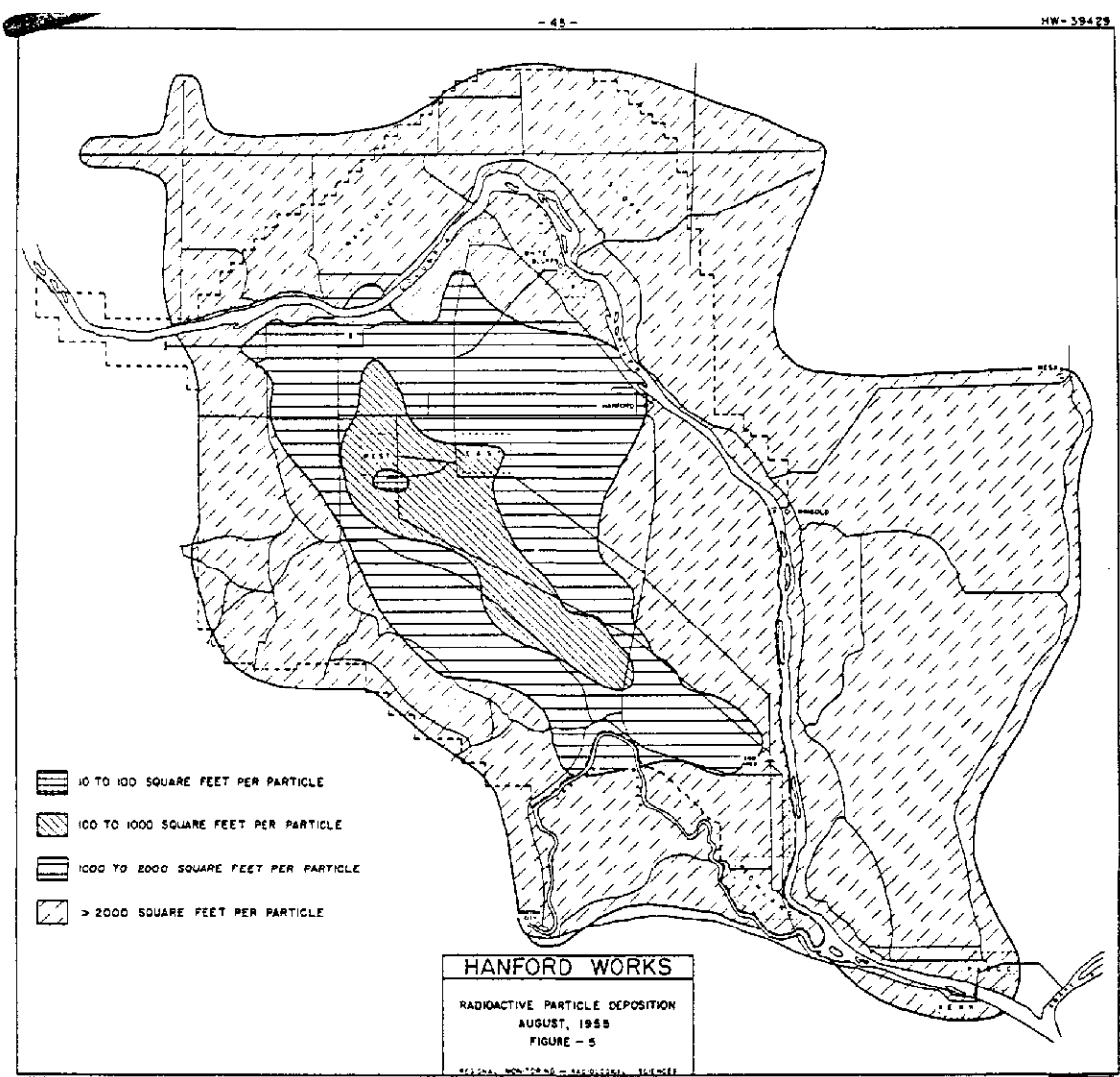


Figure C-30. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, August 1955. Figure 5 from HW-39429.

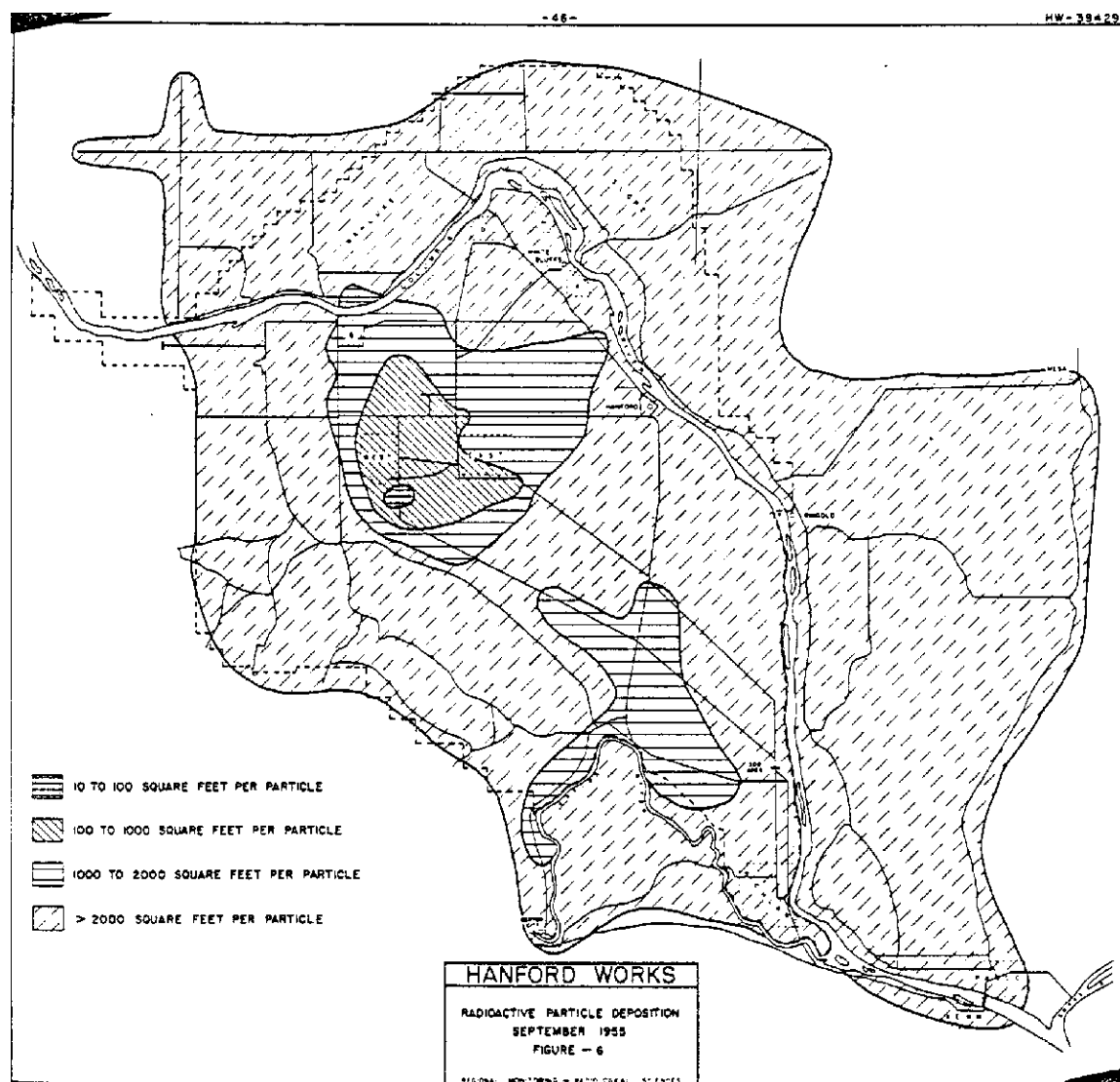


Figure C-31. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, September 1955. Figure 6 from HW-39429.

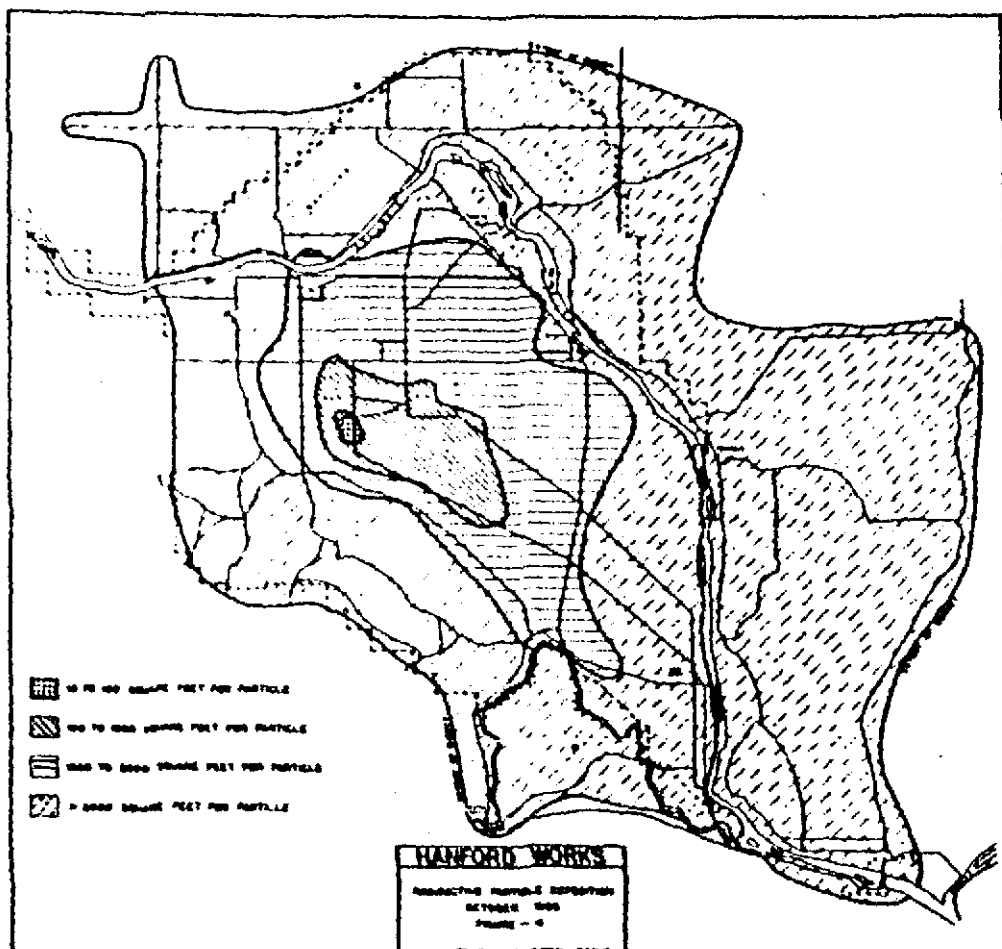


Figure C-32. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, October 1955. Figure 4 from HW-40871.

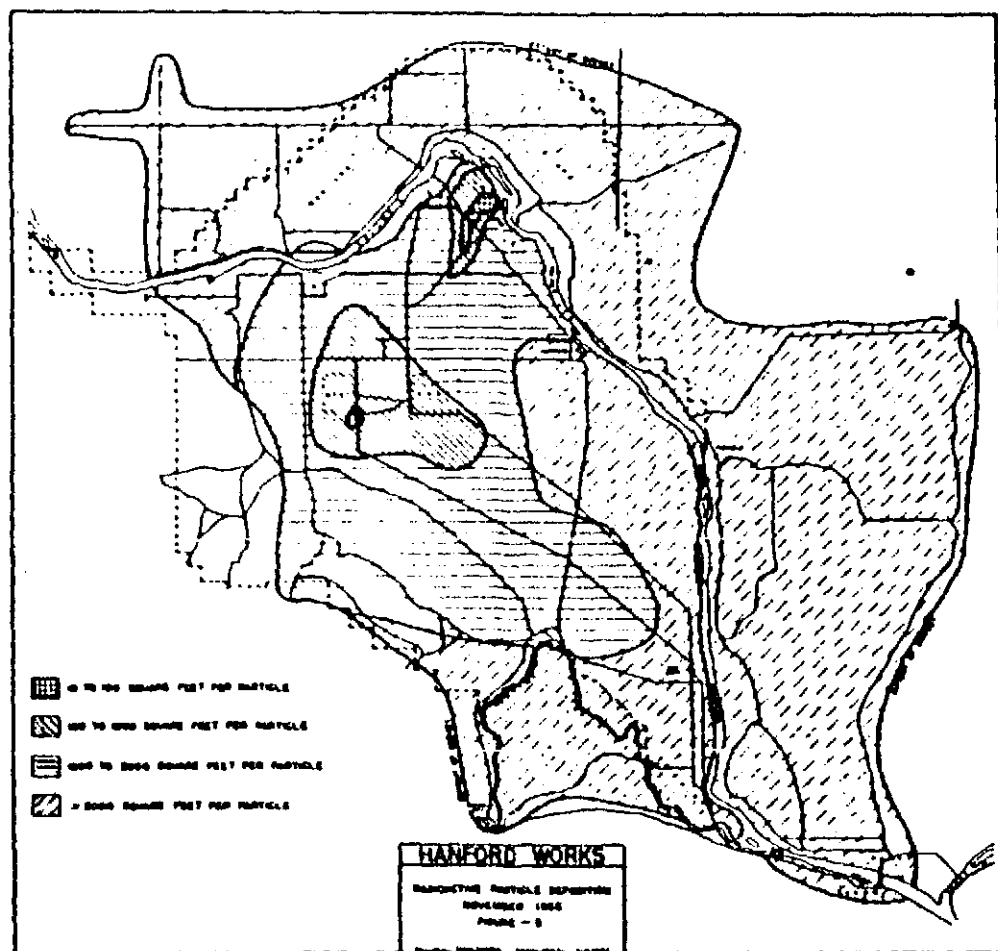


Figure C-33. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, November 1955. Figure 5 from HW-40871.

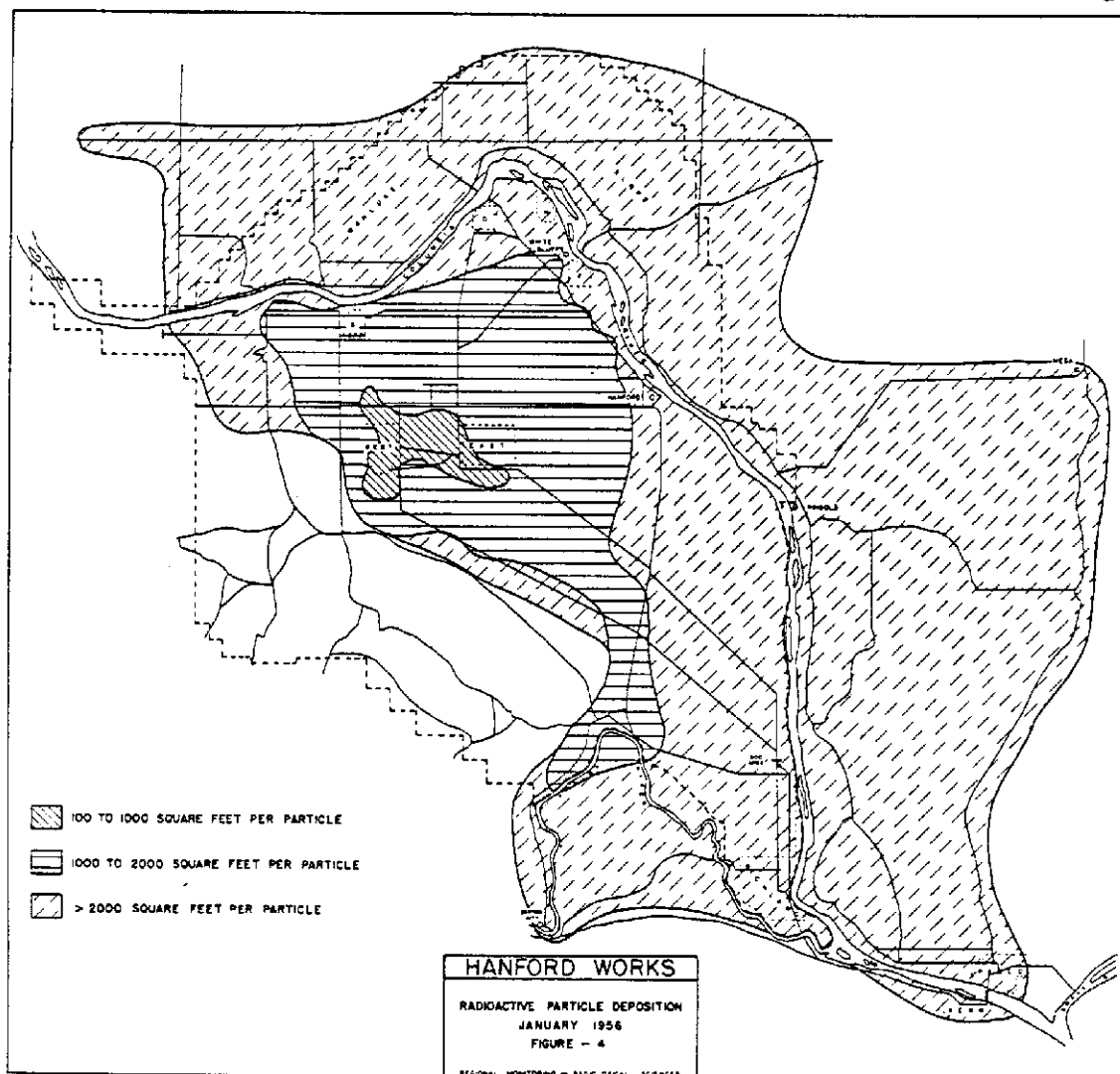


Figure C-34. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, January 1956. Figure 4 from HW-43012.

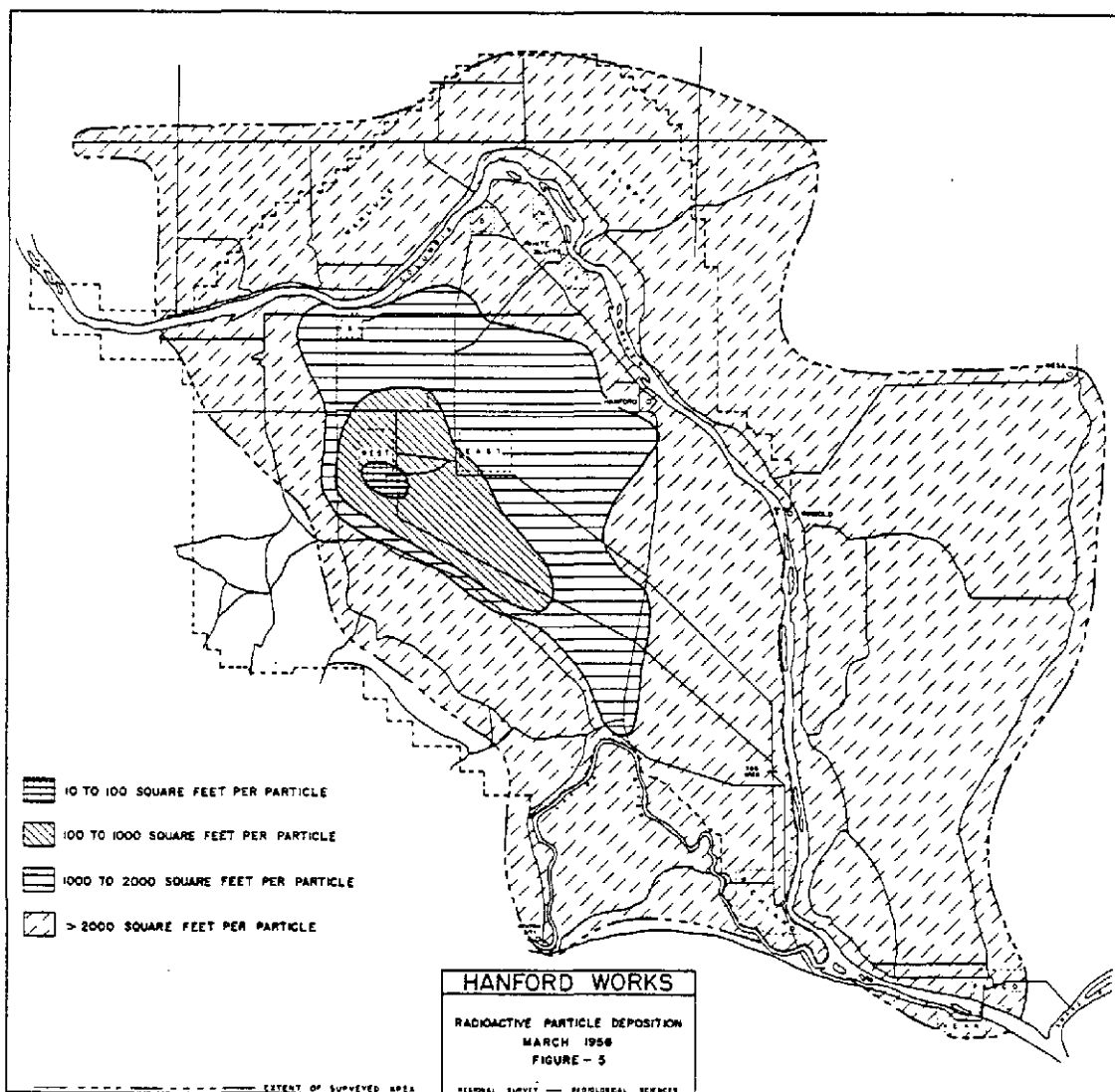


Figure C-35. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, March 1956. Figure 5 from HW-43012.

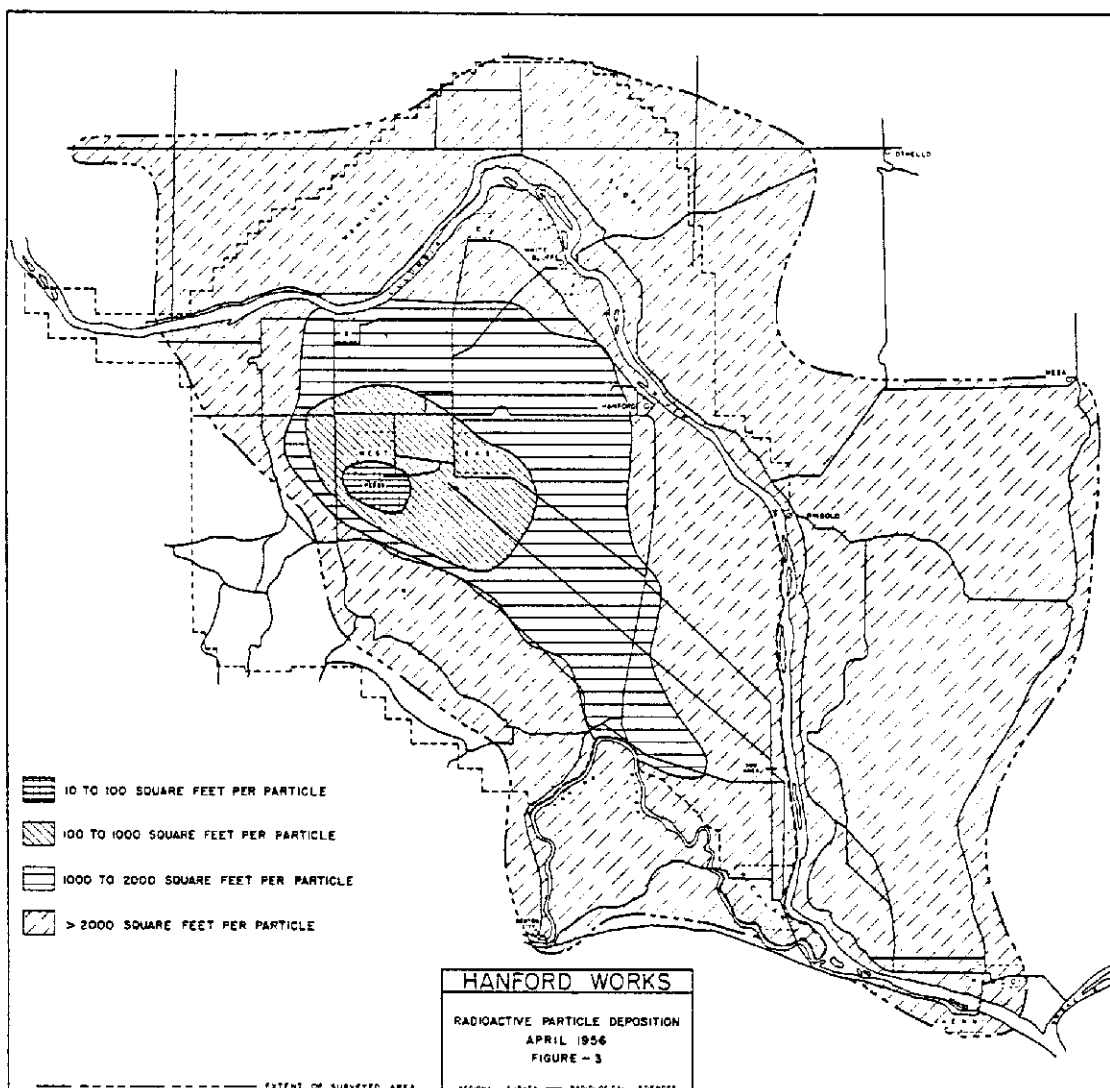


Figure C-36. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, April 1956. Figure 3 from HW-44215.

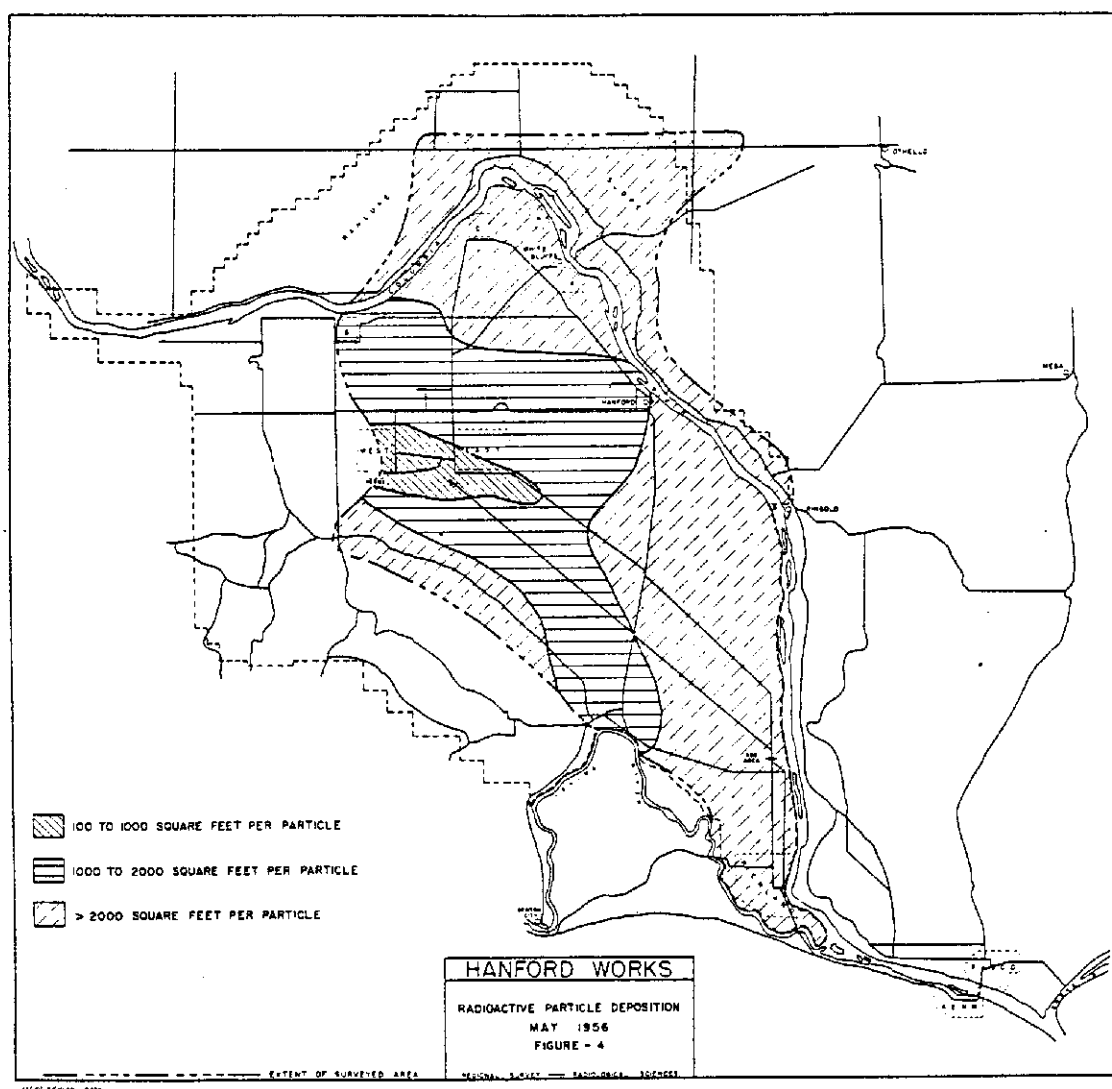


Figure C-37. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, May 1956. Figure 4 from HW-44215.

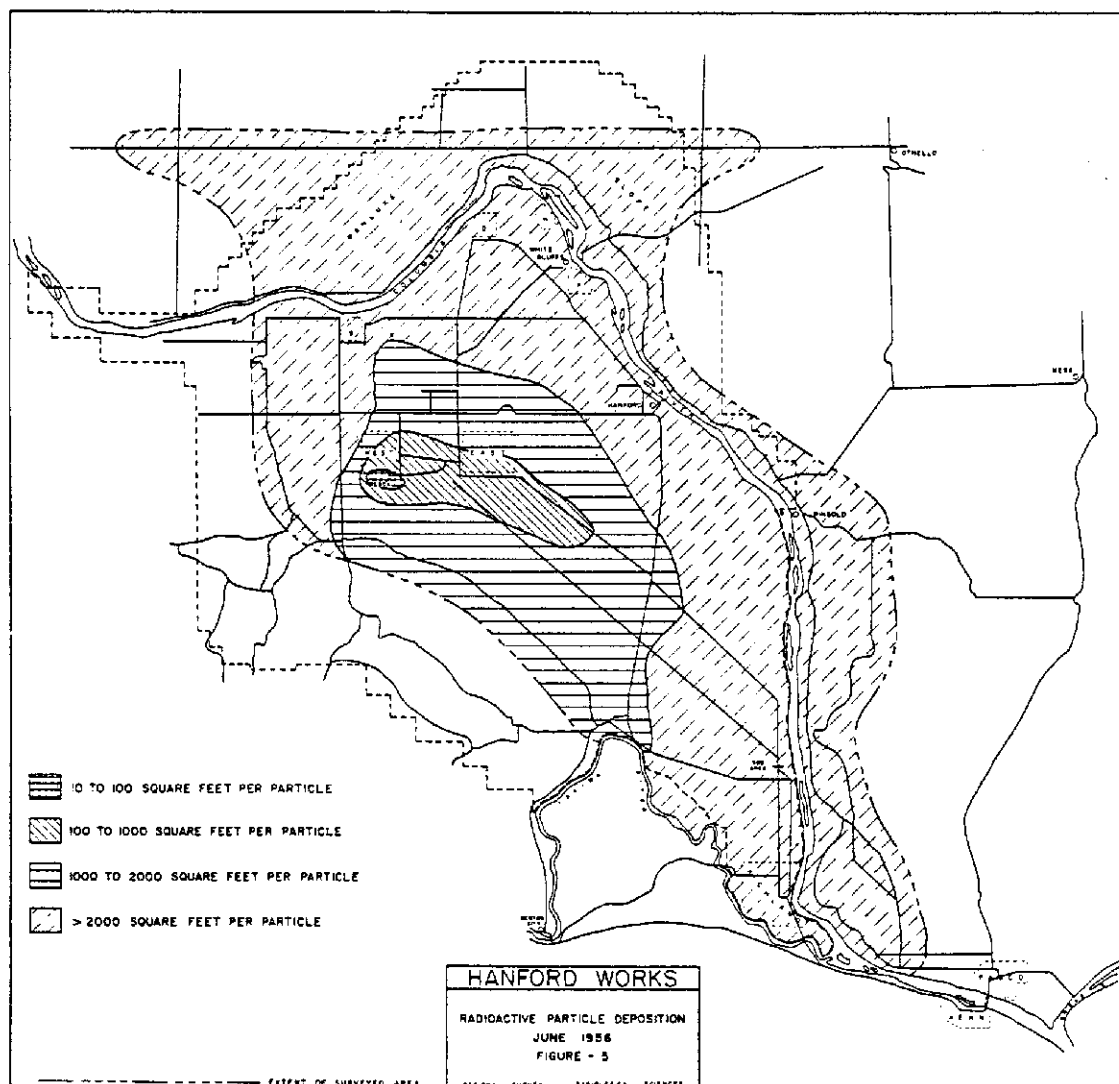


Figure C-38. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, June 1956. Figure 5 from HW-44215.

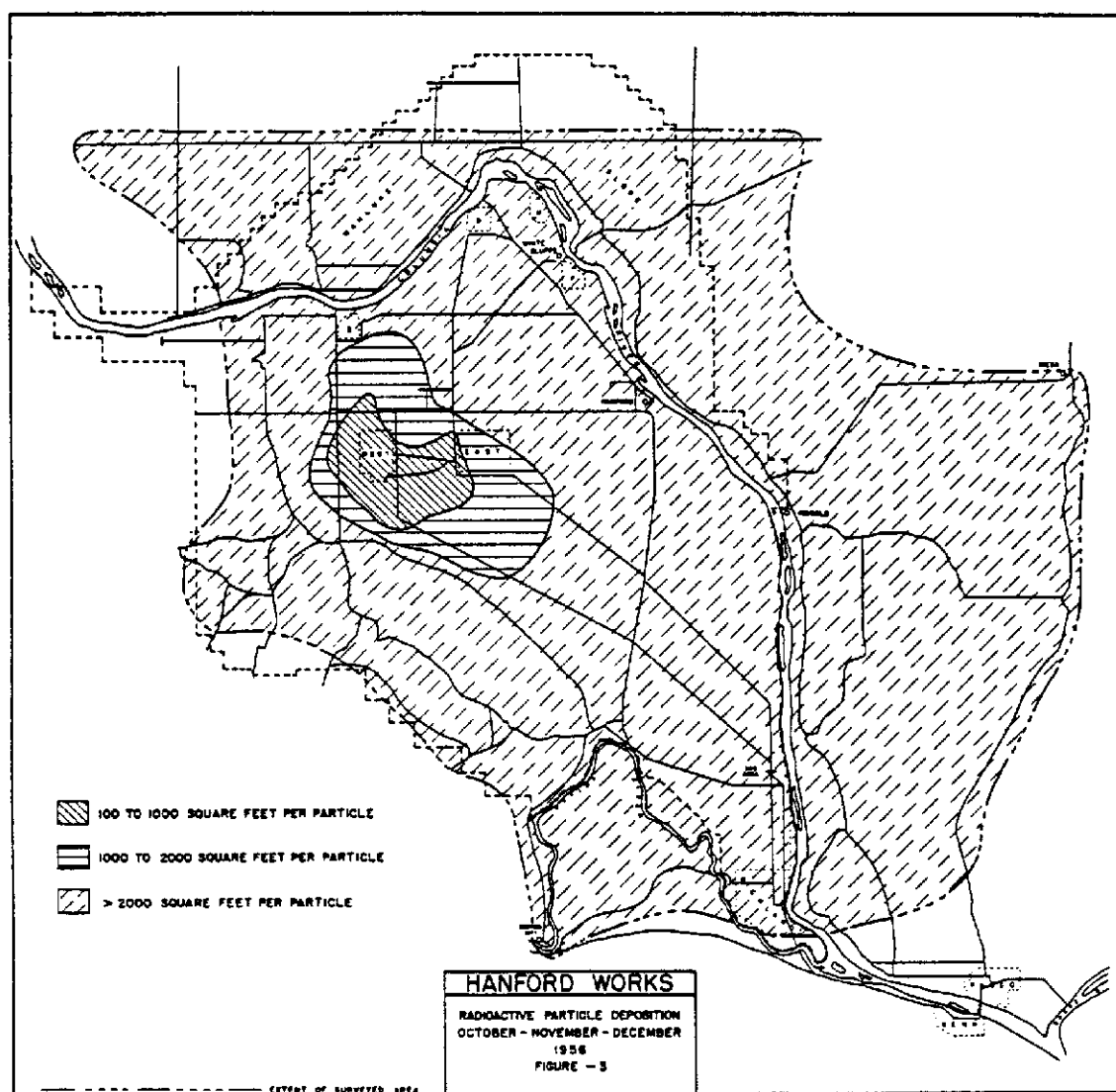


Figure C-39. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, October–December 1956. Figure 3 from HW-48374.

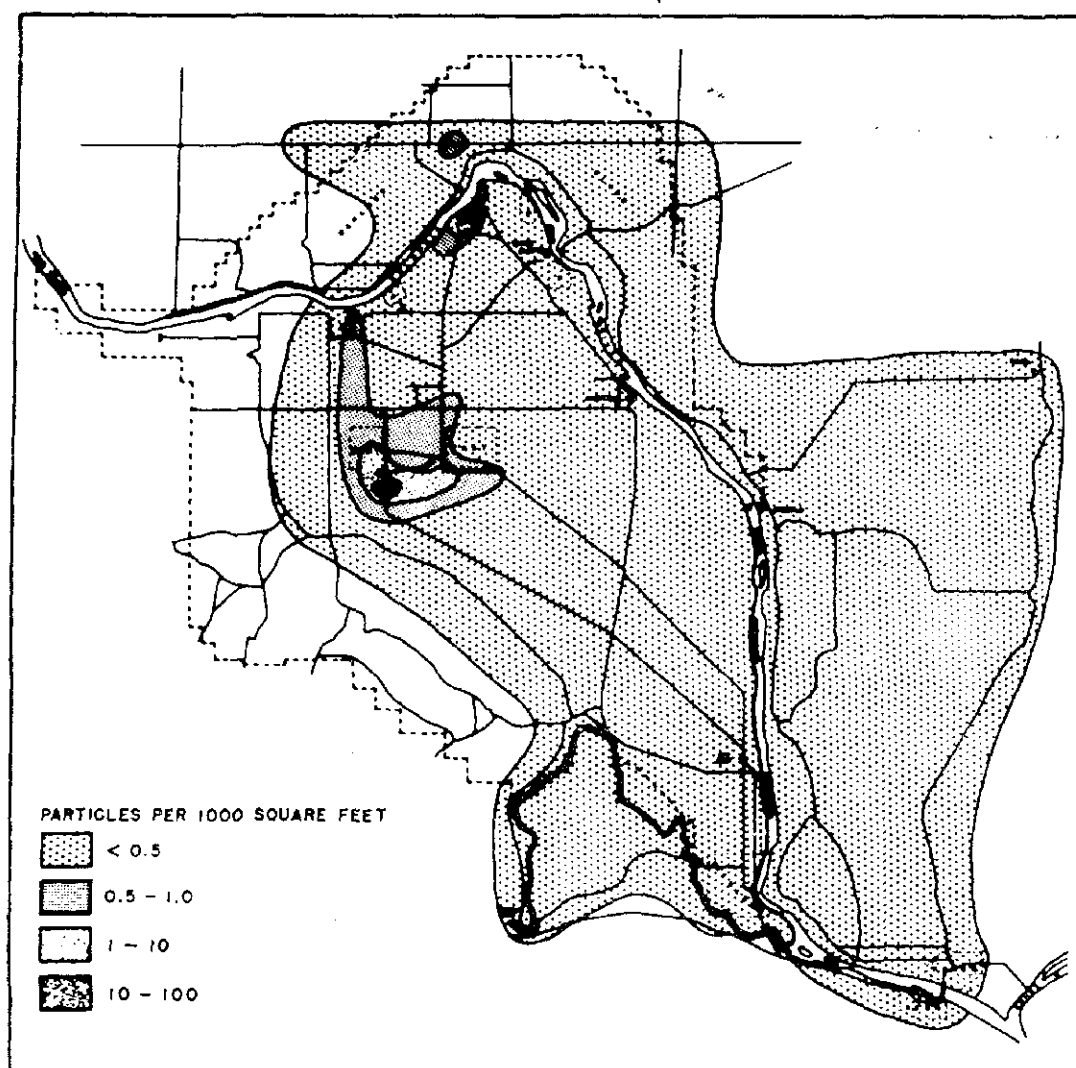


FIGURE 35
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
HANFORD AND VICINITY
FEBRUARY, 1957

Figure C-40. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, February 1957. Figure 35 from HW-54636.

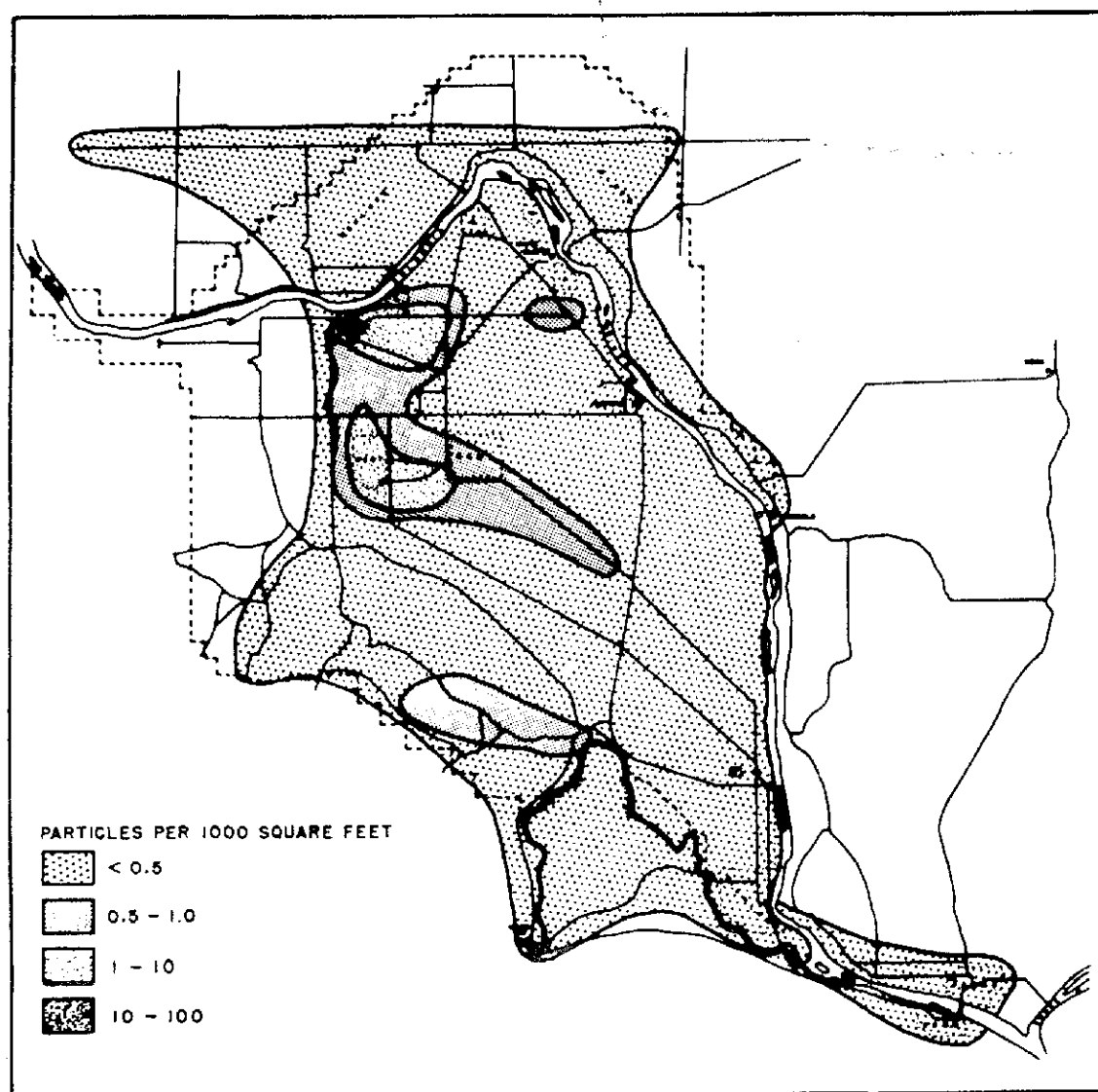


FIGURE 36
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
HANFORD AND VICINITY
APRIL, 1957

Figure C-41. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, April 1957. Figure 36 from HW-54636.

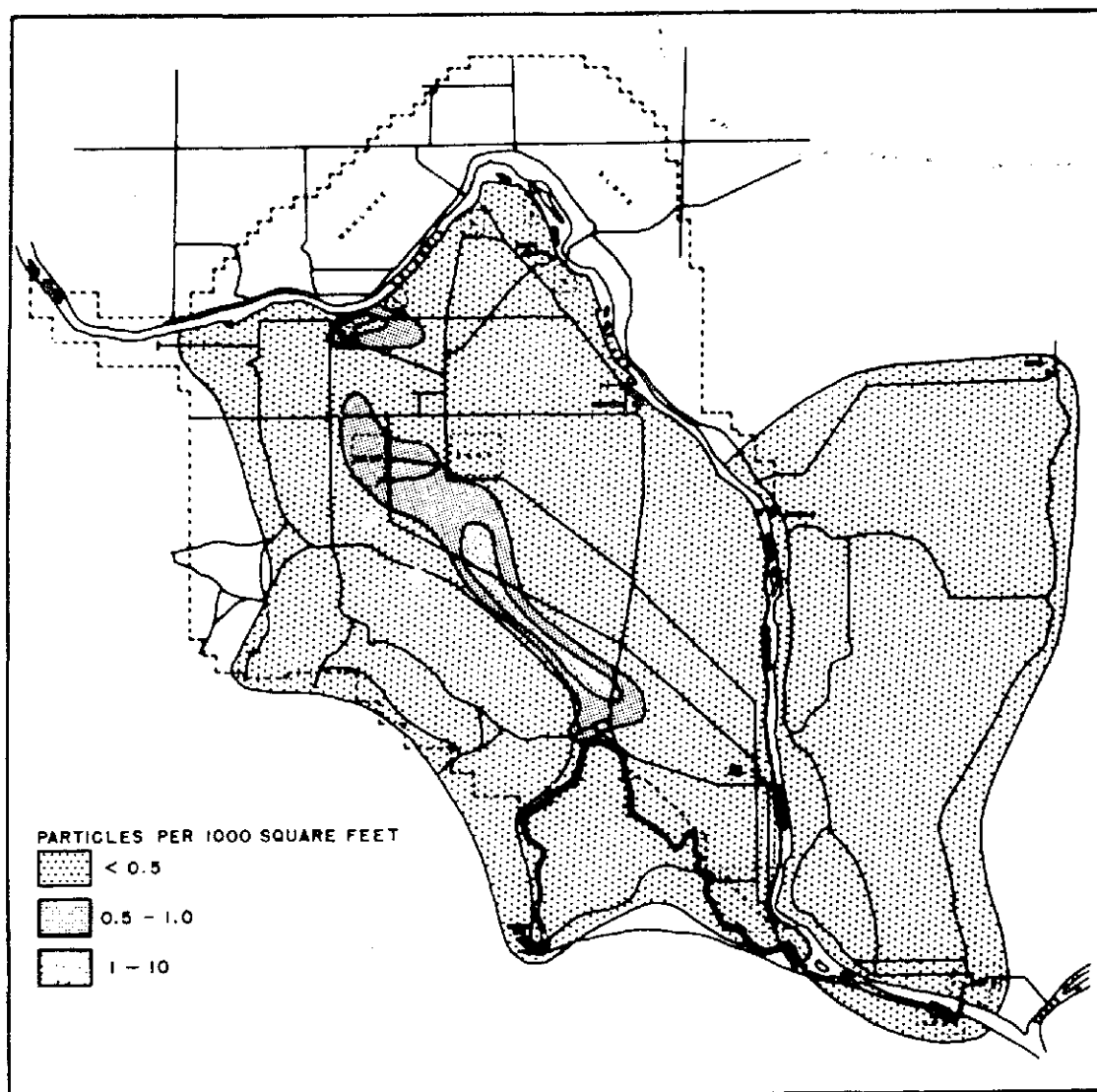


FIGURE 37
GROUND CONTAMINATION PATTERN
HANFORD AND VICINITY
AUGUST, 1957

Figure C-42. Radioactive particle deposition density on and around the Hanford site, August 1957. Figure 37 from HW-54636.