

**DRAFT
TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR
PLUTONIUM**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

September 2007

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UPDATE STATEMENT

A Toxicological Profile for Plutonium was released in 1990. This present edition supersedes any previously released draft or final profile.

Toxicological profiles are revised and republished as necessary. For information regarding the update status of previously released profiles, contact ATSDR at:

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FOREWORD

This toxicological profile is prepared in accordance with guidelines developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The original guidelines were published in the *Federal Register* on April 17, 1987. Each profile will be revised and republished as necessary.

The ATSDR toxicological profile succinctly characterizes the toxicologic and adverse health effects information for the hazardous substance described therein. Each peer-reviewed profile identifies and reviews the key literature that describes a hazardous substance's toxicologic properties. Other pertinent literature is also presented, but is described in less detail than the key studies. The profile is not intended to be an exhaustive document; however, more comprehensive sources of specialty information are referenced.

The focus of the profiles is on health and toxicologic information; therefore, each toxicological profile begins with a public health statement that describes, in nontechnical language, a substance's relevant toxicological properties. Following the public health statement is information concerning levels of significant human exposure and, where known, significant health effects. The adequacy of information to determine a substance's health effects is described in a health effects summary. Data needs that are of significance to protection of public health are identified by ATSDR and EPA.

Each profile includes the following:

- (A) The examination, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic information and epidemiologic evaluations on a hazardous substance to ascertain the levels of significant human exposure for the substance and the associated acute, subacute, and chronic health effects;
- (B) A determination of whether adequate information on the health effects of each substance is available or in the process of development to determine levels of exposure that present a significant risk to human health of acute, subacute, and chronic health effects; and
- (C) Where appropriate, identification of toxicologic testing needed to identify the types or levels of exposure that may present significant risk of adverse health effects in humans.

The principal audiences for the toxicological profiles are health professionals at the Federal, State, and local levels; interested private sector organizations and groups; and members of the public. We plan to revise these documents in response to public comments and as additional data become available. Therefore, we encourage comments that will make the toxicological profile series of the greatest use.

Comments should be sent to:

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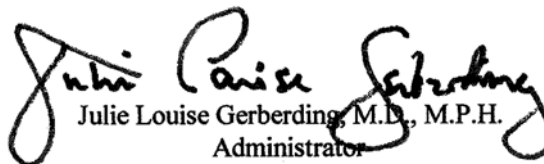
The toxicological profiles are developed in response to the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 (Public Law 99-499) which amended the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or Superfund). This public law directed ATSDR to prepare toxicological profiles for hazardous substances most commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA National Priorities List and that pose the most significant potential threat to human health, as determined by ATSDR and the EPA. The availability of the revised priority list of 275 hazardous substances was announced in the *Federal Register* on December 7, 2005 (70 FR 72840). For prior versions of the list of substances, see *Federal Register* notices dated April 17, 1987 (52 FR 12866); October 20, 1988 (53 FR 41280); October 26, 1989 (54 FR 43619); October 17, 1990 (55 FR 42067); October 17, 1991 (56 FR 52166); October 28, 1992 (57 FR 48801); February 28, 1994 (59 FR 9486); April 29, 1996 (61 FR 18744); November 17, 1997 (62 FR 61332); October 21, 1999 (64 FR 56792); October 25, 2001 (66 FR 54014); and November 7, 2003 (68 FR 63098). Section 104(i)(3) of CERCLA, as amended, directs the Administrator of ATSDR to prepare a toxicological profile for each substance on the list.

This profile reflects ATSDR's assessment of all relevant toxicologic testing and information that has been peer-reviewed. Staff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other Federal scientists have also reviewed the profile. In addition, this profile has been peer-reviewed by a nongovernmental panel and is being made available for public review. Final responsibility for the contents and views expressed in this toxicological profile resides with ATSDR.



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QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Toxicological Profiles are a unique compilation of toxicological information on a given hazardous substance. Each profile reflects a comprehensive and extensive evaluation, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic and epidemiologic information on a substance. Health care providers treating patients potentially exposed to hazardous substances will find the following information helpful for fast answers to often-asked questions.

Primary Chapters/Sections of Interest

Chapter 1: Public Health Statement: The Public Health Statement can be a useful tool for educating patients about possible exposure to a hazardous substance. It explains a substance's relevant toxicologic properties in a nontechnical, question-and-answer format, and it includes a review of the general health effects observed following exposure.

Chapter 2: Relevance to Public Health: The Relevance to Public Health Section evaluates, interprets, and assesses the significance of toxicity data to human health.

Chapter 3: Health Effects: Specific health effects of a given hazardous compound are reported by type of health effect (death, systemic, immunologic, reproductive), by route of exposure, and by length of exposure (acute, intermediate, and chronic). In addition, both human and animal studies are reported in this section.

NOTE: Not all health effects reported in this section are necessarily observed in the clinical setting. Please refer to the Public Health Statement to identify general health effects observed following exposure.

Pediatrics: Four new sections have been added to each Toxicological Profile to address child health issues:

Section 1.6 **How Can (Chemical X) Affect Children?**
Section 1.7 **How Can Families Reduce the Risk of Exposure to (Chemical X)?**
Section 3.8 **Children's Susceptibility**
Section 6.6 **Exposures of Children**

Other Sections of Interest:

Section 3.9 **Biomarkers of Exposure and Effect**
Section 3.12 **Methods for Reducing Toxic Effects**

ATSDR Information Center

Phone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) **Fax:** (770) 488-4178
 or 1-888-232-6348 (TTY)
E-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov **Internet:** <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

The following additional material can be ordered through the ATSDR Information Center:

Case Studies in Environmental Medicine: Taking an Exposure History—The importance of taking an exposure history and how to conduct one are described, and an example of a thorough exposure history is provided. Other case studies of interest include *Reproductive and Developmental Hazards*; *Skin Lesions and Environmental Exposures*; *Cholinesterase-Inhibiting Pesticide Toxicity*; and numerous chemical-specific case studies.

Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents is a three-volume set of recommendations for on-scene (prehospital) and hospital medical management of patients exposed during a hazardous materials incident. Volumes I and II are planning guides to assist first responders and hospital emergency department personnel in planning for incidents that involve hazardous materials. Volume III—*Medical Management Guidelines for Acute Chemical Exposures*—is a guide for health care professionals treating patients exposed to hazardous materials.

Fact Sheets (ToxFAQs) provide answers to frequently asked questions about toxic substances.

Other Agencies and Organizations

The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) focuses on preventing or controlling disease, injury, and disability related to the interactions between people and their environment outside the workplace. Contact: NCEH, Mailstop F-29, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Atlanta, GA 30341-3724 • Phone: 770-488-7000 • FAX: 770-488-7015.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational diseases and injuries, responds to requests for assistance by investigating problems of health and safety in the workplace, recommends standards to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), and trains professionals in occupational safety and health. Contact: NIOSH, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201 • Phone: 800-356-4674 or NIOSH Technical Information Branch, Robert A. Taft Laboratory, Mailstop C-19, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998 • Phone: 800-35-NIOSH.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is the principal federal agency for biomedical research on the effects of chemical, physical, and biologic environmental agents on human health and well-being. Contact: NIEHS, PO Box 12233, 104 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 • Phone: 919-541-3212.

Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REAC/TS) provides support to the U.S. Department of Energy, the World Health Organization, and the International Atomic Energy Agency in the medical management of radiation accidents. A 24-hour emergency response program at the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), REAC/TS trains, consults, or assists in the response to all kinds of radiation accidents. Contact: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, REAC/TS, PO Box 117, MS 39, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0117 • Phone 865-576-3131 • FAX 865-576-9522 • 24-Hour Emergency Phone 865-576-1005 (ask for REAC/TS) • e-mail: cooleyp@ornl.gov • website (including emergency medical guidance): <http://www.ornl.gov/reacts/default.htm>

Referrals

The Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) has developed a network of clinics in the United States to provide expertise in occupational and environmental issues. Contact: AOEC, 1010 Vermont Avenue, NW, #513, Washington, DC 20005 • Phone: 202-347-4976 • FAX: 202-347-4950 • e-mail: AOEC@AOEC.ORG • Web Page: <http://www.aoec.org/>.

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) is an association of physicians and other health care providers specializing in the field of occupational and environmental medicine. Contact: ACOEM, 25 Northwest Point Boulevard, Suite 700, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1030 • Phone: 847-818-1800 • FAX: 847-818-9266.

Health Physics Society (HPS) is a scientific and professional organization whose members specialize in occupational and environmental radiation safety. Contact: HPS, 1313 Dolley Madison Boulevard, Suite 402, McLean, VA 22101 • Phone: 703-790-1745 • FAX: 703-790-2672 • email: hps@BurkInc.com.

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THE PROFILE HAS UNDERGONE THE FOLLOWING ATSDR INTERNAL REVIEWS:

1. Health Effects Review. The Health Effects Review Committee examines the health effects chapter of each profile for consistency and accuracy in interpreting health effects and classifying end points.
2. Minimal Risk Level Review. The Minimal Risk Level Workgroup considers issues relevant to substance-specific Minimal Risk Levels (MRLs), reviews the health effects database of each profile, and makes recommendations for derivation of MRLs.
3. Data Needs Review. The Applied Toxicology Branch reviews data needs sections to assure consistency across profiles and adherence to instructions in the Guidance.
4. Green Border Review. Green Border review assures the consistency with ATSDR policy.

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PEER REVIEW

A peer review panel was assembled for plutonium. The panel consisted of the following members:

1. Lynn Anspaugh, Ph.D., Research Professor, Department of Radiology, Radiobiology Division, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah;
2. Fletcher Hahn, D.V.M., Ph.D., Scientist Emeritus, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, Albuquerque, New Mexico;
3. Richard Leggett, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Life Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee;
4. Nicholas Priest, Ph.D., Head, Radiobiology Section, AECL Chalk River Laboratory, Chalk River, Ontario, Canada; and
5. Ethel Gilbert, Ph.D., M.P.H., Expert (biostatistician), Radiation Epidemiology Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland.

These experts collectively have knowledge of plutonium's physical and chemical properties, toxicokinetics, key health end points, mechanisms of action, human and animal exposure, and quantification of risk to humans. All reviewers were selected in conformity with the conditions for peer review specified in Section 104(I)(13) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended.

Scientists from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have reviewed the peer reviewers' comments and determined which comments will be included in the profile. A listing of the peer reviewers' comments not incorporated in the profile, with a brief explanation of the rationale for their exclusion, exists as part of the administrative record for this compound.

The citation of the peer review panel should not be understood to imply its approval of the profile's final content. The responsibility for the content of this profile lies with the ATSDR.

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CONTENTS

DISCLAIMER	ii
UPDATE STATEMENT	iii
FOREWORD	v
QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.....	vii
CONTRIBUTORS	xi
PEER REVIEW	xiii
CONTENTS.....	xv
LIST OF FIGURES	xix
LIST OF TABLES	xxi
1. PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT.....	1
2. RELEVANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH	9
2.1 BACKGROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES TO PLUTONIUM IN THE UNITED STATES	9
2.2 SUMMARY OF HEALTH EFFECTS.....	10
2.3 MINIMAL RISK LEVELS (MRLs)	16
3. HEALTH EFFECTS	17
3.1 INTRODUCTION.....	17
3.2 DISCUSSION OF HEALTH EFFECTS OF PLUTONIUM BY ROUTE OF EXPOSURE.....	19
3.2.1 Inhalation Exposure	20
3.2.1.1 Death.....	24
3.2.1.2 Systemic Effects.....	33
3.2.1.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	49
3.2.1.4 Neurological Effects	50
3.2.1.5 Reproductive Effects.....	50
3.2.1.6 Developmental Effects.....	50
3.2.1.7 Cancer	51
3.2.2 Oral Exposure.....	59
3.2.2.1 Death.....	59
3.2.2.2 Systemic Effects.....	59
3.2.2.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	60
3.2.2.4 Neurological Effects	60
3.2.2.5 Reproductive Effects.....	60
3.2.2.6 Developmental Effects.....	60
3.2.2.7 Cancer	60
3.2.3 Dermal Exposure.....	60
3.2.3.1 Death.....	60
3.2.3.2 Systemic Effects.....	60
3.2.3.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	60
3.2.3.4 Neurological Effects	60
3.2.3.5 Reproductive Effects.....	60
3.2.3.6 Developmental Effects.....	60
3.2.3.7 Cancer	60
3.2.4 Other Routes of Exposure	61
3.3 GENOTOXICITY	61
3.4 TOXICOKINETICS.....	67
3.4.1 Absorption.....	68

3.4.1.1	Inhalation Exposure	68
3.4.1.2	Oral Exposure	71
3.4.1.3	Dermal Exposure	72
3.4.2	Distribution	73
3.4.2.1	Inhalation Exposure	73
3.4.2.2	Oral Exposure	77
3.4.2.3	Dermal Exposure	78
3.4.2.4	Other Routes of Exposure	78
3.4.3	Metabolism.....	79
3.4.4	Elimination and Excretion.....	79
3.4.4.1	Inhalation Exposure	80
3.4.4.2	Oral Exposure	82
3.4.4.3	Dermal Exposure	82
3.4.4.4	Other Routes of Exposure	82
3.4.5	Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK)/Pharmacodynamic (PD) Models	83
3.5	MECHANISMS OF ACTION	110
3.5.1	Pharmacokinetic Mechanisms.....	110
3.5.2	Mechanisms of Toxicity.....	114
3.5.3	Animal-to-Human Extrapolations	115
3.6	TOXICITIES MEDIATED THROUGH THE NEUROENDOCRINE AXIS	115
3.7	CHILDREN'S SUSCEPTIBILITY	116
3.8	BIOMARKERS OF EXPOSURE AND EFFECT	119
3.8.1	Biomarkers Used to Identify or Quantify Exposure to Plutonium	120
3.8.2	Biomarkers Used to Characterize Effects Caused by Plutonium	120
3.9	INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER CHEMICALS	120
3.10	POPULATIONS THAT ARE UNUSUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE	123
3.11	METHODS FOR REDUCING TOXIC EFFECTS	124
3.11.1	Reducing Peak Absorption Following Exposure.....	125
3.11.2	Reducing Body Burden	125
3.11.3	Interfering with the Mechanism of Action for Toxic Effects	126
3.12	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE.....	126
3.12.1	Existing Information on Health Effects of Plutonium	127
3.12.2	Identification of Data Needs.....	127
3.12.3	Ongoing Studies	135
4.	CHEMICAL, PHYSICAL, AND RADIOLOGICAL INFORMATION.....	137
4.1	CHEMICAL IDENTITY.....	137
4.2	PHYSICAL, CHEMICAL, AND RADIOLOGICAL PROPERTIES	137
5.	PRODUCTION, IMPORT/EXPORT, USE, AND DISPOSAL.....	143
5.1	PRODUCTION	143
5.2	IMPORT/EXPORT	144
5.3	USE	144
5.4	DISPOSAL.....	145
6.	POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE	147
6.1	OVERVIEW.....	147
6.2	RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT	149
6.2.1	Air	151
6.2.2	Water.....	152
6.2.3	Soil	154

6.3 ENVIRONMENTAL FATE 155

 6.3.1 Transport and Partitioning..... 155

 6.3.2 Transformation and Degradation 159

 6.3.2.1 Air 159

 6.3.2.2 Water..... 159

 6.3.2.3 Sediment and Soil 160

6.4 LEVELS MONITORED OR ESTIMATED IN THE ENVIRONMENT 160

 6.4.1 Air 161

 6.4.2 Water..... 162

 6.4.3 Sediment and Soil 164

 6.4.4 Other Environmental Media..... 167

6.5 GENERAL POPULATION AND OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE 169

6.6 EXPOSURES OF CHILDREN 170

6.7 POPULATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY HIGH EXPOSURES 171

6.8 ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE 172

 6.8.1 Identification of Data Needs 172

 6.8.2 Ongoing Studies 176

7. ANALYTICAL METHODS 177

 7.1 BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS..... 178

 7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES 183

 7.3 ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE 186

 7.3.1 Identification of Data Needs 187

 7.3.2 Ongoing Studies 188

8. REGULATIONS AND ADVISORIES 189

9. REFERENCES 197

10. GLOSSARY 265

APPENDICES

A. ATSDR MINIMAL RISK LEVELS AND WORKSHEETS A-1

B. USER'S GUIDE B-1

C. ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS..... C-1

D. OVERVIEW OF BASIC RADIATION PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, AND BIOLOGY D-1

E. INDEX..... E-1

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LIST OF FIGURES

3-1. Levels of Significant Exposure to Plutonium – Inhalation.....	39
3-2. Conceptual Representation of a Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Model for a Hypothetical Chemical Substance.....	85
3-3. Compartment Model to Represent Particle Deposition and Time-Dependent Particle Transport in the Respiratory Tract.....	88
3-4. Reaction of Gases or Vapors at Various Levels of the Gas-Blood Interface.....	90
3-5. The Human Respiratory Tract Model: Absorption into Blood.....	95
3-6. Schematic Representation of the ICRP (1994a) Model of Plutonium Biokinetics in Humans	99
3-7. ICRP (1994a) Model Simulation of Elimination of an Absorbed Plutonium Dose (e.g., Intravenous) from the Body in Infants, Children, and Adults.....	101
3-8. Schematic Representation of the First Institute of Biophysics (FIB) Model of Plutonium Biokinetics in Humans	103
3-9. Schematic Representation of the Leggett et al. (2005) Model of Plutonium Biokinetics in Humans	106
3-10. Existing Information on Health Effects of Plutonium.....	128
6-1. Frequency of NPL Sites with Plutonium and Selected Isotopes Contamination.....	148

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LIST OF TABLES

3-1. Selected Exposure Details from the ITRI and PNL Dog Studies and Conversion Procedures Used to Compare Initial Lung Burden in Common Units of kBq/kg Body Weight	22
3-2. Summary of Human Epidemiology Studies of Health Effects of Plutonium	25
3-3 Levels of Significant Exposure to Plutonium Inhalation.....	34
3-4. Genotoxicity of Plutonium <i>In Vivo</i>	62
3-5. Genotoxicity of Plutonium <i>In Vitro</i>	63
3-6. Reference Respiratory Values for a General Caucasian Population at Different Levels of Activity.....	89
3-7. Reference Values of Parameters for the Compartment Model to Represent Time-dependent Particle Transport from the Human Respiratory Tract.....	92
3-8. Parameters of ICRP (1994a) Model of Plutonium Biokinetics in Humans	97
3-9. Parameters of the First Branch of the First Institute of Biophysics (FIB-1) Biokinetic Plutonium Model	104
3-10. Parameters of Leggett et al. (2005) Model of Plutonium Biokinetics in Humans.....	107
4-1. Chemical Identity of Plutonium and Selected Plutonium Compounds	138
4-2. Physical and Chemical Properties of Plutonium and Selected Plutonium Compounds	140
4-3. Radiological Properties of Plutonium Isotopes	142
6-1. Common Metric Prefixes.....	150
7-1. Analytical Methods for Determining Plutonium in Biological Materials	179
7-2. Analytical Methods for Determining Plutonium in Environmental Samples	184
8-1. Regulations and Guidelines Applicable to Plutonium and Plutonium Compounds	191
8-2. Radionuclide Carcinogenicity—Slope Factors for Plutonium (Federal Guidance Report No. 13 Morbidity Risk Coefficients, in Units of Picocuries).....	195