

No. 50, "Environmental Radiation Measurements", National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement, Bethesda, Maryland (1976).

(22) Ibid, Report No. 47, "Tritium Measurement Techniques", (1976).

(23) Ibid, Report No. 58 "A Handbook of Radioactivity Measurement Procedures" (1985).

(24) Environmental Protection Agency, "Indoor Radon and Radon Decay Product Measurement Protocols", EPA 520/1-89-009, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC (1989).

8. By adding Method 115 to the list of methods in Appendix B to part 61 to read as follows:

Method 115—Monitoring for Radon-222 Emissions

This Appendix describes the monitoring methods which must be used in determining the radon-222 emissions from underground uranium mines, uranium mill tailings piles, phosphogypsum stacks, and other piles of waste material emitting radon.

1. Radon-222 Emissions from Underground Uranium Mine Vents

1.1 Sampling Frequency and Calculation of Emissions. Radon-222 emissions from underground uranium mine vents shall be determined using one of the following methods:

1.1.1 Continuous Measurement. These measurements shall be made and the emissions calculated as follows:

(a) The radon-222 concentration shall be continuously measured at each mine vent whenever the mine ventilation system is operational.

(b) Each mine vent exhaust flow rate shall be measured at least 4 times per year.

(c) A weekly radon-222 emission rate for the mine shall be calculated and recorded weekly as follows:

$$A_w = C_1 Q_1 T_1 + C_2 Q_2 T_2 + \dots + C_n Q_n T_n$$

Where:

A_w = Total radon-222 emitted from the mine during week (Ci)

C_i = Average radon-222 concentration in mine vent i (Ci/m³)

Q_i = Volumetric flow rate from mine vent i (m³/hr)

T_i = Hours of mine ventilation system operation during week for mine vent i (hr)

(d) The annual radon-222 emission rate is the sum of the weekly emission rates during a calendar year.

1.1.2 Periodic Measurement. This method is applicable only to mines that continuously operate their ventilation system except for extended shutdowns. Mines which start up and shut down their ventilation system frequently must use the continuous measurement method describe in Section 1.1.1 above. Emission rates determined using periodic measurements shall be measured and calculated as follows:

(a) The radon-222 shall be continuously measured at each mine vent for at least one week every three months.

(b) Each mine vent exhaust flow rate shall be measured at least once during each of the radon-222 measurement periods.

(c) A weekly radon-222 emission rate shall be calculated for each weekly period according to the method described in Section 1.1.1. In this calculation $T=168$ hr.

(d) The annual radon-222 emission rate from the mine should be calculated as follows:

$$A_y = \frac{52 - W_s}{n} (A_{w1} + A_{w2} + \dots + A_{wn})$$

Where:

A_y = Annual radon-222 emission rate from the mine (Ci)

A_{wi} = Weekly radon-222 emission rate during the measurement period i (Ci)

n = Number of weekly measurement periods per year

W_s = Number of weeks during the year that the mine ventilation system is shut down in excess of 7 consecutive days, i.e. the sum of the number of weeks each shut down exceeds 7 days

1.2 Test Methods and Procedures

Each underground mine required to test its emissions, unless an equivalent or alternative method has been approved by the Administrator, shall use the following test methods:

1.2.1 Test Method 1 of Appendix A to part 60 shall be used to determine velocity traverses. The sampling point in the duct shall be either the centroid of the cross section or the point of average velocity.

1.2.2 Test Method 2 of Appendix A to part 60 shall be used to determine velocity and volumetric flow rates.

1.2.3 Test Methods A-6 or A-7 of Appendix B, Method 114 to part 61 shall be used for the analysis of radon-222. Use of Method A-7 requires prior approval of EPA based on conditions described in Appendix B.

1.2.4 A quality assurance program shall be conducted in conformance with the programs described for Continuous Radon Monitors and Alpha Track Detectors in EPA 520/1-89-009. (2)

2. Radon-222 Emissions from Uranium Mill Tailings Piles

2.1 Measurement and Calculation of Radon Flux from Uranium Mill Tailings Piles.

2.1.1 Frequency of Flux Measurement. A single set of radon flux measurements may be made, or if the owner or operator chooses, more frequent measurements may be made over a one year period. These measurements may involve quarterly, monthly or weekly intervals. All radon measurements shall be made as described in paragraphs 2.1.2 through 2.1.6 except that for measurements made over a one year period, the requirement of paragraph 2.1.4(c) shall not apply. The mean radon flux from the pile shall be the arithmetic mean of the mean radon flux for each measurement period. The weather conditions, moisture content of the tailings and area of the pile covered by water existing at the time of the measurement shall be chosen so as to provide measurements representative of the long term radon flux from the pile and shall be subject to EPA review and approval.

2.1.2 Distribution of Flux Measurements. The distribution and number of radon flux measurements required on a pile will depend on clearly defined areas of the pile (called regions) that can have significantly different radon fluxes due to surface conditions. The mean radon flux shall be determined for each individual region of the pile. Regions that shall be considered for operating mill tailings piles are:

- Water covered areas,
- Water saturated areas (beaches),
- Dry top surface areas, and
- Sides, except where earthen material is used in dam construction.

For mill tailings after disposal the pile shall be considered to consist of only one region.

2.1.3 Number of Flux Measurements. Radon flux measurements shall be made within each region on the pile, except for those areas covered with water. Measurements shall be made at regularly spaced locations across the surface of the region, realizing that surface roughness will prohibit measurements in some areas of a region. The minimum number of flux measurements considered necessary to determine a representative mean radon flux value for each type of region on an operating pile is:

- Water covered area—no measurements required as radon flux is assumed to be zero,
- Water saturated beaches—100 radon flux measurements,
- Loose and dry top surface—100 radon flux measurements,
- Sides—100 radon flux measurements, except where earthen material is used in dam construction.

For a mill tailings pile after disposal which consists of only one region a minimum of 100 measurements are required.

2.1.4 Restrictions to Radon Flux Measurements. The following restrictions are placed on making radon flux measurements:

- Measurements shall not be initiated within 24 hours of a rainfall.
- If a rainfall occurs during the 24 hour measurements period, the measurement is invalid if the seal around the lip of the collector has washed away or if the collector is surrounded by water.
- Measurements shall not be performed if the ambient temperature is below 35°F or if the ground is frozen.

2.1.5 Areas of Pile Regions. The approximate area of each region of the pile shall be determined in units of square meters.

2.1.6 Radon Flux Measurement. Measuring radon flux involves the adsorption of radon on activated charcoal in a large-area collector. The radon collector is placed on the surface of the pile area to be measured and allowed to collect radon for a time period of 24 hours. The radon collected on the charcoal is measured by gamma-ray spectroscopy. The detailed measurement procedure provided in Appendix A of EPA 520/5-85-0029(1) shall be used to measure the radon flux on uranium mill tailings, except the surface of the tailings shall not be penetrated by the lip of the radon collector as directed in the procedure, rather the collector shall be

carefully positioned on a flat surface with soil or tailings used to seal the edge.

2.1.7 Calculations. The mean radon flux for each region of the pile and for the total pile shall be calculated and reported as follows:

- (a) The individual radon flux calculations shall be made as provided in Appendix A EPA 86 (1). The mean radon flux for each region of the pile shall be calculated by summing all individual flux measurements for the region and dividing by the total number of flux measurements for the region.
- (b) The mean radon flux for the total uranium mill tailings pile shall be calculated as follows.

$$J_s = \frac{J_1 A_1 + \dots + J_n A_n}{A_t}$$

Where:

J_s = Mean flux for the total pile (pCi/m²-s)
 J_i = Mean flux measured in region i (pCi/m²-s)
 A_i = Area of region i (m²)
 A_t = Total area of the pile (m²)

2.1.8 Reporting. The results of individual flux measurements, the approximate locations on the pile, and the mean radon flux for each region and the mean radon flux for the total stack shall be included in the emission test report. Any condition or unusual event that occurred during the measurements that could significantly affect the results should be reported.

3.0 Radon-222 Emissions from Phosphogypsum Stacks.

3.1 Measurement and Calculation of the Mean Radon Flux. Radon flux measurements shall be made on phosphogypsum stacks as described below:

3.1.1 Frequency of Measurements. A single set of radon flux measurements may be made after the phosphogypsum stack becomes inactive, or if the owner or operator chooses, more frequent measurements may be made over a one year period. These measurements may involve quarterly, monthly or weekly intervals. All radon measurements shall be made as described in paragraphs 3.1.2 through 3.1.6 except that for measurements made over a one year period, the requirement of paragraph 3.1.4(c) shall not apply. For measurements made over a one year period, the radon flux shall be the arithmetic mean of the mean radon flux for each measurement period.

3.1.2 Distribution and Number of Flux Measurements. The distribution and number of radon flux measurements required on a stack will depend on clearly defined areas of the stack (called regions) that can have significantly different radon fluxes due to surface conditions. The mean radon flux shall be determined for each individual region of the stack. Regions that shall be considered are:

- (a) Water covered areas,
 (b) Water saturated areas (beaches),
 (c) Loose and dry top surface areas,
 (d) Hard-packed roadways, and
 (e) Sides.

3.1.3 Number of Flux Measurements. Radon flux measurements shall be made

within each region on the phosphogypsum stack, except for those areas covered with water. Measurements shall be made at regularly spaced locations across the surface of the region, realizing that surface roughness will prohibit measurements in some areas of a region. The minimum number of flux measurements considered necessary to determine a representative mean radon flux value for each type of region is:

- (a) Water covered area—no measurements required as radon flux is assumed to be zero.
 (b) Water saturated beaches—50 radon flux measurements,
 (c) Loose and dry top surface—100 radon flux measurements,
 (d) Hard-packed roadways—50 radon flux measurements, and
 (e) Sides—100 radon flux measurements.

A minimum of 300 measurements are required. A stack that has no water cover can be considered to consist of two regions, top and sides, and will require a minimum of only 200 measurements.

3.1.4 Restrictions to Radon Flux Measurements. The following restrictions are placed on making radon flux measurements:

- (a) Measurements shall not be initiated within 24 hours of a rainfall.
 (b) If a rainfall occurs during the 24 hour measurement period, the measurement is invalid if the seal around the lip of the collector has washed away or if the collector is surrounded by water.
 (c) Measurements shall not be performed if the ambient temperature is below 35 °F or if the ground is frozen.

3.1.5 Areas of Stack Regions. The approximate area of each region of the stack shall be determined in units of square meters.

3.1.6 Radon Flux Measurements. Measuring radon flux involves the adsorption of radon on activated charcoal in a large-area collector. The radon collector is placed on the surface of the stack area to be measured and allowed to collect radon for a time period of 24 hours. The radon collected on the charcoal is measured by gamma-ray spectroscopy. The detailed measurement procedure provided in Appendix A of EPA 520/5-85-0029(1) shall be used to measure the radon flux on phosphogypsum stacks, except the surface of the phosphogypsum shall not be penetrated by the lip of the radon collector as directed in the procedure, rather the collector shall be carefully positioned on a flat surface with soil or phosphogypsum used to seal the edge.

3.1.7 Calculations. The mean radon flux for each region of the phosphogypsum stack and for the total stack shall be calculated and reported as follows:

- (a) The individual radon flux calculations shall be made as provided in Appendix A EPA 86 (1). The mean radon flux for each region of the stack shall be calculated by summing all individual flux measurements for the region and dividing by the total number of flux measurements for the region.
- (b) The mean radon flux for the total phosphogypsum stack shall be calculated as follows.

$$J_s = \frac{J_1 A_1 + J_2 A_2 + \dots + J_n A_n}{A_t}$$

Where:

J_s = Mean flux for the total stack (pCi/m²-s)
 J_i = Mean flux measured in region i (pCi/m²-s)
 A_i = Area of region i (m²)
 A_t = Total area of the stack

3.1.8 Reporting. The results of individual flux measurements, the approximate locations on the stack, and the mean radon flux for each region and the mean radon flux for the total stack shall be included in the emission test report. Any condition or unusual event that occurred during the measurements that could significantly affect the results should be reported.

4.0 Quality Assurance Procedures for Measuring Rn-222 Flux

A. Sampling Procedures

Records of field activities and laboratory measurements shall be maintained. The following information shall be recorded for each charcoal canister measurement:

- (a) Site
 (b) Name of pile
 (c) Sample location
 (d) Sample ID number
 (e) Date and time on
 (f) Date and time off
 (g) Observations of meteorological conditions and comments

Records shall include all applicable information associated with determining the sample measurement, calculations, observations, and comments.

B. Sample Custody

Custodial control of all charcoal samples exposed in the field shall be maintained in accordance with EPA chain-of-custody field procedures. A control record shall document all custody changes that occur between the field and laboratory personnel.

C. Calibration Procedures and Frequency

The radioactivity of two standard charcoal sources, each containing a carefully determined quantity of radium-226 uniformly distributed through 180g of activated charcoal, shall be measured. An efficiency factor is computed by dividing the average measured radioactivity of the two standard charcoal sources, minus the background, in cpm by the known radioactivity of the charcoal sources in dpm. The same two standard charcoal sources shall be counted at the beginning and at the end of each day's counting as a check of the radioactivity counting equipment. A background count using unexposed charcoal should also be made at the beginning and at the end of each counting day to check for inadvertent contamination of the detector or other changes affecting the background. The unexposed charcoal comprising the blank is changed with each new batch of charcoal used.

D. Internal Quality Control Checks and Frequency

The charcoal from every tenth exposed canister shall be recounted. Five percent of the samples analyzed shall be either blanks (charcoal having no radioactivity added) or

samples spiked with known quantities of radium-226.

E. Data Precision, Accuracy, and Completeness

The precision, accuracy, and completeness of measurements and analyses shall be within the following limits for samples measuring greater than 1.0 pCi/m²-s.

- (a) Precision: 10%
- (b) Accuracy: ±10%
- (c) Completeness: at least 85% of the measurements must yield useable results.

5.0 References

(1) Hartley, J.N. and Freeman, H.D., "Radon Flux Measurements on Gardiner and Royster Phosphogypsum Piles Near Tampa and Mulberry, Florida," U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Report, EPA 520/5-85-029, January 1986.

(2) Environmental Protection Agency, "Indoor Radon and Radon Decay Product

Measurement Protocols", EPA 520/1-89-009, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC. (1989).

9. By adding Appendix D to part 61 to read as follows:

Appendix D to Part 61—Methods for Estimating Radionuclide Emissions

1. Purpose and Background

Facility owners or operators may estimate radionuclide emissions to the atmosphere for dose calculations instead of measuring emissions. Particulate emissions from mill tailings piles should be estimated using the procedures listed in reference #2. All other emissions may be estimated by using the "Procedures" listed below, or using the method described in reference #1.

2. Procedure

To estimate emissions to the atmosphere:

(a) Determine the amount (in curies) used at facilities for the period under consideration. Radioactive materials in sealed packages that remain unopened, and have not leaked during the assessment period should not be included in the calculation.

(b) Multiply the amount used by the following factors which depend on the physical state of the radionuclide. They are:

- (i) 1 for gases;
- (ii) 10⁻³ for liquids or particulate solids; and
- (iii) 10⁻⁶ for solids.

If any nuclide is heated to a temperature of 100 degrees Celsius or more, boils at a temperature of 100 degrees Celsius or less, or is intentionally dispersed into the environment, it must be considered to be a gas.

(c) If a control device is installed between the place of use and the point of release, multiply emissions from (b) by an adjustment factor. These are presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1.—ADJUSTMENT TO EMISSION FACTORS FOR EFFLUENT CONTROLS

Controls	Types of radionuclides controlled	Adjustment factor to emissions	Comments and conditions
HEPA filters	Particulates	0.01	Not applicable to gaseous radionuclides; periodic testing is prudent to ensure high removal efficiency.
Fabric filter	Particulates	0.1	Monitoring would be prudent to guard against tears in filter.
Sintered metal	Particulates	1	Insufficient data to make recommendation.
Activated carbon filters	Iodine gas	0.1	Efficiency is time dependent; monitoring is necessary to ensure effectiveness.
Douglas bags: Held one week or longer for decay	Xenon	0.5/wk	Based on xenon half-life of 5.3 days;
Douglas bags: Released within one week	Xenon	1	Provides no reduction of exposure to general public.
Venturi scrubbers	Particulates	0.05	Although venturis may remove gases, variability in gaseous removal efficiency dictates adjustment factor for particulates only.
Packed bed scrubbers	Gases	1	Not applicable to particulates.
Electrostatic precipitators	Particulates	0.05	Not applicable for gaseous radionuclides
Xenon traps	Xenon	0.1	Efficiency is time dependent; monitoring is necessary to ensure effectiveness.
Fume hoods	All	1	Provides no reduction to general public exposures.
Vent stacks	All	1	Generally provides no reduction of exposure to general public.

References

(1) Environmental Protection Agency, "A Guide for Determining Compliance with the Clean Air Act Standards for Radionuclides Emissions from NRC-Licensed and Non-DOE Federal Facilities", EPA 520/1-89-002, January 1989.

(2) Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Methods for Estimating Radioactive and Toxic Airborne Source Terms for Uranium Milling Operations", U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Regulatory Guide 3.59, March 1987.

10. By adding Appendix E part 61 to read as follows:

Appendix E to Part 61—Compliance Procedures Methods for Determining Compliance With Subpart I

1. Purpose and Background

This Appendix provides simplified procedures to reduce the burden on Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensees, and non-Department of Energy Federal facilities in determining compliance with 40 CFR part

61, subpart I. The procedures consist of a series of increasingly more stringent steps, depending on the facility's potential to exceed the standard.

First, a facility can be found in compliance if the quantity of radioactive material possessed during the year is less than that listed in a table of annual possession quantities. A facility will also be in compliance if the average annual radionuclide emission concentration is less than that listed in a table of air concentration levels. If the facility is not in compliance by these tables, it can establish compliance by estimating a dose using screening procedure developed by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements with a radiological source term derived using EPA approved emission factors. These procedures are described in a "Guide for Determining Compliance with the Clean Air Act Standards for Radionuclide Emissions From NRC-Licensed and Non-DOE Federal Facilities."

A user-friendly computer program called COMPLY has been developed to reduce the burden on the regulated community. The Agency has also prepared a "User's Guide for

the COMPLY Code" to assist the regulated community in using the code, and in handling more complex situations such as multiple release points. The basis for these compliance procedures are provided in "Background Information Document: Procedures Approved for Demonstrating Compliance with 40 CFR part 61, subpart I". The compliance model is the highest level in the COMPLY computer code and provides for the most realistic assessment of dose by allowing the use of site-specific information.

2. Table of Annual Possession Quantity

(a) Table 1 may be used for determining if facilities are in compliance with the standard. The possession table can only be used if the following conditions are met:

- (i) No person lives within 10 meters of any release point; and
- (ii) No milk, meat, or vegetables are produced within 100 meters of any release point.

(b) Procedures described in Reference (1) shall be used to determine compliance or exemption from reporting by use of Table 2.