



Alliance of Nuclear Worker Advocacy Groups

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**Comments to the National Academies of Sciences
Research Strategy for Low Dose Radiation**

Presented by Terrie Barrie

October 27, 2021

a - Monitoring not required.

b – In accordance with regulations, Internal Dose and Total Dose were not calculated prior to 1989

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION

Y-12 National Security Complex

Name: [REDACTED]

a Monitoring not required

b In accordance with regulations, Internal Dose and Total Dose were not calculated prior to 1989

Year	(rem)				Internal Dose (rem)	Total Dose (rem)
	Lens of Eye	Extremities	Shallow	Deep		
1980	a	a	0.720	0.040	a	b
1981	a	a	0.060	0.000	a	b
1982	a	a	0.550	0.000	b	b
1983	a	a	1.660	0.160	b	b
1984	a	a	0.110	0.030	b	b
1985	a	a	0.250	0.000	a	b
1986	a	a	0.000	0.000	a	b
1987	a	a	0.000	0.000	a	b
1988	a	a	0.000	0.000	a	b
1989	a	a	0.000	0.000	a	0.000
1990	a	a	0.000	0.000	a	0.000
1991	a	a	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
1992	a	a	0.000	0.000	a	0.000
1993	a	a	0.000	0.000	a	0.000
1994	a	a	0.066	0.000	a	0.000
1995	a	a	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
1996	a	a	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.000
1997	a	a	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.000
1998	a	a	0.236	0.010	0.001	0.011
1999	a	a	0.093	0.012	0.013	0.025
2000	a	a	a	a	0.000	0.000
Cumulative Total Dose since 1989 =						0.036

a Monitoring not required

b In accordance with regulations, Internal Dose and Total Dose were not calculated prior to 1989

Repeated radiation warnings go unheeded at sensitive Idaho nuclear plant
Center for Public Integrity

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- “Sure enough, as the wrapping was pulled away, black powder leaked out, and Stanton, along with 15 of his colleagues in the facility, inhaled the plutonium dust, according to the report. Three of them wound up suing BEA, saying that they had been sickened due to the company’s negligence. BEA publicly disputed that the workers were harmed, but it also reached private settlements with each of the litigants that included nondisclosure provisions.”

Radiation is good for you? The heretical view gains ground under Trump –
Center for Public Integrity

- “Low levels of radiation are not harmful to human life and, in fact, humans require additional exposure to ionizing radiation in order to achieve optimum health via a process known as Radiation Hormesis,” the laboratory’s presentation, entitled “(Mis)Understanding Radiation,” stated. The presentation argued that that “incidence of cancer and other illness is reduced when one is exposed to low levels of radiation.” It said that unwarranted fear of radiation is unnecessarily holding back nuclear energy development and further medical advancements that rely on radioactive materials.”

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- In a section of the Los Alamos presentation discussing a law established in 2000 to compensate employees of the Department of Energy's nuclear weapon complex for cancer associated with workplace radiation exposure, the lab authors undiplomatically used this blunt bullet point first: “**Everybody dies of something, eventually.**”

Toxic Exposure Safety Act of 2021

The bill directs the HHS to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to review and summarize scientific and medical evidence concerning the association between exposures to toxic substances found at DOE sites.

The National Academy of Sciences will issue reports to include additional diseases if evidence indicates a need for inclusion in the cohort. Additionally, the Academy will make a recommendation to Congress if it believes there is a need for additional studies to resolve areas of continuing scientific uncertainty.

Recommendations

- Research the health effects of internal and external low-level radiation and the tissues most likely to be affected for both the public and nuclear workers.
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- Take advantage of the wealth of monitoring and medical data that DOE has for its workers to determine the of low-level radiation exposure as well as the number and types of diseases claimed under EEOICPA.
 - Investigate whether other diseases could develop from exposure to low-level radiation.
 - Ensure that the personal bias does not overly influence the research.
 - Encourage NIOSH to share the source code for the IREP program with interested parties, including this committee, to determine if it adequately accounts for daily exposure to low-level radiation.

Contributors

Special thanks to the following ANWAG members for their contribution:

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