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Environmental Dose Assessment Manual

G.T. Jannik

Report Date: May 15, 2012

Savannah River National Laboratory
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
Aiken, SC 29808

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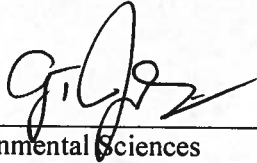
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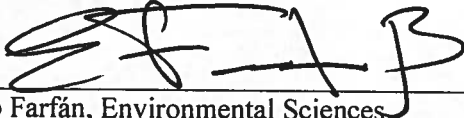


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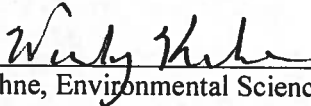
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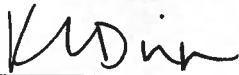
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Environmental Sciences Group (ES) of the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) has been tasked with standardizing Savannah River Site (SRS) environmental dose assessment methods. The set of environmental transport and dosimetry models that have been chosen employ technically valid methodologies comparable to those accepted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and other regulating agencies. They are used to estimate potential radiation doses to the maximally exposed individual (MEI) and to the collective population living within 50 miles (80 km) of SRS as well as the downriver populations who use the Savannah River as a drinking water source. The MEI is representative of the person likely to receive the most dose. This MEI dose is not likely to underestimate or substantially overestimate the potential dose. The estimated collective doses are as realistic as practicable and include all members of the actual exposed population.

This Environmental Dose Assessment Manual (EDAM) presents a discussion of the environmental transport and dosimetry models, and their associated computer codes, selected for standardization at SRS. This manual summarizes the procedures and practices in place at SRS to determine individual and collective public doses and it should serve as a reference document for DOE personnel and their consultants, who will review documents prepared by SRNL. The highlights and conclusions of standardizing the environmental transport and dosimetry methods are shown in Figure 1-1.

1.2 Demonstrating Compliance with Public Dose Limits

DOE Order 458.1 (DOE 2011) specifies a public total effective dose (TED) limit of 100 mrem per year. The applicable environmental dosimetry codes used at SRS for demonstrating compliance with this public dose limit are identified and described in Section 2.0. The TED to members of the public from airborne effluents also are evaluated using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) CAP-88 PC model to demonstrate compliance with the 40 CFR Part 61, subpart H (EPA 1989) public dose limit of 10 mrem per year. Compliance with the radionuclide drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCL) specified in 40 CFR Part 141 (EPA 2000) is demonstrated using the LADTAP XL© code for all radionuclides except tritium. Tritium is the only DOE radionuclide measurable in the three downriver drinking water plants.

1.2.1 *Other Compliance Assessments*

DOE O 458.1 requires that if the DOE-related MEI dose is greater than 25 mrem in a year, the TED to members of the public must include both major non-DOE sources of exposure and the dose from DOE-related sources. Compliance with this requirement would be demonstrated by ES personnel performing a special, site-specific assessment of all potential non-DOE sources.

DOE O 458.1 also requires that if the DOE-related MEI dose is greater than 25 mrem in a year, then the equivalent dose to the lens of the eye (1,500 mrem per year limit) and the equivalent doses to the skin or extremities (5,000 mrem per year limit) must be evaluated. Compliance with this requirement would be demonstrated by ES personnel performing a special, site-specific, equivalent dose assessment following the organ dose methods recommended in Publication 103 of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) (ICRP 2007).

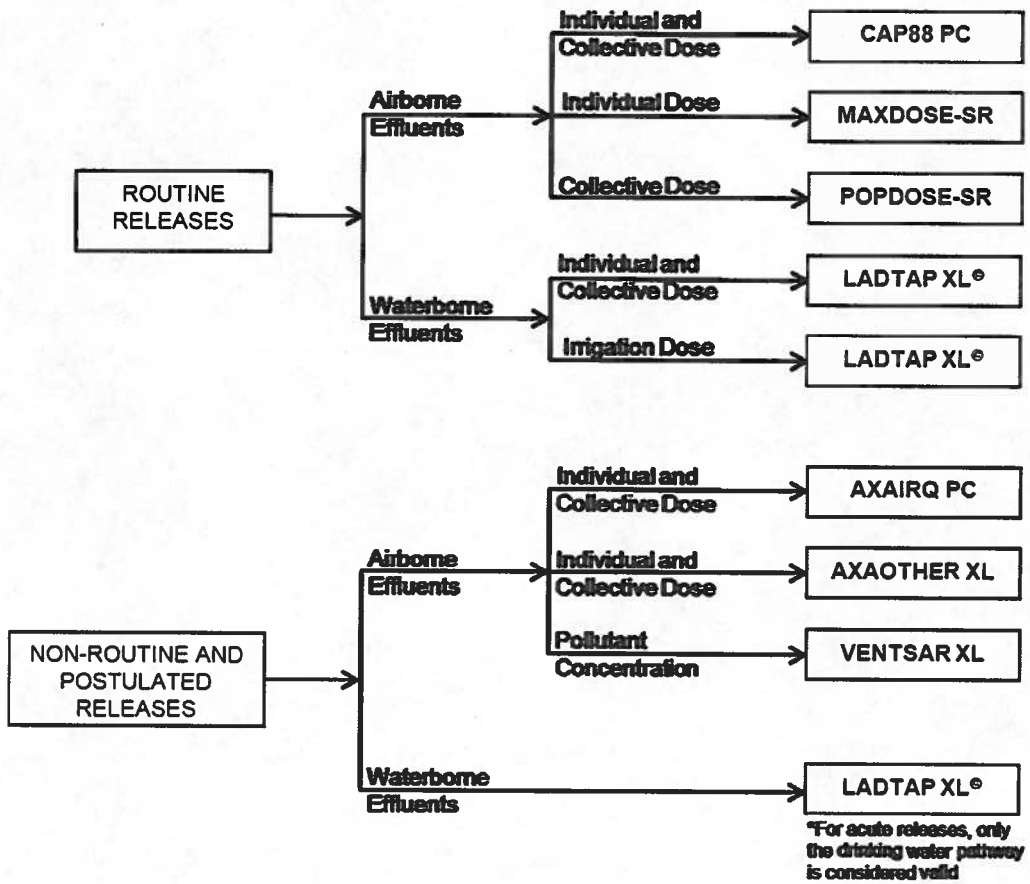


Figure 1-1. Diagram of Consequences Analysis Codes

2.0 Dose Model Descriptions

2.1.1 Routine Liquid Releases

To demonstrate compliance with DOE (2011) and EPA (2000) regulations governing annual dose limits and MCLs from routine liquid releases, the computer code LADTAP XL© (Jannik et al. 2011) has been written for SRS use by ES personnel. LADTAP XL© calculates the offsite MEI and population doses resulting from the exposure pathways including drinking water, aquatic foods, and recreation exposure pathways. LADTAP XL© is a Microsoft Excel™ spreadsheet version of LADTAP II [U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Agency (NRC) code of the same name] with improvements in the shoreline exposure and aquatic foods pathway models. LADTAP XL© includes the IRRIDOSE model for determining irrigation pathway doses.

2.1.2 Accidental Liquid Releases

To demonstrate compliance with DOE annual dose limits from non-routine and accidental liquid releases, the computer code LADTAP XL© (Jannik et al. 2011) is used. For acute releases, only the drinking water dose is considered to be valid when using LADTAP XL©.

2.1.3 Aquatic Pathway Doses for SRS Performance Assessments

To support ongoing Performance Assessments (PA) at SRS, two modified versions of the LADTAP XL© code have been created. LADTAP PA (Jannik and Dixon 2006) was developed for the E-Area PA and LADTAP PA FTF (Farfan and Dixon 2007) was developed for the F-Tank Farm PA.

2.1.4 Routine Atmospheric Releases

To show compliance with DOE (2011) regulations governing annual dose limits from routine atmospheric releases and for other routine atmospheric releases, the computer codes MAXDOSE-SR and POPDOSE-SR (SRNL-modified versions of NRC's XOQDOQ and GASPARG codes) are selected for SRS use. The MAXDOSE-SR code calculates the MEI dose to offsite people and the POPDOSE-SR code estimates the offsite (80 km radius) collective (population) dose. Plume and ground gamma-shine, inhalation, and foodstuff ingestion pathways are considered in these codes.

MAXINE is an EXCEL© spreadsheet, used to estimate dose to individuals for routine atmospheric releases of radioactive materials. MAXINE does not contain an atmospheric dispersion model, but rather doses are estimated using air and ground concentrations as input. Minimal input is required to run the program and site specific parameters are used when possible.

2.1.5 Routine Atmospheric Releases for NESHAP

To show compliance with EPA's National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) radionuclide regulations (EPA 1989) governing annual dose limits from routine atmospheric releases, the computer code CAP88 PC (Farfan and Powell 2012) is required to be used at SRS. The CAP88 PC code calculates the MEI dose to offsite people and the offsite population dose. Plume and ground gamma-shine, inhalation, and foodstuff ingestion pathways are considered in this code. CAP88 PC is not used for other routine dose calculations because the code does not address site-specific factors such as multiple release locations, irregular site boundaries, and uneven terrain.

2.1.6 Accidental Atmospheric Releases

For accidental atmospheric releases, the computer code AXAIRQ PC (Dixon 2012 DRAFT) is used to calculate the plume-exposure doses from potential process-accident or earthquake-

induced releases to the atmosphere. The plume-exposure doses include maximum doses to offsite individuals, and population doses to the 80-km population. Exposure pathways include plume and ground gamma-shine and inhalation.

2.1.7 Near-In Dispersion for Atmospheric Releases

For MEI and population dose calculations for near-in dispersion, the SRNL-developed computer code VENTSAR XL© (Simpkins 1997) is chosen for SRS use. VENTSAR XL© uses near-in dispersion characteristics to estimate concentrations by taking into account the interaction of plume and air-flow patterns around buildings and plume rise due to buoyancy or momentum.

2.1.8 Non-Routine Weather Conditions for Atmospheric Releases

For MEI and population dose calculations for specific dispersion characteristics, AXAOTHER XL (Simpkins 1996) is used. AXAOTHER XL is a spreadsheet based on AXAOTHER (Haynes and Taylor 1983) which estimates doses for high-velocity straight winds and tornado conditions.

2.1.9 High Velocity Straight Winds

Based on a Gaussian plume model, the dispersion factors associated with high-velocity straight winds have been determined and are available in a graphical form (Garrett and Murphy 1981; Hoel 1985). The χ/Q values are input for the dose calculation code, AXAOTHER XL, for MEI and population dose calculations.

2.1.10 Tornadoes

Based on a realistic but simplified methodology, the dispersion factors associated with tornadoes have been determined and plotted in a graphical form (Weber and Hunter 1995). The χ/Q values are input for the dose calculation code, AXAOTHER XL, for MEI and population dose calculations.

2.1.11 Residual Radioactivity in Soil and Concrete Slabs

RESRAD is used to estimate the dose due to residual radioactive contamination at SRS. RESRAD is a PC based computer code designed to calculate radiation doses to the MEI. The model considers direct exposure, inhalation of dust and radon, and ingestion of plant foods, meat, milk, aquatic foods, soil, and water pathways. Default exposure scenarios include the resident farmer, suburban resident, and industrial worker. However, other exposure scenarios can be accomplished by adjusting the applicable input parameters. Coding of the software is performed and controlled by the Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) and the executable file is provided free to users through the RESRAD website: (web.ead.anl.gov/resrad/home2/)

2.1.12 Residual Radioactivity in Buildings

RESRAD-Build is used to estimate the dose due to residual radioactive contamination remaining in decommissioned buildings at SRS. RESRAD-Build is a PC based computer code designed to calculate radiation doses to the MEI. The model considers direct exposure, inhalation of dust and radon, and incidental ingestion of dust. Coding of the software is performed and controlled by the ANL and the executable file is provided free to users through the RESRAD website: (web.ead.anl.gov/resrad/home2/)

2.1.13 Doses to Aquatic and Terrestrial Biota

RESRAD-Biota (also called the RAD-BCG Calculator) estimates doses for aquatic or riparian, and terrestrial plants and animals. The doses are determined using measured radioactivity in soil,

sediment, and SRS stream water. Coding of the software is performed and controlled by the ANL and the executable file is provided free to users through the RESRAD website: (web.ead.anl.gov/resrad/home2/).

The RESRAD-Biota model directly implements the screening and analysis methods contained in DOE-STD-1153-2002, which is referred to as the Biota Dose Manual (DOE 2002). No other alternative approaches to this model or ecological risk assessments are planned at SRS to demonstrate compliance with the DOE biota dose rate limits.

The biota concentration guides used in RESRAD-Biota are based on the dose rate limits specified in DOE-STD-1153-2002, which are shown in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1. Biota Dose Rate Limits from DOE-STD-1153-2002

Biota	Dose Rate Limit
Aquatic Animals	1 rad/d
Riparian Animals	0.1 rad/d
Terrestrial Animals	0.1 rad/d
Terrestrial Plants	1 rad/d

3.0 Dose Assessment Methods

The general dose assessment methods used in the various dosimetry codes are summarized in the following sections for routine releases and for accident releases.

3.1 Dose Assessment for Routine Releases

During routine operations at a nuclear facility, limited amounts of radioactive materials are released to the environment through atmospheric and/or liquid pathways. These releases potentially result in a radiation dose commitment to offsite people. The principal pathways by which people are exposed to releases of radioactivity are:

- Inhalation
- Ingestion
- Skin absorption
- External exposure

Figure 3-1 is a simplified representation of the principal exposure pathways.

At SRS, the potential effects of routine radioactive releases have been assessed annually since operations began. Since 1972, annual offsite dose estimates have been published in site environmental reports, which are made available to the public. For all routine environmental dose calculations performed since 1978, SRS has used environmental transport models based on codes developed by the NRC (NRC 1977). The NRC based transport models use DOE accepted methods, consider all significant exposure pathways, and permit detailed analysis of the effects of routine operations.

When calculating radiation doses to the public from routine releases, SRS uses the concept of the MEI. However, because of the conservative lifestyle assumptions used in the dose models, no such person is known to exist. The generalized parameters used for the MEI dose calculations are:

- For airborne releases: someone who lives at the SRS boundary 365 days per year and consumes large amounts of milk, meat, and vegetables produced at that location
- For liquid releases: someone who lives immediately downriver of SRS (near Savannah River Mile 120) 365 days per year, drinks 2 liters of untreated water per day from the river, consumes a large amount of Savannah River fish, and spends the majority of time on or near the river

SRS conservatively combines the airborne pathway and liquid pathway MEI dose estimates, even though the two doses are calculated for hypothetical individuals residing at different geographic locations. This is done to demonstrate compliance, which is documented annually in the SRS Annual Environmental Report, with the DOE O 458.1 (DOE 2011) all-pathway TED standard of 100 mrem per year.

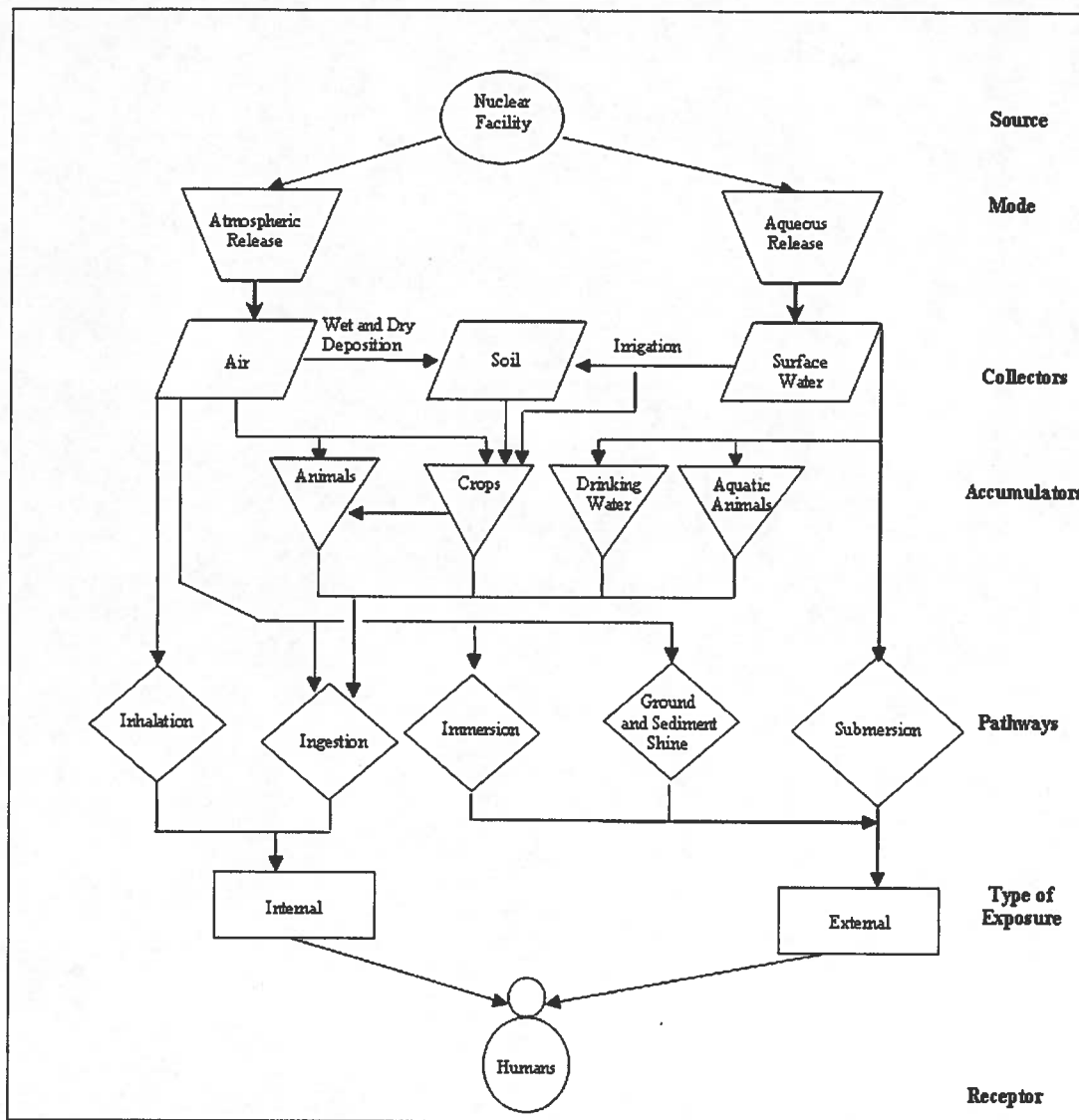


Figure 3-1. Exposure Pathways to Humans from Atmospheric and Aqueous Releases

3.1.1 Dose Assessment for Accidental Releases

Accidents in one of the SRS facilities can result in an airborne release, a liquid release, or a combination of both. Accidents causing an environmental release may result from natural phenomena (such as high-velocity straight winds, tornadoes, earthquakes, etc.), man-made external events (such as vehicle/building collision, aircraft crash, etc.), or process incidents (such as process upsets, equipment malfunction, operator error, etc.).

Radiological consequences following postulated accidental radioactive releases from SRS facilities can be estimated using one or more of SRNLs dose assessment computer codes. Computer code packages different from those used for routine releases are used to assess environmental consequences resulting from accidental airborne releases because of the differences in characterizing atmospheric dispersion under different meteorological conditions.

2.1.2.1 Airborne Accidental Releases

Three different computer codes are used to analyze short duration accidental airborne releases at SRS depending on the conditions associated with the release. AXAIRQ PC is used to analyze postulated accidents involving both ground level and elevated releases. The mainframe version of AXAIRQ was retired in 2012. Results from AXAIRQ PC are typically used for reviewing Safety Analysis Reports (SARs), Hazard Assessment Documents (HADs), and Environmental Impact Statements (EISs). VENTSAR XL© is used to predict downwind pollutant concentrations resulting from releases affected by building wake effects and plume rise. AXAOTHER XL is used to model releases with high velocity straight winds or tornado conditions.

2.1.2.2 Surface Water Accidental Releases

Postulated accidents resulting from SRS operations may involve liquid releases to onsite streams that eventually reach the Savannah River. The MEI and population dose commitments resulting from postulated aqueous releases of radioactive materials are predicted using the LADTAP XL© spreadsheet.

Models characterizing acute uptake and retention of radionuclides by aquatic foods (fish, invertebrates, etc.) are not utilized in LADTAP XL©. However, doses from the consumption of aquatic foods can be estimated assuming steady-state conditions, recognizing that such doses are conservative and overestimated. Development of a model to estimate radionuclide concentrations in fish and invertebrates under acute exposure conditions has not been completed at SRS. Until these studies are complete, dose resulting from acute releases will be estimated using only the drinking water pathway.

The offsite individual who will receive the maximum dose from an accidental liquid release is a hypothetical person who lives on the shore of the Savannah River near River Mile 120, where complete mixing is assumed to have occurred. It is assumed that this individual drinks 2 L/d of untreated river water.

3.2 Dosimetry Code Descriptions

At SRNL, the consequence analysis computer codes were originally selected after a thorough review of existing methods and associated software. The evaluation criteria for computer codes included the following:

- Acceptability to the regulatory agencies
- Adaptability
- Versatility
- Availability

The selected computer codes are stored in write-protected datasets with access limited to authorized personnel (i.e., ES personnel). For a complete description of the software quality assurance requirements governing environmental dose assessments, refer to Jannik (2010).

3.2.1 *ES Originated Codes*

Since 2001, ES has been systematically creating detailed code-specific user's manuals that include

- 1) The code's background information and methods
- 2) User information including program features, input, job control language (JCL), and output
- 3) Verification of calculations performed.

In lieu of repeating these details in this manual, the following references are provided to the codes originated and "owned" by ES:

- LADTAP XL© Version 2011 Jannik et al. (2011)
- LADTAP PA Jannik and Dixon (2006)
- LADTAP PA FTF Farfan and Dixon (2007)
- MAXDOSE-SR Version 2011 Jannik and Dixon (2011)
- POPDOSE-SR Version 2011 Jannik and Dixon (2011)
- AXAIRQ PC Dixon (2012 DRAFT)
- AXAOTHER XL Simpkins (1996)
- VENTSAR XL© Simpkins (1997)
- MAXINE Simpkins (2002)

3.2.2 *Non-ES Originated Codes*

To show compliance with NESHAP (EPA 1989) regulations, the use of the EPA supplied CAP88 PC Version 3.0 dosimetry code is required. The CAP 88 mainframe version was retired in 2012.

For residual radioactivity in soil and buildings and for estimating doses to biota, the RESRAD family of dosimetry codes, which were developed by ANL (<http://web.ead.anl.gov/resrad>) are used at SRS. Currently, three RESRAD codes have been incorporated into the Environmental Dosimetry Software QA Plan (Jannik 2010). They are the original RESRAD, RESRAD-BUILD, and RESRAD Biota.

In lieu of repeating the details of these codes in this manual, the following references are provided to the non-ES originated codes “owned” and used by ES:

- CAP88 PC EPA (2007); Farfan and Powell (2012)
- RESRAD Yu, et al. (2001)
- RESRAD-BUILD Yu, et al. (2003)
- RESRAD-Biota DOE (2004)

3.3 Dosimetry Code Input Parameters

Most of the physical and behavior input parameters required for use in environmental dosimetry calculations performed at SRS are documented in Jannik et al. (2010). The other datasets required for environmental dosimetry calculations are described in the following sections.

3.3.1 *Dose Commitment Factors*

Since 1989, the dose conversion factors used with the SRS consequence analysis codes were based on International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) dosimetry method recommendations provided in ICRP-26 (ICRP 1977) and ICRP-30 (ICRP 1979) and obtained from DOE/EH-0070 (DOE 1988a) and DOE/EH-0071 (1988b). Beginning in 2010, ES started to transition all dosimetry codes to the dose factors based on ICRP-60 (ICRP 1991) dosimetry method recommendations as obtained from Federal Guidance Report 12 (EPA 1993) for external exposures and ICRP-72 (ICRP 1996) for internal exposures.

The following dosimetry codes used by ES already incorporate these updated dose factors: LADTAP XL©, LADTAP PA FTF, CAP88 PC, MAXDOSE SR, POPDOSE SR, RESRAD and RESRAD-Build.

Most regulations applicable to environmental dosimetry calculations require the use of dose factors for one age group, adults. However, age-specific dose factors for selected radionuclides exist in ICRP-72 (ICRP 1996) and should be used when required.

2.3.1.1 *Internal Dose Commitment Factors*

Internal doses estimated using the ICRP recommended dose factors are 50-year dose-commitments from a one-year intake. More specifically, these dose estimates are based on continuous intake over a one-year exposure period, and an associated dose commitment extending over a 50-year period from initial intake. Internal dose factors account for progeny ingrowth once the nuclide has been inhaled or ingested.

Atmospheric tritium also enters the body through skin absorption (ICRP 1979; Pinson and Langham 1957). The rate at which uptake occurs via skin absorption is approximately equal to one-half the inhalation uptake rate (ICRP 1979). To account for this pathway, the inhalation dose factor for tritium oxide has been increased by 50% over the value given in ICRP (1996). The predicted inhalation dose for all dose assessments involving tritium oxide, therefore, includes tritium uptake via skin absorption (this includes the EPA required code, CAP88 PC).

2.3.1.2 External Dose Commitment Factors

External dose factors for gamma and beta exposures exist for ground, water and air immersion geometries. Except for AXAIRQ PC, the external doses are calculated in all dose assessment packages using a semi-infinite plume model. AXAIRQ PC gives the user the option to choose between three external exposure models.

The external dose factors recommended by ICRP do not include contributions from radioactive progeny. However, when determining dose via external pathways the contribution from progeny ingrowth can be significant. The dose factor library accessed by the MAXDOSE-SR and POPDOSE-SR dose assessment packages was updated in 1991 so that progeny radiation would be considered when estimating external dose for certain radionuclides (Hamby 1991). The AXAIRQ PC program includes progeny ingrowth.

For calculating external doses resulting from plume gamma shine in the AXAIRQ PC code, the total-body dose factors for 23 photon energy groups were developed (Pillinger and Huang 1986). Photon energies and relative intensities were obtained from the DRALIST Radioactive Decay Data (RSIC 1981). Reference data and computational means to evaluate the photon energy absorption coefficients for air and tissue were taken from the DOSFACTOR II computer code (RSIC 1981).

3.3.2 Breathing Rates

Breathing rate is dependent on age and physical activity. To ensure reasonable and consistent inhalation dose calculations, four standard sets of breathing rates have been selected (Huang and Marter 1983), two for assessing routine releases and two for assessing accidental releases. The breathing rates used in the computer codes for inhalation dose calculations for the MEI and population are shown in Table 3-1. As stated previously, only adult receptors are assumed in the dose assessment modeling at SRS. Age-specific breathing rates are provided for comparison and should be used as needed.

Table 3-1. Breathing Rates Used for Inhalation Dose Calculations at SRS

<u>Group</u>	<u>Breathing Rate (m³/yr) for Assessing Routine Releases</u>		<u>Breathing Rate (m³/yr) for Assessing Accidental Releases</u>	
	<u>MEI</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>MEI</u>	<u>Population</u>
Adults	8,000	5,548	12,000	10,500
Teenagers	8,000	5,548	12,000	10,500
Children	3,700	3,700	7,800	6,840
Infants	1,400	1,400	2,500	2,190

3.3.3 Agricultural Data Base

An agricultural database including the annual production of milk, meat, and produce is required when population doses resulting from routine releases are to be calculated. Statistical sources

include state crop and livestock reporting services, and the US Department of Agriculture. The agricultural databases for the SRS-area were updated in 2010 (Jannik et al. 2010).

3.3.4 Topographic Data

The topography of SRS and its vicinity is representative of the Coastal Plain with gently rolling hills and elevations ranging from 100 to 500 feet above mean sea level. Terrain elevations directly affect the effective stack height and effective height of the inversion layer in the transport calculations. Maximum elevations within 22.5-degree sectors between SRS facilities and each incremental distance to 50 miles are determined during execution of the dose assessment codes. The height of the plume as it travels from the release point may be adjusted to account for changes in terrain. The terrain file is a binary file called 'TPGY100.bin'. This terrain database is a product of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and contains elevations above mean sea level referenced by coordinates of latitude and longitude. These data are used to develop an array of maximum changes in elevation, relative to the release point's elevations. This array is then called to determine the reduction in plume height required for a specific compass sector and downwind location. The plume height is reduced to account for the fact that if the plume is traveling in a straight line and a receptor is standing on elevated ground, they are closer to the plume.

3.3.5 Offsite Population Distribution

The population data for a given calendar year for geographical divisions, formed by subdividing the 50-mile-radius circle centered on the release point into 22.5-degree compass sectors and circles at radii of 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 miles, are the required input for offsite population dose calculations for airborne releases.

Due to rapidly changing work assignments, onsite population distributions will be determined on an as needed basis, using the current information available on the SRS website (<http://www.srs.gov/SRSPortal>)

2.3.5.1 Offsite Population Distribution

Within the 50-mile radius of SRS, the total population determined by the 2010 U.S. Census was 781,058. For establishing the offsite population distribution, a population database was prepared for SRS by SRNL (Jannik and Dixon 2011). The data were supplied for the population residing in a 2° by 2° study area converted to 1 minute grid cells. This database is transformed by the POPDOSE-SR and AXAIRQ PC codes into polar coordinates of 16 compass sectors and varying radial distances out to the 50-mile radius. The POPDOSE-SR and AXAIRQ PC codes can prepare a polar coordinate database for any release point input into the code. The POPDOSE-SR and AXAIRQ PC codes also have the capability of generating offsite population distributions relative to the user-specified release location. A separate, fixed-polar-coordinate database was prepared for use with the CAP88 PC code, which does not have the capability of transforming the grid into polar coordinates.

2.3.5.2 Population Served by Downriver Drinking Water Plants

In 2011, the operators of the three public drinking water plants that are located downriver of SRS confirmed that the following estimated populations were served:

- Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (Chelsea Plant) 77,000 people
- Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (Purrysburg Plant) 58,000 people
- City of Savannah Industrial and Domestic Water Supply Plant 26,300 people

These totals will be updated annually for use in the SRS Annual Environmental Report.

3.3.6 Meteorological Data

Meteorological data at SRS have been collected regularly since 1965. The system has been modified, upgraded, and expanded over the years. The measurement facilities consist of eight 61-meter meteorological towers located onsite and an instrumented 335-meter television tower (WJBF) located in Beech Island, SC. Local wind characteristics are represented by the meteorological data collected at these facilities.

To show compliance with DOE environmental orders, potential offsite doses from releases of radioactivity to the atmosphere are calculated with the quality-assured meteorological data for A-Area, K-Area (for combined releases from C-Area, K-Area, and L-Area), and H-Area (for combined releases from all other areas). The meteorological databases for the years 2002–2006, are the most recent 5-year compilation period (Kabela and Weber 2007).

To show compliance with EPA regulations, only the H-Area database was used in the calculations because the EPA-required dosimetry code (CAP88 PC, Version 3.0) is limited to a single release location

Meteorological data are input to the dose assessment codes as a joint frequency distribution (JFD) of wind speed and atmospheric stability. The meteorological data consist of the following:

- Wind direction frequency of occurrence determined for 22.5-degree sectors centered on 16 compass directions
- Atmospheric stability category (one of seven defined by σ_a)
- Categorization of wind speed into one of six speeds: 0-2, 2-4, 4-6, 6-8, 8-12, >12 m/sec

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