# Overview of Radiation Concepts & & Regulatory Structure



**Types of Ionizing Radiation** 

- Radioactive materials will emit both ionizing particles and waves during decay
- Particles
  - Alpha particles
  - Beta particles
  - Neutrons
- Energy waves or "rays"
  - Gamma rays
  - X-rays
- These types of ionizing radiation interact with matter by depositing energy when they are moving





<u>Contamination</u>: Contamination results when a radioactive material (a gas, liquid, or solid) is somewhere you don't want it

**Exposure:** Radiation exposure occurs when the body absorbs radiation from an external source

**Dose** = measurement of radiation energy deposited in tissue







- 1 "R" is a relatively large radiation exposure
- Exposure measured in smaller fractions of an "R"
  - milliR (mR) (1/1,000 of R)
  - microR (μR) (1/1,000,000,000 of R)
- Typical background exposure rates are <u>5 to 10 μR/hr</u>



## Units (Cont.)

# Radioactivity = Curie (Ci)

- 1 "Ci" of radioactivity is considered a large amount
- Radioactivity measured in smaller fractions of a Curie
  - pico Curie (pCi) (i.e. 1/1,000,000,000,000 of Curie)
- The amount of radioactive material present = amount of radioactivity found in a gram or liter of the substance.....(pCi/g), or (pCi/L)



#### **Sources of Radiation Exposure**





NCRP Report 160

## **Doses in Perspective**

Source	Exposure
Average U.S. annual exposure – all sources	360 mR/year
Average U.S. annual exposure – including medical/diagnostic	720 mR/year
Chest X-ray	5-10 mR
CT Scan	1,000 – 2,000 mR
Annual dose limit for radiation workers	5,000 mR/year
Emergency limit (saving major property)	10,000 mR/event
Emergency limit (saving life)	25,000 mR/event
Biological health effects observable (blood changes)	50,000 mR

Lethal radiation dose (50% lethality)



450,000 mR

#### **Exposure Pathways**

- How, specifically, does TENORM present an exposure concern?
  - Inhalation, ingestion, direct exposure
- How, specifically, does TENORM present an exposure concern to the general public?
  - Inappropriate disposal (illegal dumping)
  - Recycling of contaminated components



A Regulators' Guide to the Management of Radioactive Residuals from Drinking Water Treatment Technologies





#### **Exposure Pathways**



ronmental Quality

## **Mitigating External Radiation**

- **TIME** minimize time spent near a source to minimize radiation exposure
- DISTANCE radiation dose rates fall off rapidly with distance; increase the distance between you and a source to minimize radiation exposure
- SHIELDING put something between you and the source to minimize radiation exposure

### Mitigating Inhalation, Ingestion, & Exposure





- Proper and safe disposal –
  Modernized landfill design,
  construction, and
  operations.....monitoring,
  reporting, waste screening, daily
  cover.
- Training Limit exposure pathways by recognizing hazards and avoiding them.
- Prevent dispersal Covered during transport, dust control, etc.

#### Existing Regulatory Requirements (ARM 17.50 Subchapters 5-13)

- Landfill Siting
  - Location criteria and restrictions
- Waste Group/Class
  - TENORM is Group II waste = Class II facility
- Landfill Design and Construction
  - Must be protective of uppermost aquifer
  - Design must be approved by P.E. and DEQ
  - Must submit CQA/CQC plans and reports
- Landfill Operation
  - Hours, dust control, daily cover, etc...
- Landfill Monitoring



- Ground water sampled at least twice per year
- Certified by professional groundwater scientist
  - Air monitoring new for TENORM facilities

#### Existing Regulatory Requirements (ARM 17.50 Subchapters 5-13)

- Storm water control
  - Must control run-on and run-off from 24-hour, 25-year event
  - MPDES permit required for discharge
  - Permit requires storm water analysis
- Leachate Collection and Removal System
  - Maintain less than one-foot leachate on liner
  - Leachate management requirements
- Financial Assurance and Closure/Post-closure Care
  - FA funded prior to waste acceptance
  - Post-closure monitoring and care requirements



The goal for the proposed TENORM rules is to protect human health and the environment by:

- Establishing TENORM-specific standards to minimize exposure to humans and the environment:
  - Waste Characterization
  - Waste Acceptance Criteria
    - ✓ Dual waste acceptance criteria
      - Dose exposure limits and concentration limits
  - Waste Screening
  - Additional ground water and air monitoring
  - Spill reporting



- "Radiation: Facts, Risks, and Realities", US EPA. EPA-402-K-10-008 April 2012
- "A System's Guide to the Management of Radioactive Residuals from Drinking Water Treatment Technologies" EPA 816-F-06-012 August 2006
- "Suggested Guidelines for the Disposal of Drinking Water Treatment Wastes Containing Naturally Occurring Radionuclides" EPA July 1990
- "Radionuclides Notice of Data Availability Technical Support Document" EPA March 2000
- "Potential Radiological Doses Associated with the Disposal of Petroleum Industry NORM via Landspreading" Argonne National Laboratory DOE/BC/W-31-109-ENG-38-5 December 1998

