

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Bureau of Radiation Protection and Bureau of Waste Management

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TITLE: Guidance Document on Radioactivity Monitoring at Solid Waste Processing and Disposal Facilities.

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AUTHORITY: Solid Waste Management Act, Act of July 7, 1980, P.L. No. 97, as amended, 35 P.S. §§ 6018.101 – 6018.1003 (SWMA); the Radiation Protection Act, Act of July 10, 1984, P.L. 688, No. 147, 35 P.S. §§ 7110.101 – 7131.703; the Clean Streams Law, Act of June 22, 1937, P.L. 1987, Art. I §1, as amended, 35 P.S. §§ 691.1 – 691.1001; 2012 Oil and Gas Act, Act of February 14, 2012, P.L. 87, No. 13, 58 Pa. C.S. §§ 3201 – 3274; and Section 1917-A of the Administrative Code, 71 P.S. 510.17; Municipal and Residual Waste Regulations, 25 Pa. Code, Chapters 271 – 299; Radiological Health Regulations, 25 Pa. Code, Chapters 215 – 240; Oil and Gas Regulations, 25 Pa. Code §§ 78a.58 (relating to onsite processing), and 78.18 (related to disposal well permits); and Water Resources Regulations, 25 Pa. Code § 91.34 (relating to activities utilizing pollutants).

POLICY: It is the Department’s policy to protect the environment and the public health, safety, and welfare from the possible dangers of radioactive material that is delivered to waste processing or disposal facilities or generated by the exploration or development of oil and gas wells.

PURPOSE: This guidance document is intended to assist the solid waste and oil and gas regulated communities with the development of Radiation Protection Action Plans as required in applicable regulations or the terms and conditions of a permit.

APPLICABILITY: This guidance document applies to all solid waste processing or disposal facilities, including UIC wells, as the term is defined in this guidance. This guidance document also applies to well sites, as that term is defined in 25 Pa. Code § 78a.1 (relating to definitions), where fluids or drill cuttings that have been generated by the development, drilling, stimulation, alteration, operation, or plugging of an oil or gas well are processed onsite. This guidance also applies to those facilities that choose to monitor for radiation even though monitoring is not required. Additionally, this guidance document applies to all Department personnel and activities involved with waste facility permitting, operations and enforcement, radiation protection, grants, monitoring, administration, and emergency response.

DISCLAIMER:

The policies and procedures outlined in this guidance are intended to supplement existing requirements. Nothing in the policies or procedures shall affect regulatory requirements.

The policies and procedures herein are not an adjudication or a regulation. There is no intent on the part of the Department to give the rules in these policies that weight or deference. This document establishes the framework within which the Department will exercise its administrative discretion in the future. The Department reserves the discretion to deviate from this policy statement if circumstances warrant.

PAGE LENGTH:

57 pages

**GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON RADIOACTIVITY MONITORING AT SOLID WASTE
PROCESSING AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES**

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I. DEFINITIONS

Absorbed Dose:	Measure of energy absorbed by material interacting with radiation. The unit in the older conventional system is the rad, which is equal to the energy of 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material. In the System International (SI), the unit for absorbed dose is the gray (Gy), which is equal to 100 rads.
Accelerator-Produced Radioactive Material:	Any material made radioactive by a particle accelerator.
Activity:	Rate of decay for radioactive material. The older conventional unit is the curie (Ci). The SI unit is becquerel (Bq), where $1 \text{ Ci} = 3.7 \times 10^{10} \text{ Bq}$ or $3.7\text{E}10 \text{ Bq}$.
Agreement State (AS):	A State that has signed a formal agreement with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), under which that State has assumed regulatory responsibility over certain byproduct and source material, as well as small quantities of special nuclear material. Pennsylvania became an Agreement State in March 2008.
Bureau of Radiation Protection (BRP):	DEP's Bureau of Radiation Protection.
Bureau of Waste Management (BWM):	DEP's Bureau of Waste Management.
Byproduct Material:	(1) Radioactive material, except special nuclear material, yielded in or made radioactive by exposure to the radiation incident to the process of producing or utilizing special nuclear material and (2) the tailings or wastes produced by the extraction or concentration of uranium or thorium from ore processed primarily for its source material content, including discrete surface wastes resulting from uranium or thorium solution extraction processes. Underground ore bodies depleted by these solution extraction operations do not constitute "byproduct material" within this definition.
Characterization:	A process by which a material's structure and properties are probed and measured.

Decay:	Transformation of atoms of a radioactive element to atoms of another element by emission of alpha or beta particles (positive or negative), or gamma rays from its nucleus. The resulting decay product may be radioactive or stable.
Department of Environmental Protection (Department or DEP):	The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
Dose Equivalent:	The dose of an ionizing radiation that will cause the same biological effect as one rad of X-rays or gamma-rays. In the older conventional system, the unit is the rem. In the SI system, the unit is the sievert (Sv), $1\text{Sv} = 100\text{ rem}$. Dose equivalent is calculated by multiplying absorbed dose (rad, Gy) by a quality factor (QF) that accounts for the effectiveness of the radiation, relative to gamma or X-rays, in causing a biological effect, i.e., $\text{rem} = \text{rad} \times \text{QF}$; $\text{Sv} = \text{Gy} \times \text{QF}$. (Note: For this guidance, and X-ray or gamma radiation, a $\text{rem} = \text{rad} = \text{roentgen (R)}$.)
Department of Energy (DOE):	The U.S. Department of Energy.
Department of Transportation (DOT):	The U.S. Department of Transportation.
DOT Special Permit:	This special permit authorizes the one-way transportation in commerce by highway or rail of shipments of scrap metal or solid waste which have been found, during or at the conclusion of transportation or during inspection of the shipment following its receipt, to contain unexpected and unidentified radioactive material or contamination. The one-way transportation authorized by this special permit is exempted from the classification, packaging, and hazard communication requirements normally required for transportation of radioactive material. However, the shipment is subject to the conditions of the special permit.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):	The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Exposure Rate:	An older measurement quantity of intensity for X-ray or gamma radiation causing ionization of air. It is still in practical use in the U.S., measured in roentgen (R) or microroentgen (μR) per unit time, usually an hour, as in R/hr, $\mu\text{R/hr}$. $1 \text{ R} = 2.58 \text{ E-4 C/kg of air}$.
Facility:	Land, structures, and other appurtenances or improvements where municipal or residual waste disposal or processing is permitted or takes place. The term includes land thereby used or affected during the lifetime of operations, including areas where waste management actually occurs, support facilities, offices, equipment sheds, air and water pollution control and treatment systems, access roads, associated onsite or contiguous collection, transportation and storage facilities, closure and post-closure care and maintenance activities, contiguous borrow areas, and other activities in which the natural land surface has been disturbed or used as a result or incidental to operation of the facility.
Half-Life:	The time required for half the atoms of a quantity of a radioactive material to decay or become transformed to another nuclide.
Isotope:	Any two or more species of atoms of a chemical element with the same atomic number (i.e., number of protons) and nearly identical chemical behavior but with different atomic mass or mass number and different physical properties.
Low-Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW):	Radioactive waste that (1) is not high-level radioactive waste, spent nuclear fuel, or byproduct material as defined in § 11(e)(2) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (68 Stat. 922, 42 U.S.C. § 2014(e)(2)), waste generated as a result of atomic energy defense activities of the Federal Government, and waste for which the Federal Government is responsible under § 3(b)(1) of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985; and (2) is classified by the Federal Government as low-level waste, consistent with the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985; or (3) contains naturally occurring or accelerator-produced radioactive material, which is not excluded by (1) or (2) above.

Management:	The entire process, or a part thereof, of storage, collection, transportation, processing, treatment, and disposal of solid wastes.
Multichannel Analyzer (MCA):	An electronic instrument which, when coupled with an appropriate detector, can determine the energy associated with various gamma radiations and thereby identify the radioactive material emitting the radiation.
Naturally Occurring or Accelerator-Produced Radioactive Material (NARM):	Naturally occurring or accelerator-produced radioactive material. The term does not include source or special nuclear material. (Note: ‘accelerator-produced radioactive material’ was reclassified by NRC to be a category of byproduct material per the Energy Policy Act of 2005.)
Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM):	Naturally occurring radioactive material is a radioisotope that is radioactive in its natural physical state, not man-made, but does not include source or special nuclear material.
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC):	The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which is the federal agency responsible for the regulation of power and research reactors, and radioactive materials produced in nuclear reactors, and certain quantities of uranium and thorium.
Occupational Dose:	The dose received by an individual in the course of employment in which the individual’s assigned duties involve exposure to radiation or to radioactive material from licensed and unlicensed sources of radiation, whether in the possession of the licensee or other person. Occupational dose does not include doses received from background, from any medical administration the individual has received, from exposure to individuals administered radioactive material and released under 10 CFR 35.75, from voluntary participation in medical research programs, or as a member of the public.
Office of Oil and Gas Management (OOGM):	DEP’s Office of Oil and Gas Management
Radioactive Material (RAM):	A material—solid, liquid, or gas—which emits radiation spontaneously.

Radiation:	The ionizing particles (alpha, beta, others) or photons (X or gamma ray) emitted by radioactive materials in the process of decay or nuclear transformation.
Radiation Worker:	The term, as defined by 10 CFR Part 835, refers to a general employee whose job assignment involves operation of radiation producing devices or working with radioactive materials, or who is likely to be routinely occupationally exposed above 0.1 rem (0.001 Sv) per year total effective dose.
Radioisotope:	A radioactive isotope of an element.
Source Term:	The calculated value assigned to each load of TENORM-containing waste. It is calculated by multiplying the measured or calculated concentration of radium-226 in pCi/g by the total tonnage of the load of waste being disposed.
Source Term Allocation (STA):	The calculated value of the maximum amount of source term that may be accepted by a landfill in a fixed period of time.
Source Material:	(1) Uranium or thorium or any combination of uranium and thorium in any physical or chemical form; or (2) ores which contain, by weight, 0.05 percent or more of uranium, thorium, or any combination of uranium and thorium. Source material does not include special nuclear material.
Special Nuclear Material:	(1) Plutonium, uranium-233, uranium enriched in the isotope 233 or in the isotope 235, and in any other material that the Department, pursuant to the provisions of Section 51 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. § 2011 et seq.), determines to be special nuclear material but does not include source material; or (2) any material artificially enriched by any of the foregoing but does not include source material.
Total Effective Dose Equivalent (TEDE):	Means the sum of the deep dose equivalent (for external exposures) and the committed effective dose equivalent (for internal exposures).

Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (TENORM):

A technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material not subject to regulation under the laws of the Commonwealth or the Atomic Energy Act, whose radionuclide concentrations or potential for human exposure have been increased above levels encountered in the natural state by human activities.

Note: When disposed, TENORM-containing wastes are managed under the SWMA.

Transuranic (TRU) Radioactive Material:

Material contaminated with elements that have an atomic number greater than 92, including neptunium, plutonium, americium, and curium. TRU waste disposal is strictly regulated by the NRC and DOE.

Underground Injection Control (UIC) Well:

Wells which are subject to the provisions of 40 CFR Part 144 (relating to underground injection control program).

Well Site:

The term, as defined by 25 Pa. Code § 78.1, is an area occupied by the equipment or facilities necessary for or incidental to the drilling, production, or plugging of a well.

II. TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

A. Background

DEP has the responsibility of protecting the health and safety of the residents of the Commonwealth and the environment from toxic and hazardous materials. This includes most sources of radiation. RAM can appear in both the municipal and residual waste streams. RAM in waste can come from NORM, TENORM, or man-made radioisotopes. Man-made radioisotopes are regulated by the U.S. NRC and/or the individual Agreement States. Accelerator-produced radioactive materials have traditionally been regulated by DEP, though recently NRC gained the authority to regulate it. Except for disposal of waste and oil and gas industry operations that may generate it, NORM and TENORM are not regulated in Pennsylvania, unless it results in radiation doses exceeding the limits set forth in Title 25, Chapter 219 of the Pennsylvania Code. However, in the case of radium-226, DEP does regulate individual discrete sources above 0.1 microcurie (μCi), as set forth in 25 Pa. Code Chapter 217. There are also DOT and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations that apply to TENORM while on public transportation routes or exposing workers respectively. When disposed, certain types of RAM, including NORM and TENORM, are regulated by DEP's BWM under authority granted by the Solid Waste Management Act (SWMA).

In March 2008, DEP assumed authority from NRC to regulate man-made RAM (i.e., byproduct, source, and small quantities of special nuclear material). DEP regulates man-made RAM as set forth in 25 Pa. Code Chapters 215-237. The licensing of RAM may be through specific or general license, or the RAM may be unregulated, deregulated, or exempted from regulation by a variety of federal and state regulatory authorities. When disposed, certain types of RAM, including NORM and TENORM, are regulated by BWM under authority granted by the SWMA.

State and federal regulations require that those who are licensed to handle radioactive materials will maintain strict controls relative to the use and disposal of the material and will take appropriate actions to prevent unauthorized releases of radioactive materials in solid waste. Licensees are encouraged to investigate ways of effectively monitoring institutional waste streams coming from facilities using radioactive material before the waste leaves the facility. The NRC has issued guidance to RAM licensees for the "Management of Wastes Contaminated with Radioactive Materials" in Information Notice 99-33 (Dec. 1999).

There are a number of consumer and industrial items containing RAM in general use that are distributed under a regulatory "exemption" or "general license;" that is, the fabricator or distributor must be licensed, but the individual owner/user does not have a "specific license." Sources of RAM that are exempt are assumed by the NRC to be discarded in municipal waste during their normal life cycle. All generally licensed RAM must be returned to the manufacturer for proper recycling or shipped for LLRW disposal (e.g., self-luminous tritium EXIT signs). For the more hazardous higher-activity, specifically licensed RAM and sources, the NRC and DEP require disposal at a licensed LLRW facility.

Soils, rocks, bricks, gypsum wall board, slag from metal processing, waste from coal ash or coke processing, rock cuttings, drill cuttings, and sludges from processing fluids at oil and gas (O&G) well sites and similar wastewater treatment residuals may contain some elevated natural radioactivity. Depending on their origin, these materials may emit enough radiation to set off the radiation alarms at solid waste facilities. These examples may be considered NORM or TENORM. In 2015, DEP completed an extensive TENORM Study (TENORM Study)¹. This study and ongoing investigations and operational experience with TENORM management has contributed significantly to the update of this guidance.

Pennsylvania's municipal and residual waste management regulations require the following types of facilities to develop an action plan, more specifically referred to as a Radiation Protection Action Plan (RP Action Plan), that specifies the procedures for monitoring for and responding to RAM entering the facility, as well as related procedures for training, notification, recordkeeping, and reporting, in accordance with this policy:

- Municipal waste landfills. (25 Pa. Code § 273.140a)
- Construction/demolition waste landfills. (25 Pa. Code § 277.140)
- Municipal Waste transfer facilities. (25 Pa. Code § 279.110)
- Commercial municipal waste composting facilities that will receive sewage sludge or unseparated municipal waste, or both. (25 Pa. Code § 281.119)
- Resource recovery and other municipal waste processing facilities. (25 Pa. Code § 283.113)
- Noncaptive residual waste landfills. (25 Pa. Code § 288.139)
- Noncaptive residual waste disposal impoundments. (25 Pa. Code § 289.138)
- Noncaptive residual waste transfer facilities. (25 Pa. Code § 293.111)
- Noncaptive residual waste composting facilities. (25 Pa. Code § 295.120)
- Noncaptive residual waste incinerators and other noncaptive residual waste processing facilities. (25 Pa. Code § 297.113)

In addition to the above-listed facilities, UIC wells and well sites where wastes, such as fluids or drill cuttings, that have been generated by the development, drilling, stimulation, alteration, operation, or plugging of an oil or gas well are processed, are also required to develop an RP Action Plan and monitor for RAM, in accordance with 25 Pa. Code § 78a.58(d) and this policy. If an RP Action Plan is required, the plan must be submitted to and approved by the Department. Facilities, UIC wells or well sites that are required to develop an RP Action Plan must submit the RP Action Plan to DEP for approval. RP Actions Plans must be approved by DEP prior to the commencement of waste processing or disposal activities.

Appendix A of this guidance provides a summary of the radiation monitoring and RP Action Plan requirements contained in the municipal and residual waste management regulations and the unconventional O&G operator regulations that reference this policy. As noted above, there are numerous natural, man-made, exempt, licensed, and non-licensed RAM that may be detected by a facility or well site through their radiation monitoring procedures. The intent of this policy and required RP Action Plans is to

¹ PA DEP TENORM Study, see: <http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Energy/OilandGasPrograms/OilandGasMgmt/Oil-and-Gas-Related-Topics/Pages/Radiation-Protection.aspx>.

ensure monitoring for and appropriate management of RAM, and identify information needed in a RP Action Plan, when required, such that workers, the public, and the environment remain protected.

Operators of facilities and well sites must comply with applicable regulatory requirements and equip facilities or well sites with suitable gamma radiation detection devices to monitor incoming loads of waste for radioactive materials in the waste. Further, they should have and implement an appropriate RP Action Plan that is approved by DEP and developed in accordance with this policy, or in a manner at least as protective of the environment, facility, well site, staff, and public health and safety and meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The facility or well site operators should have access to equipment with the ability to characterize, and if needed, identify radioisotopes. For Pennsylvania facilities that are not required to monitor for RAM (e.g., metal recyclers), but choose to do so as a best management practice, this guidance document should also be followed. This guidance is intended to assist facilities or well sites with the development of RP Action Plans.

B. Radiation Protection Action Plans (RP Action Plan)

Fundamentally, the RP Action Plan should be designed to detect and validate the presence of radioactive material, and if needed, identify the type of radioactivity present, measure the level of radiation emitted, and determine the actions needed to protect workers, the public, and the environment. Staff implementing an RP Action Plan should keep in mind the phrase, “detect, identify, and determine” (or DID) when monitoring for radioactivity.

Detecting radiation and dealing with radioactive materials in the waste stream is a multiple-phase process. RP Action Plans should include information relating to how the facility or well site operator plans to address the following:

- Monitoring and detection of gamma radiation;
- Personnel training;
- Awareness of items that may contain RAM;
- Initial response to the detection of RAM;
- Notifications - within the company, to DEP, and to others as necessary;
- Characterization of the radioactivity;
- Determination of disposition; and
- Record-keeping.

Below is a basic outline for an RP Action Plan:

- A description of the facility or operation;
- A layout map showing the designated area, should one be needed;
- A list of the types of RAM that may be present in the waste;
- A description of radiation detectors used and calibration and maintenance procedures;
- Procedures for surveying, monitoring, and responding to detected RAM;
- A description of instruments used for identification and characterization of RAM;

- Staff training plan for radiation monitoring and use of detection equipment;
- A description of the proposed processing or disposal of the RAM or waste;
- If applicable, routine media sampling and environmental surveillance for RAM;
- Emergency contact list;
- Notifications to management and DEP if required; and
- Records and reporting.

The RP Action Plan will give direction to operating staff and facility users regarding procedures for detecting and dealing with RAM. The details of these plans will vary somewhat with the type of facility or well site; however, in most respects they are similar, except for disposition of the RAM. In some cases, the facility or well site operator may have the option of onsite processing or disposal of RAM with DEP concurrence or pre-approval. Alternately, the waste may be transported to a permitted facility for processing or disposal. A processing or disposal facility, or well site, may reject incoming waste due to its radioactive characterization. However, once RAM has been identified in the waste, it may not be transported on public roads without an evaluation for compliance with DOT regulations. If the detected RAM cannot be processed or disposed of at the facility or well site, or it is otherwise rejected, DEP has the authority to issue transporters a DOT Special Permit allowing the waiver of some DOT regulations if certain conditions are satisfied. However, DEP cautions well sites and certain facilities permitted to process O&G waste to fully evaluate the levels of RAM (e.g., radium-226) in fluids, sludges, and pipe scale. Transport of these materials on public roads must comply with DOT regulations in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations as related to Class 7 hazmat “radioactive material.”

Approved RP Action Plans become part of the facility’s permit and must be followed by the facility, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the facility’s permit or 25 Pa. Code §§ 273.140a(c), 277.140(c), 279.110(c), 281.119(c), 281.119(c), 283.113(c), 288.139(c), 289.138(c), 293.111(c), 295.120(c), and 297.113(c), whichever is applicable. Revisions to a facility’s approved RP Action Plan must also be approved by DEP through a permit modification.

RP Action Plans required for processing residual waste on a well site become part of the operator’s approved alternative waste management practice(s) and any revisions to approved alternative waste management practice(s) for processing residual waste on a well site may require revising the RP Action Plan. Any revisions made to the RP Action Plan for processing residual waste on well sites should be submitted to DEP’s OOGM for review or approval.

As part of the submission of a proposed RP Action Plan for solid waste facilities, DEP may approve the processing and/or disposal of deregulated short-lived RAM (e.g., I-131, Tc-99m, Tl-201, etc.) from a patient having undergone a medical procedure, low concentration and small quantities of TENORM in solid waste, and consumer products containing exempt RAM. If large volumes and high-concentration TENORM wastes are routinely disposed of in a Commonwealth landfill, DEP may require long-term monitoring of leachate and ground water for total radium-226 plus -228. This may require providing appropriate justification and/or pathway analysis for modeling potential radiation exposure to the public and facility. Pathway analysis and/or modeling for potential radiation exposure to well site staff may also be needed.

C. Dose Limits for the Public and Workers

The public and occupational annual dose limits that will be utilized by DEP in evaluating submitted RP Action Plans are as follows:

Affected Group	Regulatory Limit	Description
General Public	4 pCi/L radon	considered a member of the “public”
Facility staff	30 pCi/L radon	if considered as “radiation worker”
Facility staff	5,000 mrem	if licensed RAM is utilized and staff are considered as “radiation worker”
Facility staff	100 mrem	considered member of the “public”
Vehicle driver	100 mrem	considered member of the “public”
General Public	4 mrem / 5 pCi/L	EPA standards for the drinking water pathway
General Public	10 mrem	NRC standards for the air pathway
General Public	25 mrem	from TENORM disposal, with all pathways combined

The above radiation concentrations are based on NRC and EPA regulations and guidance, respectively. The radiation dose limits are all TEDE, where an external deep dose and internal committed dose is summed. It is important to emphasize that all public, facility, or well site staff exposure to ionizing radiation should be maintained as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA). Staff will be considered members of the “public,” as it is unlikely that they will exceed the 100 mrem/year public dose limit. In a case where the 100 mrem/yr dose limit could be exceeded, the BRP could license the RAM or operation that is causing such a scenario. However unlikely, certain personnel may be considered occupationally exposed “radiation workers” if higher exposures are anticipated or licensed RAM is utilized onsite. A RP Action Plan should include consideration of relevant requirements outlined in DEP’s Standards for Protection Against Radiation (25 Pa. Code, Chapter 219) and Notices, Instructions, and Reports to Workers (25 Pa. Code, Chapter 220) if personnel are to be considered “radiation workers” if occupationally exposed.

In all reviews of proposed RP Action Plans, DEP will perform evaluations to ensure solid waste processing or disposal and well site operations do not endanger the environment, facility staff, well site staff, or public health and safety. Therefore, proposed RP Action Plans should describe the potential radiation exposure pathways for workers and members of the general public and how these expected doses were modeled. For certain solid waste facilities or well site operations where processing or disposal of solid waste may release RAM to the environment, DEP recommends the use of computer codes commonly used by regulators for such pathway analysis and dose modeling, e.g., the EPA’s various air dispersion codes or DOE/NRC’s family of RESRAD codes. For disposal of TENORM-containing waste, DEP will only accept modeling that shows the radon pathway turned on. These codes and support documentation can be downloaded from various websites. However, valid manual calculations using dispersion equations and published dose conversion factors are equally acceptable to DEP. To validate TENORM landfill waste disposal “general public” dose calculations, and to monitor potential radium migration through waste, engineered barriers and soils, DEP may

require long-term monitoring of leachate and ground water for total radium-226 plus -228, and possibly uranium/thorium and decay series.

D. Detection of Radiation

Measurements should be made in accordance with Appendix E of this guidance. Radiation detector elements should be as close as practical to the waste load and in an appropriate geometry to monitor the waste. RP Action Plans should address the following two basic scenarios, or Action Levels, when radiation is detected. These Action Levels are designed to alert the facility or operators that radioactive material may be present and, if so, the level of radiation exposure for which they should call DEP for notification and possible technical support.

1. Action Level One: A radiation monitor alarm at the facility or well site indicating the potential presence of radioactive material in a waste load.

The applicable regulations (noted in Appendix A of this guidance) require an alarm set-point, at any detector element, from a gamma exposure rate from a cesium-137 source, no higher than 10 microroentgen per hour ($\mu\text{R/hr}$) above the average local background. Instrument background shall be kept below 10 $\mu\text{R/hr}$ using shielding if needed, and the system, if capable, shall be set to detect gamma ray energies of 50 keV and higher.

2. Action Level Two: Radiation dose rates of 2 mrem/hr or greater in the cab of the waste transport vehicle, 50 mrem/hr or greater from any other surface, or the detection of contamination on the outside of the vehicle requires immediate notification to DEP and isolation of the vehicle.

An RP Action Plan should provide for immediate notification to DEP for conditions specified in the regulations (i.e., radiological conditions noted above in Action Level Two). When prohibited or licensed RAM is detected, or when a waste load is to be rejected, a DOT Special Permit must be issued in order for the load to travel public roads to the return destination.

III. IDENTIFICATION AND DISPOSITION OF RAM FOUND IN A WASTE STREAM

A. RAM from Patients Having Undergone a Nuclear Medicine Procedure

Thousands of nuclear medicine procedures are performed each year in the United States. In Pennsylvania, licensed medical facilities, such as hospitals, doctors' offices, and outpatient treatment facilities, that perform such procedures are prohibited by DEP regulations from disposal of RAM in their solid waste stream. However, when patients who have undergone a nuclear medical procedure are discharged, some of the radioactivity from the treatment may contaminate home and personal health care items that are discarded as part of regular "household waste," as defined under DOT's regulations in 49 CFR 171.8 (relating to definitions and abbreviations). Therefore, many of the radiation alarms at solid waste processing or disposal facilities are a result of short-lived RAM from residential households, where a resident of the household has recently undergone a nuclear medical procedure.

If an Action Level Two has not been exceeded, and the waste transportation vehicle only contains household waste, it's likely that the RAM is from a patient having undergone a medical procedure. Such material is deregulated by DEP, NRC, and DOT, and the disposal is deemed not to endanger the health or safety of the facility staff, the public, or the environment. If the gamma spectroscopy or other measurement indicates the radiation is located in household waste and is from a common medical radioisotope (e.g., I-131 or Tc-99m) with a half-life of 65 days or less, the facility may process or dispose of the RAM. Alternatively, the Radiation Health Physicist in the appropriate DEP Regional Office having jurisdiction over the facility may be contacted to authorize the contents of the waste load to be processed or disposed. (See Appendix B of this guidance for telephone numbers during normal and non-business hours.)

For reference, the total estimated radioactivity that may be released in a patient is detailed in NRC Regulatory Guide 8.39², which is duplicated in Table 1 of Appendix C of this guidance. The solid waste facility operator will always have the option to reject any waste load causing a radiation alarm; however, no vehicle containing RAM should leave the facility without written approval and an authorized DOT Special Permit issued by DEP (see Section II.D of this guidance, relating to the detection of radiation).

Prior to the Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005, certain byproduct material produced by an accelerator, such as Cobalt 57, were exclusively regulated by the states and referred to as NARM.

Upon formal request from the generator, and appropriate environmental analysis, DEP's BRP Director may authorize disposal of RAM with a half-life greater than 65 days, if the material is suitable under state or federal regulatory controls and meets the criteria and restrictions for "alternate disposal" under NRC's regulations in 10 CFR 20.2002. (See Appendix E of this guidance for additional procedures.)

B. RAM from TENORM-containing Wastes

In the Commonwealth, worker exposure to TENORM is not directly regulated by any federal agency or under DEP's BRP regulations. Therefore, worker exposure to ionizing radiation from TENORM in waste may be subject to OSHA regulations in 29 CFR 1910.1096. However, when disposed, TENORM-containing waste is regulated under the SWMA, DEP's BWM, or DEP's OOGM. There are many sources of TENORM-containing wastes, including residual wastes from well sites, industrial and resource extraction activities, demolition wastes, and waste resulting from municipal and industrial water and wastewater treatment.

Wastes generated by the O&G industry such as the following may contain TENORM:

- a. Drill cuttings;
- b. Produced fluid, including flow-back, brine, and any other formation fluids recovered from the wellbore. Flow-back is defined as fracturing/stimulation

² Regulatory Guide 8.39 rev 1, Release of Patients Administered Radioactive Materials. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC April 2020. A copy of the relevant table from Regulatory Guide 8.39 is attached to this document as Appendix C.

- fluids, including fracturing sand, recovered from the wellbore after injection into the wellbore;
- c. Wastewater Treatment sludge generated from the treatment of liquid waste from O&G well development operations;
- d. Filter socks;
- e. Pipe scale;
- f. Sediments formed in tank bottoms, impoundments or other containment structures used to store produced fluid; and
- g. Well pad liners, containment liners or structures, piping, etc.

As noted above, wastes generated by other industries, such as drinking water or wastewater treatment facilities, refractory material, thermal insulation wastes, demolition wastes, and wastes generated from ceramics manufacturing may also contain TENORM. All generators of TENORM-containing waste must consult with the disposal facility and follow DEP's Request to Process or Dispose of Residual Waste (Form U) procedures.

Although there are multiple waste streams resulting from oil and gas activities that may contain TENORM, including sediments, drill cuttings, filter socks, hydraulic fracturing flowback water, and other wastes associated with O&G well development, most of the relatively higher volumes and activity levels of TENORM are found in the sludge generated by facilities processing produced fluids for beneficial use or disposal. For this reason, facilities that process wastewater from O&G well development operations should develop and submit for approval an RP Action Plan. Applicants for permits for, and operators of UIC wells, should prepare for Department approval an RP Action Plan consistent with this guidance document as a component of the control and disposal plan for that facility. Operators are reminded to ensure compliance with state and federal DOT regulations for waste prior to transport on public roads. Standard gamma spectroscopy is the recommended method to assay TENORM-containing waste (with potentially high levels of radium).

Landfills that accept TENORM-containing waste for disposal should provide justification in the proposed RP Action Plan demonstrating that it can adequately handle TENORM-containing waste, taking into consideration the facility's design and operational plan (e.g., considering the facility's engineered barriers, leachate collection and treatment, and environmental monitoring) and apply for approval to dispose of TENORM-containing waste at the facility through a permit modification. The monthly and annual volume of TENORM-containing waste that the facility is permitted to accept may be limited by DEP to ensure that the dose to a member of the public residing on the landfill in the future will not exceed 25 mrem/yr with all exposure pathways (including radon) considered. DEP monitors the quantity of TENORM-containing wastes annually to ensure its disposal protocol is followed. DEP issues guidelines annually to all landfills outlining the monitoring and tracking requirements for the acceptance of TENORM-containing waste.

C. RAM from NORM-containing Wastes

If the gamma spectroscopy or other measurement indicates the radiation is from NORM and results from the undisturbed natural environment of the Commonwealth, then there are no disposal restrictions and the material can be accepted at the facility or processed at

the well site. Similarly, if the source is determined to be potassium or any related compound (e.g., potassium permanganate used for odor control), with a natural abundance K-40, there are no processing or disposal restrictions. Both of these materials are to be excluded from a landfill's STA.

D. RAM from Consumer Products and Other Devices Containing Radioactive Material

Certain consumer products containing radioactive material or exempt RAM sources, such as smoke detectors, radium dial watches or clocks, exempt thorium metal alloys (i.e., welding rods), or uranium glaze/glass products, can be visually observed in solid waste or may activate a radiation alarm at a landfill or transfer facility. A life cycle analysis of these consumer products and exempt RAM sources by the NRC notes that the public dose limits, referenced earlier, will not be exceeded when individual items are immediately accepted and disposed (see NRC NUREG-1717). The facility's RP Action Plan can allow the disposal of the specific individual items (e.g., smoke detectors) noted above when those items are found individually in a waste stream. However, the RP Action Plan should prohibit the disposal of aggregate quantities (e.g., boxes or drums) of these items without first obtaining written approval by DEP. It is recommended that smoke detectors, when visually observed in the waste, be returned to the manufacturer for appropriate disposal. If a smoke detector is identified as containing Ra-226, it is most likely a "general license" device and should be returned to the manufacturer or shipped to a licensed LLRW disposal facility. Similarly, if a "general license" tritium EXIT sign is visibly observed in the waste, it should be returned to a licensed manufacturer for recycling or shipped for proper LLRW disposal.

Consumer products containing exempt radioactive materials may be recovered by the facility and stored for ultimate disposal as LLRW by the operator.

E. Rejecting Waste Loads Containing RAM from Any Source

A facility or well site may accept waste containing RAM in accordance with this policy and the approved RP Action Plan, or it can choose to reject any waste load containing RAM. If rejected, no vehicle containing RAM can leave the facility or well site without written approval from the Radiation Health Physicist in DEP's regional office having jurisdiction over the facility or well site and, if required, an authorized DOT Special Permit. Evaluation of the need for a DOT Special Permit can be complicated and is recommended that it be done in consultation with a DEP Radiation Health Physicist. For example, if radium as TENORM is detected in a load of solid waste, and the concentration is not known, DEP could issue a DOT Special Permit even if the amount of radioactivity present in the waste not expected to exceed DOT Class 7 criteria. Similarly, if scrap steel pipe with TENORM scale is detected at a metal recycler, a DOT Special Permit could be issued to return it to the generator for proper handling and disposal. If the driver of the vehicle does not comply with this requirement, the Radiation Health Physicist in DEP's regional office having jurisdiction over the facility or well site, as well as the Pennsylvania State Police, must be immediately notified and provided the vehicle's license plate number.

In addition, a waste disposal facility should complete a DEP supplemental waste tracking form when a load of waste is rejected for disposal at the facility. The completed

supplemental waste tracking form should be sent by email to DEP's Division of Municipal and Residual Waste at ra-epmuniresidwaste@pa.gov with "SWTF" in the subject line. The waste program in DEP's regional office having jurisdiction over the facility and the generator of the rejected waste should receive a copy of the email.

F. Records and Reports

1. Overview: Each person or municipality who operates a waste facility or well site that has detected radioactive materials in any manner, or radiation levels in excess of Action Level One, to cause an alarm should maintain records of each incident, containing the information set forth in paragraph 2 of this section.
2. Daily Operational Records: In accordance with 25 Pa. Code §§ 273.311, 277.311, 279.251, 281.271, 283.261, 288.281, 289.301, 293.251, 295.271, and 297.261 operators of municipal or residual waste processing or disposal facilities must maintain daily operational records that record each incident in which radioactive material is detected in a waste load, including the following:
 - a) The date, time, and location of the occurrence;
 - b) A brief narrative description of the occurrence;
 - c) Specific information on the origin of the material, if known;
 - d) A description of the RAM involved, if known;
 - e) The name, address, and telephone number(s) of the supplier, handler, or transporter of the RAM contaminated waste, and name of the driver;
 - f) The final disposition of the material (processed, disposed, or rejected);

Facilities operating under the terms and conditions of a general permit issued pursuant to the municipal or residual waste regulations relating to beneficial use that are required by the terms and conditions of the permit to develop and implement a RP Action Plan, must also maintain daily operational records, including records relative to the detection of radioactive material received at the facility. General permits issued pursuant to the municipal or residual waste regulations that require a permittee to develop and implement a RP Action Plan should mimic the recordkeeping requirements of this guidance.

Well sites where processing of waste occurs or UIC wells that are required to develop and implement a RP Action Plan must also maintain daily operational records, including records relative to the detection of radioactive material received, as required by authorization granted by OOGM.

For waste that is rejected by a facility or well site, a record of each rejected load and the reason for the rejection should also be maintained. Facilities or well site should complete and submit information relating to rejected waste in accordance with Section III.E of this guidance, relating to rejecting waste loads containing RAM from any source, and any applicable forms or instructions for reporting rejected waste provided by DEP.

3. Monthly Operational Reports for municipal or residual waste disposal facilities: Operators of municipal or residual waste disposal facilities that accept

TENORM-containing waste for disposal should also track and report detected RAM on a monthly basis, by completing a monthly TENORM report on forms provided by DEP. The report should be submitted to DEP by the fifth day of each month for all the TENORM detected in the previous calendar month. The following information should be included for each TENORM-containing waste load that triggers landfill radiation detection monitors:

- a) The date of the occurrence;
- b) The ticket number, Form U approval number (EC #), and waste code for the waste load;
- c) The name of the generator of the waste;
- d) If the waste load is transported directly to a landfill from a well site, then the well name, municipality, and county related to the well site;
- e) The $\mu\text{R/hr}$ reading from a handheld device for the center-line mid-point of the right and left sides of the waste load;
- f) The name of the radioactive isotope that was detected by the landfill radiation detection monitor and identified during the waste analysis using the handheld device; and
- g) The tonnage of the TENORM-containing waste in the load.

4. Annual Operation Report: Operators of municipal or residual waste processing or disposal facilities, must submit to DEP an annual operation report in accordance with 25 Pa. Code §§ 273.313, 277.312, 279.252, 281.272, 283.262, 288.283, 289.303, 293.252, 295.272, and 297.262 (relating to annual operation report). The annual operation report must include a record of all detected RAM and should summarize the information required in the daily operational records. A letter should be provided to DEP if no radioactive materials are found during the reporting year.

Facilities operating under the terms and conditions of a general permit issued pursuant to the municipal or residual waste regulations relating to beneficial use that are required by the terms and conditions of the permit to develop and implement a RP Action Plan, must also submit an annual operation report, including a summary of all detected RAM. General permits issued pursuant to the municipal or residual waste regulations that require a permittee to develop and implement a RP Action Plan should mimic the recordkeeping requirements of this guidance.

Operators of well sites where processing occurs onsite through an alternative waste management authorization issued by OOGM should satisfy the reporting requirements required for the authorization.

5. Special Reporting: Operators of municipal and residual waste processing or disposal facilities, including well sites, will be required to submit to DEP results of any special radiological surveys or media sampling required by regulation or order.

G. Monitoring Equipment

Facilities and well sites required to monitor for radiation emitted from radioactive material must have appropriate monitoring equipment onsite (see Appendix D of this guidance for more information). Employees should be trained on the proper use of all fixed and portable equipment. Additionally, facility and well site operational staff should be trained to visually monitor waste during transfer or unloading for the potential presence of RAM. Specifically, they should be able to identify the “Caution Radiation” symbol (below) on containers and items that may not be detected by gamma monitors (e.g., tritium “EXIT” signs).

CAUTION RADIATION SYMBOL



TRITIUM EXIT SIGN



(Photo from Wikimedia Commons)

APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF DEP’S SOLID WASTE AND OIL AND GAS RADIATION MONITORING REGULATIONS

There are numerous chapters and sections in the Land Resources (Article I), Municipal Waste (Article VIII), and Residual Waste (Article IX) Management regulations that contain the requirements for radiation monitoring. DEP’s O&G regulations also require well sites where processing of waste occurs to monitor for radiation. Below are the regulatory citations and language that direct the regulated community to this guidance document on radiation monitoring.

1. Map and grid requirements applicable to solid waste processing or disposal facilities.

- § 273.133(a)(14)
- § 277.133(a)(14)
- § 279.103(a)(18)
- § 281.112(a)(20)
- § 283.103(20)
- § 288.133(a)(14)
- § 289.133(a)(13)
- § 293.103(a)(18)
- § 295.112(a)(20)
- § 297.103(20)

An application shall contain a topographic map of the proposed permit and adjacent areas showing a designated area for vehicles for use in the event of the detection of waste containing radioactive material. The designated area shall, by location or shielding, protect the environment, facility staff, and public from radiation originating in the vehicle. This guidance document describes various factors to consider in determining an appropriate designated area.

2. Radiation protection action plan requirements applicable to well sites, UIC wells, and solid waste processing or disposal facilities.

- § 78a.58(d)
- § 78.18
- § 91.34
- § 273.140a
- § 277.140
- § 279.110
- § 281.119
- § 283.113
- § 288.139
- § 289.138
- § 293.111
- § 295.120
- § 297.113

For facilities issued permitted under the municipal or residual waste regulations:

- a) An application shall contain an action plan specifying the procedures for monitoring for and responding to radioactive material entering the facility, as well as related procedures for training, notification, recordkeeping and reporting.
- b) The RP Action Plan shall be prepared in accordance with this guidance document or in a manner at least as protective of the environment, facility staff, and public health and safety and which meets all statutory and regulatory requirements.
- c) The RP Action Plan shall be incorporated into the landfill’s approved waste analysis plan.

For well sites:

Well sites operating under Section 3273.1 of the 2012 Oil and Gas Act and in accordance with 25 Pa. Code §§ 78a.58 and 78a.63a are not required to monitor wastewater entering the well site that is intended to be beneficially used, directly and without processing, to develop, drill, or stimulate O&G wells at that site.

Oil and gas well sites operating under Section 3273.1 of the 2012 Oil and Gas Act and in accordance with 25 Pa. Code §§ 78a.58 and 78a.63a, are required to monitor wastewater entering the well site that is to be processed. At least one tanker load of wastewater per new source is to be surveyed, documented, and evaluated per the action levels identified in Section II.D of this guidance document. Under these conditions, a RP Action Plan should be developed specifying procedures for monitoring and responding to radioactive material produced by the processing of waste generated at the well site that are created from or used for the development, drilling, stimulation, alteration, operation, or plugging of oil or gas wells, as well as related procedures for training, notification, recordkeeping, and reporting.

Additionally, operators of UIC wells should prepare and submit a RP Action Plan. Under these conditions, a RP Action Plan should be developed for well sites specifying procedures for monitoring and responding to radioactive material produced by the processing of waste generated at the well site that are created from or used for the development, drilling, stimulation, alteration, operation, or plugging of oil or gas wells, as well as related procedures for training, notification, recordkeeping, and reporting.

3. Basic limitations applicable to well sites, UIC wells, and solid waste processing or disposal facilities.

- § 273.201(l), (m), and (n)
- § 277.201(m), (n), and (o)
- § 279.201(i), (j), and (k)
- § 281.201(g), (h), and (i)
- § 283.201(k), (l), and (m)
- § 288.201(g), (h), and (i)
- § 289.201(f), (g), and (h)
- § 293.201(g), (h), and (i)
- § 295.201(g), (h), and (i)
- § 297.201(g), (h), and (i)
- § 219.5(a)-(b)

a) The following radioactive material controlled under specific or general license or Order authorized by any federal, state, or other government agency may not be disposed at the facility or well site, unless specifically exempted from disposal restrictions by an applicable Pennsylvania or federal statute or regulation:

- (1) NARM;
- (2) Byproduct material;
- (3) Source material;
- (4) Special nuclear material;
- (5) TRU radioactive material; and
- (6) LLRW.

b) The following radioactive material may not be disposed at the facility or well site, unless approved in writing by DEP and the disposal does not endanger the environment, facility, or well site staff or public health and safety:

- (1) Short-lived radioactive material from a patient having undergone a medical procedure;
- (2) TENORM; and
- (3) Consumer products containing radioactive material.

c) The limitations in subsections (a) and (b) above do not apply to radioactive material as found in the undisturbed natural environment of the Commonwealth.

4. Radiation monitoring and response applicable to well sites, UIC wells, and solid waste processing or disposal facilities.

- § 273.223
- § 277.222
- § 279.222
- § 281.221
- § 283.220
- § 288.222
- § 289.230
- § 293.223
- § 295.222
- § 297.223
- § 78a.58(d)

- (a) An operator shall implement the approved RP Action Plan.
- (b) An operator shall monitor incoming waste, as applicable, in accordance with this guidance document or in a manner at least as protective of the environment, facility staff, well site staff, and public health and safety. Monitoring shall meet the requirements of this section and the facility's or well site's approved RP action plan.
- (c) Radiation detector elements shall be as close as practical to the waste load and in an appropriate geometry to monitor the waste. The radiation monitoring system shall be set to alarm at a level no higher than 10 μ R/hr above the average background at the facility or well site when any of the radiation detector elements are exposed to a cesium-137 gamma radiation field. Radiation detector elements shall be shielded to maintain the average background below 10 μ R/hr. If capable of energy discrimination, the radiation monitoring system shall be set to detect gamma rays of a 50 keV energy and higher.
- (d) An operator shall have portable radiation monitors capable of determining the radiation exposure or dose rate and presence of radiological contamination on a vehicle that has caused an alarm. Upon a confirmed exceedance of the alarm level in subsection (c) above, a radiological survey of the driver and vehicle shall be performed.
- (e) An operator shall notify DEP immediately and isolate the vehicle when radiation dose rates of 2 mrem/hr or greater are detected in the cab of a vehicle, 50 mrem/hr or greater are detected from any other surface, or contamination is detected on the outside of the vehicle.
- (f) Monitoring equipment shall be calibrated at a frequency specified by the manufacturer, but not less than once a year.
- (g) If radioactive material is detected, the vehicle containing the radioactive material may not leave the facility or well site without written DEP approval and an authorized DOT Special Permit.

5. Daily operational records for solid waste processing or disposal facilities.

- § 273.311(b)(10)
- § 277.311(b)(10)
- § 279.251(b)(11)
- § 281.271(b)(9)
- § 283.261(b)(11)
- § 288.281(b)(8)(iv)
- § 289.301(b)(7)(iv)
- § 293.251(b)(11)
- § 295.271(b)(7)
- § 297.261(b)(11)

The daily operational record shall include a record of each incident in which radioactive material is detected in waste loads. The record shall include:

- (a) The date, time, and location of the occurrence;
- (b) A brief narrative description of the occurrence;
- (c) Specific information on the origin of the material, if known;
- (d) A description of the radioactive material involved, if known;
- (e) The name, address, and telephone numbers of the supplier or handler of the radioactive material and the name of the driver; and
- (f) The final disposition of the material.

See Section III.F of this guidance for additional information relating to records and reports.

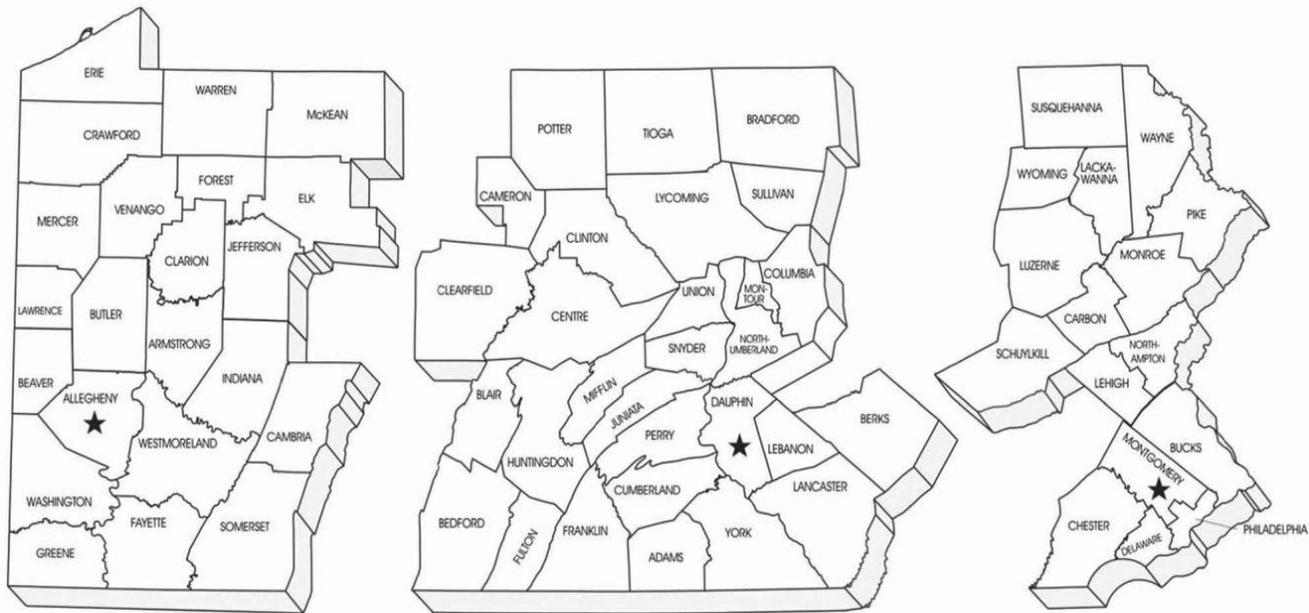
6. Annual operation report for solid waste processing or disposal facilities.

- § 273.313(b)(9)
- § 277.312(b)(9)
- § 279.252(b)(6)
- § 281.272(b)(9)
- § 283.262(b)(6)
- § 288.283(b)(12)
- § 289.303(b)(10)
- § 293.252(b)(9)
- § 295.272(b)(10)
- § 297.262(b)(9)

The annual operation report, which shall be submitted on a form supplied by DEP, shall include a record of detected radioactive materials.

See Section III.F of this guidance for additional information relating to records and reports.

**APPENDIX B: NOTIFICATION OF INCIDENTS OF RAM IN SOLID WASTE AND/OR
REQUEST FOR DOT SPECIAL PERMIT**



Department of Environmental Protection		
<u>Area Health Physicist</u>	<u>Area Health Physicist</u>	<u>Area Health Physicist</u>
<p>Business hours: (412) 442-4227 Non-business hours: (412) 442-4000</p> <p>Northwest Region: Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Counties</p> <p>Southwest Region: Allegheny, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties</p>	<p>Business hours: (717) 705-4700 Non-business hours : (866) 825-0208</p> <p>Northcentral Region: Bradford, Cameron, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union Counties</p> <p>Southcentral Region: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, and York Counties</p>	<p>Business hours: (484) 250-5900 24 hrs./day</p> <p>Northeast Region: Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties</p> <p>Southeast Region: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties</p>

APPENDIX C: ACTIVITIES AND DOSE RATES FOR AUTHORIZING PATIENT RELEASE FROM MEDICAL FACILITIES³

Table 1. Activities and Dose Rates for Authorizing Patient Release†				
Radioactive Material	COLUMN 1 Activity at or Below Which Patients May Be Released		COLUMN 2 Dose Rate at 1 Meter, at or Below Which Patients May Be Released*	
	(GBq)	(mCi)	(mSv/hr)	(mrem/hr)
Ag-111	19	520	0.08	8
Au-198	3.5	93	0.21	21
Cr-51	4.8	130	0.02	2
Cu-64	8.4	230	0.27	27
Cu-67	14	390	0.22	22
Ga-67	8.7	240	0.18	18
I-123	6.0	160	0.26	26
I-125	0.25	7	0.01	1
I-125 implant	0.33	9	0.01	1
I-131	1.2	33	0.07	7
In-111	2.4	64	0.2	20
Ir-192 implant	0.074	2	0.008	0.8
P-32	**	**	**	**
Pd-103 implant	1.5	40	0.03	3
Re-186	28	770	0.15	15
Re-188	29	790	0.20	20
Sc-47	11	310	0.17	17
Se-75	0.089	2	0.005	0.5
Sm-153	26	700	0.3	30
Sn-117m	1.1	29	0.04	4
Sr-89	**	**	**	**
Tc-99m	28	760	0.58	58
Tl-201	16	430	0.19	19
Y-90	**	**	**	**
Yb-169	0.37	10	0.02	2

† The activity values were computed based on 5 millisieverts (0.5 rem) total effective dose equivalent to a member of the public.

* If the release is based on the dose rate at 1 meter in Column 2, the licensee must maintain a record as required by 10 CFR 35.75(c) because the measurement includes shielding by tissue. See Regulatory Position 3.1, “Records of Release,” for information on records.

** Activity and dose rate limits are not applicable in this case because the radionuclide is a pure beta emitter with minimal exposures to members of the public resulting from activities normally administered for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

³ **Source:** Regulatory Guide 8.39 Rev 1, Release of Patients Administered Radioactive Materials. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. April 2020. This Table is provided as an indicator of the type and quantity of RAM in patients when released after nuclear medicine procedures. Activity levels in patients may be much higher if used in therapy vs. diagnosis, and, many new emerging technologies may utilize additional short-lived radionuclides (e.g., Lu-177).

APPENDIX D. GUIDELINES FOR RADIOLOGICAL MONITORING AND CHARACTERIZATION EQUIPMENT

1. General Information About Radiation Detectors

In general, radiation detection equipment consists of the detector and electronics to convert the signal received by the detector into meaningful values. The passage of radiation through the detector (or probe) causes an impulse to be generated within the detector, which is converted into a preset unit, usually counts per minute (cpm). The following are general types of detectors likely to be used in waste monitoring:

- a) The first, called a Geiger-muller (G-M) counter with thin window probe, converts electrical discharge pulses into counts, which are displayed on a meter. This is the best type of detector for detecting beta particles because most of the beta particles that pass into the detector will register. However, certain low-energy beta particles will not penetrate through the outer wall of the detector and, therefore, will not be detected. Examples of radioactive materials emitting such low-energy beta particles include carbon-14 and tritium (hydrogen-3), which are commonly used in medical research programs and may inadvertently be disposed of in waste. This type of detector is gas-filled and is less efficient at detecting gamma radiation because most of it passes through the detector without generating a pulse. Nevertheless, G-M counters are normally used in hand-held instruments, and a “pancake” type thin window G-M probe can be used for alpha, beta, and gamma contamination measurements when properly calibrated.
- b) A second type of radiation detector also uses a probe that converts the impulses caused by the radiation striking the detector surface into counts, which are recorded on the meter. However, this type of detector differs from the G-M counter in that the signal transferred to the meter is dependent upon the radiation type and energy striking the detector. Typically, this type of radiation detector is called a scintillation detector. Scintillation detectors convert the radiation energy into a light impulse within the probe. The amount of light generated is based on the amount of radiation that strikes the probe. This light impulse is then converted to a measurement that may be used to determine the energy of the radiation and the total amount of radiation. Because of this capability, scintillation detectors are useful in determining the type of radioactive material present in the waste as well as the relative radiation hazard associated with the material. Scintillation detectors are also more efficient at detecting gamma radiation than a G-M counter because they are solid material (i.e., a greater number of interactions occur between the detector and the radiation yielding a greater number of counts). Zinc sulfide scintillation detectors may be used to quantify the amount of alpha particle radiation from contamination materials, although this is often conducted in laboratories rather than field settings. In addition, the scintillation medium may be liquid, thus allowing greater contact of the medium with the radioactive material and further increasing the efficiency of the measurement. Liquid scintillation is often used to quantify the amount of radioactive materials that emit low-energy beta particles, such as carbon-14 and tritium. However, this technique is employed exclusively in laboratories, rather than in the field.

Sodium iodide (NaI) crystals, germanium crystals, zinc sulfide coatings, and specially formulated plastic materials are the most common media used in solid scintillation

detectors. Plastic scintillation detectors may be more sensitive to beta/gamma radiation than NaI detectors due to size and window thickness; however, neither detect alpha radiation. In addition, plastic detectors are usually more resistant to environmental stresses than NaI detectors and can be purchased in larger sizes, allowing better geometry for detection of radioactive material in waste. However, though plastic detectors may be less expensive than NaI detectors, they may not offer the same degree of discrimination in terms of identifying the energies of the gamma radiation. Solid state (non-scintillation) germanium detectors are often used in laboratories for precise determination of the type and amount of radioactive materials present. Although some germanium detectors are sufficiently rugged to be used in the field, most are designed for use in laboratories.

2. Facility and Well Site Monitoring

Many solid waste and metal recycling facilities have installed radiation detection equipment at the entrance portal to the facility or in conjunction with other onsite facilities, such as scales. In such installations, the radiation detector elements (e.g., NaI crystals or plastic scintillator) are typically installed to screen incoming waste or metal, and should be installed, operated, and maintained in a manner that ensures that the measurements are meaningful and fulfill the objectives for detecting radiologically contaminated waste. The detectors should be positioned as close as practical to the waste load and calibrated so that they measure radiation [in $\mu\text{R/hr}$, or equivalent counts per unit time] emitted from vehicles that are used to haul the solid waste or metal into or out of the facility. The waste load portal detectors are normally scintillation type detectors. In the scenario where time permits (e.g., waste loads are infrequent or where fixed portals are not used) or fixed portal monitors become inoperable, hand-held microR meters may be used to scan incoming waste loads. Typically, a well site will utilize hand-held radiation detection instruments.

Both fixed and portable scintillation, as well as G-M detectors can be calibrated to display radiation in units of exposure rate ($\mu\text{R/hr}$), or dose equivalent rate ($\mu\text{rem/h}$). Equipment that displays counts per unit time should have calibration factors that can be related to these qualities. The radiation unit displayed by the detector is less important than the selection of the appropriate type of radiation detector element or probe and the proper subtraction of background radiation. Factors that should be considered when developing radiation detection and monitoring programs within a RP Action Plan are:

- Area background radiation level;
- Detector efficiency and ruggedness;
- Detector calibration and response checks;
- Detector positioning and shielding;
- Detector element physical protection;
- Counting time;
- Alarm set point;
- Overall system sensitivity; and
- Alarm response procedures and training.

Because of the complex nature of radiation detection instrumentation and the multiple objectives for which such instruments may be deployed, facility or well site staff should be trained to determine the appropriate type of instrument and/or detector probe to be used at a facility or well site based on the established operational objectives. In addition, it is recommended that only

individuals with proper experience and training (e.g., a manufacturer's representative or knowledgeable health physicist) should be permitted to initially install and calibrate fixed radiation detection equipment.

3. Monitoring Equipment - General Recommendations

Facilities and well sites must comply with specific regulatory requirements, but the following general recommendations for monitoring equipment may be used for initial detection of radioactive material at solid waste facilities and well sites:

- a) The monitoring equipment used at well sites, solid waste, and metal recycling facilities should be calibrated no less frequently than annually, and (if utilized) its function should be tested daily using a check source for which the instrument's expected response has been previously determined.
- b) Monitoring equipment could consist of both portable (hand-held) and fixed radiation monitoring equipment. Portable instrumentation should have multiple probes for contamination and a range of gamma dose rate measurements from 10 $\mu\text{R/hr}$ to at least 100 mrem/h.
- c) Fixed monitoring equipment should be capable of detecting and displaying ambient background radiation levels. For both portable and fixed instrumentation, the equipment should provide a visual readout of the $\mu\text{rem/h}$, $\mu\text{R/hr}$ or count rate (e.g., cpm) level. Should the background radiation level be above 10 $\mu\text{R/hr}$, the detector elements will require shielding to maintain the rate below this level.
- d) The readout on the instrumentation should allow either scale multiplying factors or logarithmic scales to display higher radiation levels.
- e) Portable instrumentation should be powered either by replaceable batteries or power cells with charging units and provide indication if battery/power cell capacity is not at levels for proper unit function. Fixed instrumentation should be line operated (e.g., 110V AC).
- f) Radiation monitors should be installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations, with the detector elements as close as practicable to the waste load (i.e., close as possible and preventing physical damage). The alarm set-point for fixed monitoring equipment can be no higher than 10 $\mu\text{R/hr}$ above background, using a cesium-137 gamma radiation field at the radiation detector element(s). The normal ambient gamma background in Pennsylvania ranges from about 5 $\mu\text{R/hr}$ to 25 $\mu\text{R/hr}$. Instrument readings in $\mu\text{R/hr}$, or equivalent counts per unit time (e.g., cpm), will need to be averaged during calibration to determine the appropriate alarm set point. If capable of energy discrimination, the radiation monitor shall be set to detect gamma rays of a 50 keV energy and higher. The alarm should provide an audible signal to the operator and may provide a visible signal that the alarm set point has been exceeded. The operator should be able to reset the audible signal from the readout position. Written indication of radiation levels, such as by a data log printout or chart recording, may be available as an option for the readout.

- g) The detector element assemblies for fixed monitoring may be located at or near the weigh scale for vehicles. Provision should be made to stop or slow the vehicle during the monitoring for radioactive material, with a geometry and collimation of the radiation detectors to maximize system sensitivity. It is recommended an appropriate housing and other barriers be installed to protect the detector assembly from physical damage due to vehicles and from environmental conditions, such as precipitation, high humidity, and thermal variation.
- h) If the detector assembly for fixed monitoring equipment is supplied with electrical power other than the monitoring unit, provision should be made to display power condition or availability to the detector assembly.
- i) The range of readout for portable (hand-held) monitoring equipment and various probes should be 10 μ R/hr to at least 100 mrem/hr and have a known gamma energy response. A “pancake” type G-M probe will be adequate for gross counting of wipes taken for gross contamination evaluations of vehicles. Again, hand-held microR meters would be suitable for well sites and temporary vehicle monitoring if fixed systems become inoperable.

4. Characterization Equipment

Characterization equipment can be significantly more complex and expensive than detection equipment. Therefore, it is acceptable for solid waste, well sites and metal recycling facilities to merely have prompt access to characterization equipment (e.g., through a health physics consultant) rather than owning it. In this case, it must be explicitly stated in the RP Action Plan. Additionally, well sites and solid waste processing or disposal facilities may utilize commercial radio-chemistry laboratories or field characterization equipment with procedures and traceability to national radiological standards for characterizing solid and liquid waste for DOT shipping compliance.

If a radiation alarm is determined to be valid at a solid waste or well site, evaluation of waste may require supplies, calibrated survey meters with capabilities similar to those specified above, and any of the following to determine the specific radioisotope, and if contamination is present:

- a) Portable MCA coupled to an NaI detector or other solid-state detector. Appropriate calibration source(s) will also be needed to check the library of spectra.
- b) Probes for survey meter capable of detecting beta and gamma radiation. Depending upon the survey meter and probe(s) used for beta/gamma monitoring, a different probe could be obtained for alpha monitoring, if desired.
- c) Supplies for taking samples for laboratory analysis, such as wipes (or smears), containers for water and soil/waste samples, plastic bags, indelible markers, trowels, tongs, etc., would be useful to have on hand.
- d) Plastic tarps, disposable protective clothing, and gloves for personnel handling potentially contaminated waste. (*Note: The use of some types of protective masks requires that the employing firm have an approved respirator qualification program.*)

- e) A supply of radiation warning signs, rope, tape, etc.
- f) Supplies and information for data analysis, e.g., scientific calculator, survey forms, tables of radioisotopes with half-life, etc.

For routine monitoring, detection, and radioisotope identification of common patient contaminated household solid waste (e.g., with I-131) or TENORM waste from well sites (e.g., with Ra-226), the use of trained onsite staff may be appropriate. That is, recent MCA's have become more user-friendly in recent years, with good medical and industrial source gamma spec libraries. However, when radiation measurements exceed Action Level Two – the DEP is to be notified immediately. Access to, and utilization of, a consultant health physicist is also recommended.

APPENDIX E: GUIDELINES FOR RP ACTION PLANS FOR DETECTION AND HANDLING OF RADIOACTIVITY AT SOLID WASTE FACILITIES AND OIL AND GAS WELL SITES

1. Procedures for Development and Review of RP Action Plans

A. Qualifications of Persons Preparing the RP Action Plan

Plans should be prepared by individuals having, at a minimum, the following qualifications:

- 1) Two years of on-the-job training in health physics; or one year of on-the-job training in health physics plus one year of formal college-level study in health physics, physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, or radiation science.
- 2) Experience with radiation detection and measurement, and in developing radiation safety procedures and plans.

Comprehensive certification by the American Board of Health Physics satisfies numbers 1 and 2, above. It is recommended that facilities employ a certified health physicist (CHP) as a consultant for developing and implementing their RP Action Plan.

B. Implementation of the RP Action Plan

The provisions of the RP Action Plan should be activated whenever situations arise in which the pre-established action levels are exceeded. Provided onsite operational facility personnel can appropriately respond to the radiological scenarios at Action Levels One and Two, the Action Plan may reference the use of corporate or consultant health physics support staff for further RAM characterization.

C. Persons Responsible for Implementation of the RP Action Plan

Each facility or well site should designate an individual responsible for implementation of the RP Action Plan. This individual should have adequate authority to implement the Plan. If the individual(s) implementing the RP Action Plan is/are different from the individual(s) who prepared the RP Action Plan, the RP Action Plan should specify a minimum one-day training session in the fundamentals of radiation safety and detection.

D. Revision of the Plan

The plan should be reviewed annually and updated periodically by the permittee. Revisions should be submitted to DEP for review and approval for any changes to approved alternate waste management practices for radioactive materials generated from processing residual wastes on an well site, or through a permit modification for facilities operating under a permit issued under the municipal or residual waste regulations. At a minimum, this should occur when any of the following occurs:

- 1) Applicable DEP regulations or policies are revised.
- 2) The RP Action Plan fails during an incident.

- 3) The facility or well site operation changes in a manner that would impact implementation of the RP Action Plan.
- 4) The individual responsible for implementing the plan changes.
- 5) The monitoring equipment used is changed.
- 6) The designated area for vehicles in which RAM has been detected changes.
- 7) As otherwise required by DEP or permittee.

2. Content and Format of RP Action Plans

A. General Instructions

The main elements of the RP Action Plan should cover all appropriate regulatory requirements and are described in this basic guidance document. Details are outlined below.

Certain RP Action Plan elements may not be entirely applicable or appropriate for a specific facility, operation or type of incident. For example, this guidance document was originally developed for solid waste facilities but now applies to well site operations that might generate TENORM waste through onsite processing. In these cases, the person preparing the RP Action Plan should act accordingly and *provide a brief explanation as to why the RP Action Plan element(s) in question are not applicable or appropriate and explain how the proposed plan is at least as protective.*

The most important thing to remember in developing an RP Action Plan is that the actual effectiveness of the Plan will depend upon its simplicity, readability, summary instructions, and implementation training for facility operational staff. Recall the ‘DID’ approach of detection, identification, and determination of actions needed based on the situation at hand.

B. Detection, Action Levels, and Initial Response

Fixed and portable radiation monitoring systems should be calibrated at least annually to a traceable cesium-137 source. This radiation standard should be traceable to the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology. Radiation monitors should be response-checked on a routine daily basis when in use. Monitoring systems must be operated in a manner that addresses Action Levels One and Two, and procedures provide appropriate notifications for each as described in Section II.D. of this technical guidance document (relating to detection of radiation). The monitoring of waste for radioactivity should be performed within the boundaries of the permitted site. See Section C of this appendix for additional information.

Decision Tree of Recommended Actions

An example of a typical ‘decision tree’ for determining appropriate steps when radioactivity is detected is in Appendix I of this guidance.

Solid Waste Vehicles

Each vehicle transporting waste that is leaving the site of generation and/or suspected of containing TENORM, and each vehicle entering a solid waste processing or disposal facility should be monitored for RAM. At well sites, monitoring for RAM will be conducted in conjunction with the processing of wastewater and/or drill cuttings. Placement or removal of these wastes into tanks and roll-off boxes is more likely, thus screening them can be substituted for vehicle screening, where applicable. If the alarm level of 10 $\mu\text{R/hr}$ over background is exceeded when a vehicle is at the monitoring location, the following procedures are recommended:

- 1) Reset the monitor alarm and evaluate the vehicle or container a second time.
- 2) If the alarm level is still exceeded, promptly survey the vehicle surfaces at a distance of 2 inches (5 cm) with a portable radiation survey meter to determine if Action Level Two levels are exceeded, and if an area of highest radiation level can be determined. Mark this location with chalk if other gamma spectroscopy measurements are to be performed.
- 3) If surveying the vehicle with a portable survey meter at 2 inches (5 cm) fails to reveal the presence of radioactive material, scan the driver with a portable survey meter (or have them stand between the monitor detectors) to determine if the driver has triggered the alarm. Alarms have been triggered in the past by drivers who have undergone nuclear medicine procedures involving radioactive material. If this is the case, and the driver alone has triggered the alarm, make a record of the alarm; however, no further action under this guidance document is necessary.
- 4) Action Level One: If the radiation monitor alarm activated on a second count, the following procedures are recommended:
 - a) Remove the vehicle to the Designated Area for vehicles found to contain RAM (see section D below). Contact the individual responsible for supervising response to alarms at the facility or well site. If the waste load is to be rejected, contact the appropriate DEP Area Health Physicist for approvals. If disposal or processing is considered, keep the load onsite until the nature of the RAM and proper actions are determined. Do not allow the vehicle or container to leave the facility or well site without the permission of DEP and if required, the driver being issued a DOT Special Permit signed by DEP's Area Health Physicist or their authorized representative. If a driver leaves the facility or well site with a contaminated waste load, the driver must carry a copy of the signed DOT Special Permit. *(Note: Once a solid waste facility has an approved Action Plan and trained staff, it is anticipated that facility survey data and the DOT Special Permit can be exchanged electronically to allow for immediate action on the part of DEP.)*
 - b) If the driver leaves with the vehicle without a DOT Special Permit and before the RAM can be evaluated, immediately contact the Pennsylvania State Police and DEP's Area Health Physicist listed in Appendix A and

apprise that individual of the situation. Provide them with any information you may have on the vehicle such as make, model, color, company name, license plate number, time of departure, direction in which the vehicle was traveling, and, if possible, the intended destination. This is to ensure that the driver is safe but does not dispose of the contaminated waste improperly.

- 5) Action Level Two: If the dose rates indicated by a radiation survey at a distance of 2 inches (5 cm) equal or exceed either limit in this Action Level on the exterior or in the cab of the vehicle, remove the driver and all other personnel from the immediate area. Similarly, if contamination is detected by wiping vehicle areas that may have contacted the waste during loading, or through seams that may leak liquid, isolate the vehicle in the designated area and call DEP's Area Health Physicist for your location as listed in Appendix B. Proceed as directed by the Area Health Physicist.

O&G Vehicles

Where detection is unlikely (e.g., water tanker trucks), surveying a fraction of loads entering or leaving the well site may be allowed. The RP Action Plan should clearly state the frequency of surveys. These surveys should follow the procedure listed above for solid waste vehicles. Examples of reduced frequency may be: one load per new water source; one load per day; or, one load out of every 20. Any O&G vehicle involved in a transportation accident with the release of solid or liquid material containing TENORM shall prompt a radiological survey of impacted vehicles, facilities, roadways, soils, water bodies, and sediments. Results should be compared to the standards noted in Appendix H of this guidance and reported to the Department's Area Health Physicist.

Well Sites Fixed Equipment and Tanks

Surveying of fixed equipment, such as tanks and pipelines, should initially be performed on a monthly basis. The survey schedule may be reduced to a quarterly frequency after one year. Surveys should be performed as close as practical to the item being surveyed, but not exceeding 6 inches (15 cm).

C. Designated Area

For solid waste facilities and well sites, the RP Action Plan should include the location of a Designated Area for vehicles found to contain RAM. This area is to be used for surveys and, if needed, to isolate a vehicle or container to maintain personnel radiation exposure ALARA. If surveys show that either exterior dose rate limit in Action Level Two is exceeded, but there is no removable contamination on the exterior of the vehicle and the dose rate in the cab is below 50 mrem/hr, the vehicle should be promptly moved to the Designated Area for an additional characterization or evaluation by facility or DEP staff. The area should be appropriate for the various types of RAM potentially found in waste, size of facility, size of truck, employees in the proximity of the truck, and any other suitable steps warranted by the potential situation at hand and site-specific facility layout. Protection of the health and safety of facility operators and the

environment may be achieved through consideration of time, distance, shielding, and contamination containment.

At well sites equipment is frequently moved. Therefore, it is acceptable that these sites do not have a singular designated area. There must be a procedure outlined in the RP Action Plan for establishing one, as needed.

D. Characterization

Immediate disposal or processing of waste with short-lived RAM from patients or individual consumer products containing exempt RAM (i.e., smoke detectors) is typical at solid waste facilities. The RP Action Plan must have procedures for characterizing the type of radioactive material present in the waste. It is acceptable for facilities to just have prompt access to characterization equipment (e.g., through a health physics consultant or contract laboratory) instead of owning the equipment, if it is stated in the RP Action Plan. Characterization is best executed under the direct supervision of the person who prepared the RP Action Plan or another similarly trained and qualified individual able to use a portable MCA. The RP Action Plan should address steps to confirm the radiation level detected by an appropriate monitoring device and identify the radioisotope(s). As noted previously, follow-up depends on the type of RAM found, and the use of the “DID” approach (i.e., detect, identify and determine) is key to what needs to be done next.

At Action Level One, the procedure to identify the radioisotope must include means to determine the gamma ray spectrum. Procedures used in the characterization phase should be situation specific and will be determined by many factors including the type of truck and how it is loaded, the nature of the waste, radiation levels indicated by the survey, highest dose rate, location of RAM in the load, instrumentation and personnel available, weather conditions, if off-loading the waste is needed, and other factors.

At Action Level Two, radiation protection personnel from DEP and perhaps federal agencies may come onsite to provide additional guidance and assistance.

In general, appropriate characterization procedures should include the following:

- 1) If the cab radiation level is over 2 mrem/hr, the vehicle surface radiation level is over 50 mrem/hr, or radioactive contamination is detected, the facility should immediately notify DEP’s Area Health Physicist.

If there is no radioactive contamination, or the vehicle surface is less than 50 mrem/hr and the cab radiation level is less than 50 mrem/hr, the facility should implement the following procedure:

- a. Promptly relocate the vehicle or container to the Designated Area (or establish an isolation zone).
- b. Using appropriate instrumentation and measurement set-up, identify the radioisotope (i.e., via gamma spectroscopy).

- c. If the gamma spectroscopy indicates the radiation is from RAM with a half-life of 65 days or less, and the vehicle is only transporting household waste, the detected RAM is most likely from a patient having undergone a medical procedure, and the facility may process or dispose of the waste load.
 - d. If the gamma spectroscopy indicates the radiation is from RAM with a half-life greater than 65 days, or if the vehicle is transporting waste that is not comprised solely of household waste, then the facility should contact DEP.
 - e. If the waste load is rejected, the facility should contact DEP for a DOT Special Permit.
- 2) In the designated area, survey the exterior of the vehicle with a portable survey meter set at the most sensitive setting and hold meter no more than 2 inches (5 cm) from all vehicle surfaces. Mark areas where radiation levels appear to be the highest. If containerized, monitor the waste during unloading from the vehicle. If the radiation levels from the vehicle or any container exceed 50 mrem/hr at any time during unloading, stop off-loading the waste, remove personnel from the area, and call the DEP Area Health Physicist at the telephone numbers provided in Appendix B.
 - 3) If contamination is found or the dose rate on the vehicle or cab exceeds Action Level Two, DEP staff will oversee surveying of the waste, vehicle or containers (if waste is containerized in the vehicle). Personnel who are handling the waste to isolate the source should have appropriate training, wear radiation monitoring devices, protective clothing including coveralls, boots, gloves, and dust masks to avoid skin contamination, inhalation, or ingestion with the radioactive material or other potentially hazardous material. The Action Plan and facility should provide for personal protective equipment for facility or consultant personnel if waste off-loading is anticipated.
 - 4) If the waste is containerized, remove the individual waste containers (if not contaminated) from the vehicle and survey each with a survey meter. Look for signs and container labels that might identify the radioactive material or other hazards and the point of origin. Caution should be exercised to ensure that injuries do not occur during removal of the waste containers. Do not attempt to open containers and sort through the waste. The waste may contain sharps, biological waste, and other pathological or hazardous waste that could cause immediate and more significant risks to the workers. If contamination is detected, contact DEP.
 - 5) If the waste load is in bulk form and cannot be processed or disposed of at the facility or is rejected, remove the bulk waste until the estimated location of the radioactive source is approached. Survey bulk waste removed with the portable meter to isolate the RAM. When the source is located, attempt to separate the RAM from the waste, provided it can be done without jeopardizing the health and safety of workers due to other hazards present in the waste. The RP Action Plan

should specify precautions to be taken to monitor external exposure and prevent workers from becoming contaminated by the radioactive material in this process. The contaminated material should be placed in containers and taken to the Designated Area where it can be stored safely and in a manner that protects facility staff and prevents environmental contamination (e.g., due to runoff, infiltration, pests, etc.) until the means of disposition is determined.

- 6) If radiation is detected at more than 50 mrem/hr above background levels on the surface of any container, isolate this area within the facility property and contact the DEP Area Health Physicist.
- 7) The area(s) where radioactive material is identified per (5) and (6) above should be roped off or otherwise secured to prevent persons from entering areas where radiation levels exceed 2 mrem/hr and labeled with appropriate signs. Radiation levels in areas occupied by operational staff should be kept ALARA. The contaminated waste should be physically secured against removal or inadvertent disposal, or it should be under observation by facility staff at all times.
- 8) If radioactive material is not detected in any of the waste containers or in the bulk waste, resurvey the exterior of the vehicle. Mark any areas where radiation levels exceed background levels. The source of the radiation may be the transport vehicle itself (i.e., contamination or a small sealed source).

In general, any radioactive source recovery work on solid waste or metal for recycling that exceeds Action Level Two should be done under the supervision of a DEP Radiological Health Physicist or in consultation with a Health Physicist.

E. Determination of Origin

The RP Action Plan should include procedures to determine the place where the waste originated that contained RAM. These procedures should be thorough (e.g., interview driver and review vehicle manifest) and capable of providing the best attempt to determine the origin of the waste. This effort is most likely to be successful with prompt action once the RAM is detected.

F. Disposition and/or Storage

The RP Action Plan should have procedures for rejection, disposition, or perhaps storage for decay of the waste containing RAM in accordance with the requirements and recommendations set forth in this guidance document. The procedures must take into account the radiation level, the type and amount of waste involved, the radioactive material present in the waste, the form in which the radioactive material is present, availability of the storage option at the waste processing site or well site, and the health and safety of personnel handling such waste or present in the immediate area.

Experience to date indicates that many, if not most, alarms at solid waste facilities involve radioactive materials used in medical procedures which have half-lives sufficiently short (i.e., less than 65 days) that it is practical to either process or dispose of the waste immediately, or to store the waste in a secure area until it has decayed to a non-

radioactive form. If the waste is contaminated with short-lived radioisotopes from medical procedures, and the facility operator requests to dispose or process at a solid waste facility immediately, the proposed RP Action Plan should contain a justification and/or pathway analysis indicating that the RAM will decay in place or not cause a radiation dose to the general public above respective limits noted above. Similarly, for NORM, TENORM, or individual consumer products containing RAM, the disposal or processing should not cause a radiation dose to the general public above applicable limits.

Alternative disposal for licensed radioactive material may be requested under 10 CFR 20.2002 and applicable NRC and Agreement State regulations. If a high activity sealed source is found, external funding for licensed disposal may be available. Contact the Department for related information.

G. Training

The RP Action Plan should provide for sufficient training of individuals responsible for implementing the Plan in the areas of:

- 1) Fundamentals of radiation safety;
- 2) Operation of the monitoring instrumentation used by the facility or well site, including daily operation and other response checks;
- 3) Record keeping; and
- 4) All aspects of the RP Action Plan.

H. Other Items to be Included

- 1) Provision for full and abbreviated alarm procedures to be posted where they can be seen by the personnel performing the waste monitoring. The alarm procedures should be coordinated in advance with facility or well site personnel, including appropriate notification of DEP or other applicable state or local agencies and authorities.
- 2) Posting of notices so that waste haulers will be aware of the procedures that will be followed if radiation and radioactive material is detected in their vehicle, including notification of out-of-state Radiation Control authorities and declaration of where the waste will be returned. Again, any rejected waste load must have an approved DOT Special Permit from DEP.
- 3) Procedures to ensure that at least one individual per shift is trained in and responsible for the implementation of response procedures in the event an alarm is activated.
- 4) Informing generators and transporters in advance of the procedures in the event that an alarm and Action Level is exceeded, especially if the procedures include “waste load rejection” provisions under which the suspect waste may be promptly returned to the shipper.
- 5) Instructing facility or well site personnel on the appropriate procedures to be followed in the event the RP Action Plan is activated. The instructions should

include a detailed contingency plan in the event that unknown or uncharacterized RAM in waste is detected, or criteria of Action Level Two is exceeded.

I. Long-term Monitoring and Termination of Operations

At well sites and facilities that are generating, handling, processing, or disposing of O&G liquids (e.g., hydraulic fracturing flow-back wastewater or produced water) or solids containing elevated levels of TENORM, the RP Action Plan should include procedures for monitoring and mitigation of spills or leaks of wastewater. Similarly, O&G liquid storage tanks once drained and taken out of service should be surveyed for radiological contamination. All radiation monitoring and survey records must be maintained for five years. Landfills and UIC wells that have accepted large volumes of TENORM waste should include radium-226 and radium-228 in their long-term environmental monitoring programs to monitor leachate (for landfills) and detection of radiological groundwater contamination. Appendix H of this guidance provides a table of Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) for environmental monitoring and cleanup of spills at well sites and other equipment and facilities.

Radiation Protection Action (and Monitoring) Plan Checklist

The Solid Waste and Oil & Gas regulations state: “The action plan shall be prepared in accordance with the Department’s *Guidance Document on Radioactivity Monitoring at Solid Waste Processing and Disposal Facilities*, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection, No. 250-3100-001.” As outlined in this guidance, “Certain RP Action Plan elements may not be entirely applicable or appropriate for a specific facility or type of incident. In these cases, the person preparing the RP Action Plan should act accordingly and provide a brief explanation as to why the RP Action Plan element(s) in question are not applicable or appropriate to the proposed facility or well site and, if applicable, provide an alternative practice or state that the implemented RP Action Plan is equally protective. This checklist was developed to assist the regulated community with the requirement. It is intended as a quick reference list of common plan items, and to draw attention to frequently observed deficiencies. It is not a comprehensive list of RP Action Plan requirements.

Page #	Plan Element
	Name of facility and applicable DEP identification number(s)
	Description of qualifications of person preparing the plan.
	Description of what the facility does / is proposing to do. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types and forms of waste expected
	Description of licensed radioactive material, NORM, and TENORM that might be detected.
	The name and/or title of the person responsible for implementing the Radiation Protection Action Plan. Also, there must be a responsible individual for each and every shift.
	List of names and contact phone numbers in an Emergency Contact list.
	Description of Action Levels and how the facility will implement them.
	Description of DOT Special Permit and when it must be used.
	Commitment to contact State Police if alarming vehicle leaves the site or facility.
	Description of Designated Area (and / or identified on site area drawing).
	Description of worker training.
	Description of detection <i>and</i> identification equipment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What equipment is on site and what is it used for Radiation Equipment calibration frequency Radiation Equipment response check Identification equipment, e.g., multichannel analyzer (can be possessed by others)
	Survey and sampling protocols. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of surveys, e.g., vehicle, waste, tanks, piping, building, area, etc. Frequency of surveys and sampling.
	Dosimetry - In use or not, and why.
	Consideration to call a Certified Health Physicist consultant for assistance.
	Description of when and when not to contact DEP, and how detected RAM will be managed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When: Action Level 2; licensable radioactive material identified; DOT Special Permit to be issued When NOT: K40, short-lived medical isotopes, anything with a half-life less than 65 days
	Records and reports to be maintained and made available to DEP.
	Identify when a RP Action Plan revision is needed.

Page #	Additional Non-landfill Plan Elements Considerations
	Coordination with facility operator before sending O&G waste trucks to a landfill. This gives the receiving landfill a chance to confirm they have TENORM allotment available and reduces the likelihood of a waste truck being turned away.
	Revise the RP Action Plan when needed.

APPENDIX F: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL IN SOLID WASTE

1. Introduction

Radioactive material is used for a variety of beneficial purposes in the United States, including medical diagnosis and treatment and materials testing. The use and disposal of most types of radioactive material are regulated by the NRC and individual states. Other types of radioactive material are regulated by the EPA and the states. Although LLRW must be disposed of in a licensed radioactive waste disposal facility, occasionally unregulated RAM (e.g., from patients having undergone a medical procedure) is found at solid waste processing sites that are not licensed by the NRC or states for the control radiation hazards. Additionally, with increasing frequency, TENORM or consumer products are detected as well as less frequent lost or improperly discarded higher hazard radioactive sources.

Radioactive materials in municipal waste have been detected with increasing frequency at landfills, incinerators, transfer stations, and associated facilities. This increase can be partially attributed to increased use of radiation detection instruments at the solid waste facilities. The operators of facilities have been installing such instruments in response to concerns by regulatory agencies and the public or in an attempt to limit liability for potentially costly remedial actions for radioactive contamination. When radioactive contamination is detected, it often prompts an emergency response until the potential hazards posed by the waste are determined and the material is properly controlled.

2. Sources of the Contamination

It should be noted just about everything contains some trace amount of radioactivity, and the earth is continually bathed in cosmic radiation from space. Natural radioactive materials exist naturally in soil, rocks, and water. There are a great many of these radioactive materials in construction materials, food, and waste. These materials may also be concentrated artificially above naturally occurring levels in their use or industrial operations and production (e.g., O&G-generated TENORM, waste from coal ash or coke processing, rock cuttings, slag from metal processing, etc.). In addition to these naturally occurring radioactive materials, municipal waste may also contain radioactive materials that have been introduced in consumer products (e.g., most domestic smoke detectors contain the radioactive material americium-241). These detectors enter the waste stream when consumers dispose of them in municipal waste.

Although the NRC and the Agreement States (states that have assumed regulatory control over certain nuclear materials through an agreement with NRC) strictly control the possession, use, storage, transportation, and disposal of certain radioactive materials through their licensing and inspection activities, on occasion, radioactive material can find its way into municipal solid waste streams. Over the last two decades, DEP and NRC have monitored event reports involving detection of radioactive materials in municipal wastes. Based on reported incidents, the principal man-made sources of radioactively contaminated waste in municipal waste landfills are medical facilities, private and university laboratories, and radiopharmaceutical manufacturers.

The radioactive materials reported in contaminated waste have consisted primarily of the following radioisotopes: iodine-131, technetium-99m, thallium-201, gallium-67, iodine-123,

indium-111, etc. In most cases, such RAM has been legitimately released within medical patients in accordance with the NRC and state requirements. Often, old timepieces or military gauges with radium-226 are detected. However, in other cases the event has been caused in violation of applicable requirements, such as lost sealed sources of americium-241, cesium-137, cobalt-57, and iridium-192.

In the practice of nuclear medicine, radioactive materials are administered to patients for the diagnosis or treatment of illnesses such as thyroid cancer or dysfunction. NRC and Agreement State regulations allow patients receiving radiopharmaceuticals to leave the hospital or clinic when the amount of radioactive material present in their bodies has dropped to certain levels or they present a low exposure potential to members of their family and the public. (See Appendix C.) After these patients leave the hospital, they may inadvertently contaminate ordinary household waste that is then disposed of in municipal solid waste disposal facilities. Contaminated materials that have been generated by nuclear medicine practices and detected at municipal solid waste facilities include diapers, bed linens, disposable medical supplies, and general trash (e.g., food, plastic and paper dishes and utensils, newspapers, and magazines). Again, these items often become contaminated with radioactive materials when they are contacted by patients that have received the nuclear medicine administration, either while the patient is in the hospital or after the patient has returned home. Although the amount of radioactivity in the municipal or household waste is often small, detection systems used by solid waste facilities are often sensitive enough to detect such radioactive contamination. Under no scenario should a patient be required to store their radiologically contaminated solid waste in a residential setting.

Hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and universities use radioactive materials in research, including the tagging and detection of molecules in genetic research, the study of human and animal organ systems, and in the development of new drugs. There is a potential that municipal wastes may become contaminated with radioactive materials when contaminated laboratory trash is inadvertently mixed with municipal waste. Contaminated materials may include contaminated glass or plastic, gloves, animal bedding, or paper lab countertop protectors. Waste from radiopharmaceutical manufacturers is similar to the waste produced by laboratories and universities. On rare occasions, sealed sources are mistakenly discarded from such facilities and must be retrieved when detected.

In addition to radioactive material that may inadvertently be included in municipal solid waste, solid waste facilities may detect NORM, which is found in a variety of common household or construction materials. NORM, such as radium, thorium, or uranium, is often found in bricks, wall board, or building rubble containing these construction materials. It should be noted that this NORM may be present in the base material that was used to produce these construction materials. Natural potassium also contains trace amounts of the radioisotope potassium-40 (K-40). In sufficient quantities, NORM potassium salts may trigger radiation alarms. In no case, because of radiological concerns, should the presence of potassium or any related compound (with K-40 at natural abundance levels) prevent the immediate disposal or processing of solid waste.

The NRC and most Agreement States allow licensees with waste contaminated with radioactive material having a short half-life (e.g., less than 65 days) to be held for at least ten half-lives onsite at licensed facilities. After this period, the licensees are allowed to dispose of the decayed waste if it is indistinguishable from background radiation levels based on an appropriate survey.

There have been occasions when municipal waste becomes contaminated when a licensee fails to properly monitor radioactively contaminated waste before releasing it for disposal as ordinary trash. In other reported detection incidents, licensees may have properly managed the waste, but the disposal facility's detection equipment was more sensitive than the licensee's equipment.

The NRC and some Agreement State regulations also allow small quantities of specific radioactive materials used in clinical or laboratory tests to be disposed of as if they were not radioactive. Although no incidents involving the disposal of these types of radioactive material have been reported, incidents involving medical waste have shown that detection systems are capable of detecting the low levels of radioactivity associated with these exempted materials.

Some radioactive materials that could contaminate solid waste include:

<u>Radioisotope</u>	<u>Half-Life</u>	<u>Radiation Type</u>
Iodine-131	8 days	Beta, Gamma
Iodine-125	60 days	Gamma
Iodine-123	13 hours	Gamma
Technetium-99m	6 hours	Gamma
Indium-111	2.8 days	Gamma
Thallium-201	73 hours	Gamma
Gallium-67	3.3 days	Gamma
Cobalt-57	270 days	Gamma
Hydrogen-3	12 years	Beta
Lutetium-177	6.7 years	Beta, Gamma
Iridium-192	74 days	Beta, Gamma
Potassium-40	1.3x10 ⁹ years	Beta, Gamma
Radium-226	1,600 years	Alpha, Gamma
Uranium-238	4.5x10 ⁹ years	Alpha, Gamma
Thorium-232	1.4 x 10 ¹⁰ years	Alpha, Gamma
Americium-241	432 years	Alpha, Gamma

As noted above, under NRC and Agreement State regulations, some sources and devices may be possessed under a General License (GL). These items include industrial gauging equipment, old smoke detectors with Ra-226, tritium “EXIT” signs, etc. There is a real potential for such items to be present in solid waste streams. When they are identified through radiation alarms, or visual observation of a GL device or radiation warning symbol, the waste processing facility shall investigate, isolate the item, and contact DEP, if needed. RP Action Plans should contain procedures for the appropriate response if a tritium (hydrogen-3) EXIT sign or other package with a “caution radiation” symbol is observed during processing or disposal of solid waste.

3. What is Radioactivity and Radiation?

The term “radiation” as it relates to “radioactive materials” means the energetic emissions given off by unstable material as it decays. Ionizing radiation produces charged particles, or ions, in the material that it encounters and passes through. Potential adverse effects from radiation on humans are caused by these charged particles and the energy they deposit in tissues and organs.

Detailed information on radioactivity and radiation is provided in Appendix G of this guidance.

If you have questions about radiation or require more information, please contact DEP's BRP in Harrisburg at 717-787-2480 or the Area Health Physicist listed in Appendix B of this guidance for your location.

APPENDIX G: RADIATION PROTECTION FUNDAMENTALS

This Appendix is intended to provide basic information to solid waste, well sites, metal recyclers, and other facilities monitoring for radiation from TENORM or orphan sources.

1. What is Radiation?

Radiation is energy that comes from a source and travels through any kind of material and through space. Light, radio, and microwaves are types of radiation. The kind of radiation discussed in this appendix is called *ionizing radiation* because it can produce charged particles (ions) in matter.

Ionizing radiation is produced by unstable atoms. Unstable atoms differ from stable atoms because unstable atoms have an excess of energy or mass or both. Radiation can also be produced by high voltage devices (e.g., X-ray machines).

Unstable atoms are said to be *radioactive*. In order to reach stability, these atoms give off, or emit, the excess energy or mass. These emissions are called *radiation*. The kinds of radiation are electromagnetic (like light) and particulate (i.e., mass given off with the energy of motion). Gamma radiation and X-rays are examples of electromagnetic radiation. Alpha and beta radiation are examples of particulate radiation.

Interestingly, there is a “background” of natural radiation everywhere in our environment. It comes from space (i.e., cosmic rays) and from naturally occurring radioactive materials contained in the earth and in living things. Background radiation levels in the Commonwealth are typically 5 to 10 $\mu\text{R/hr}$ depending on location, but may be 25 $\mu\text{R/hr}$ or higher.

Radiation from Various Sources

External Background Radiation	55 mrem/yr, U.S. average
Natural K-40 Radioactivity in Body	29 mrem/yr
Cosmic Rays	33 mrem/yr
Consumer Products	13 mrem/yr
Air Travel Round Trip (NY-LA)	5 mrem
Chest X-ray Effective Dose	10 mrem
Radon in the Home	230 mrem/yr (variable)
Man-made (medical X-rays, etc.)	300 mrem/yr (average)

2. Types of Radiation

The radiation one typically encounters is one of four types: alpha radiation, beta radiation, X, and gamma radiation.

A. Alpha Radiation

Alpha radiation is a heavy, very short-range particle (i.e., helium nucleus) ejected from an unstable atom. Some characteristics of alpha radiation are:

- 1) Alpha radiation is not able to penetrate human skin.

- 2) Alpha-emitting materials can be harmful to humans if the materials are inhaled, ingested, or absorbed through open wounds.
- 3) A variety of instruments have been designed to measure alpha radiation. Special training in the use of these instruments is essential for making accurate measurements.
- 4) A thin window Geiger-Mueller (G-M) probe can detect the presence of alpha radiation if held close to the surface of the material.
- 5) Instruments cannot detect alpha radiation through even a thin layer of water, dust, paper, or other material because alpha radiation is not penetrating.
- 6) Alpha radiation travels only a short distance (a few inches) in air and is not an external hazard.
- 7) Alpha radiation is not able to penetrate clothing.

Examples of some alpha emitters: radium, radon, uranium, and thorium.

B. Beta Radiation

Beta radiation is a light, short-range particle (i.e., an electron) ejected from an unstable atom. Some characteristics of beta radiation are:

- 1) Beta radiation may travel several feet in air, is moderately penetrating, and can be an external hazard.
- 2) Beta radiation can penetrate human skin to the “germinal layer,” where new skin cells are produced. If high levels of beta-emitting contaminants are allowed to remain on the skin for a prolonged period of time, they may cause skin injury.
- 3) Beta-emitting contaminants may be harmful if deposited internally.
- 4) Most beta emitters can be detected with a survey instrument and a thin window G-M probe (e.g., “pancake” type). Some beta emitters, however, are very low energy, poorly penetrating radiation that may be difficult or impossible to detect. Examples of these difficult-to-detect beta emitters are hydrogen-3 (tritium), carbon-14, and sulfur-35.
- 5) Clothing, gloves, and safety glasses provide some protection against beta radiation.

Examples of some pure beta emitters: strontium-90, phosphorus-32, carbon-14, tritium, and sulfur-35. There are no gamma radiations associated with these beta emitters.

C. Gamma and X Radiation

Gamma radiation and X-rays are very long range, penetrating electromagnetic radiation. Some characteristics of gamma radiation are:

- 1) Gamma radiation or X-rays are able to travel many feet in air, and many inches in human tissue. They readily penetrate most materials and are often called “penetrating” radiation.

- 2) X-rays are like gamma rays. Sealed radioactive sources and machines that emit gamma radiation and X-rays respectively constitute mainly an external hazard to humans.
- 3) Gamma radiation and X-rays are electromagnetic radiation like visible light, radio-waves, microwaves, and ultraviolet light. These electromagnetic radiations differ only in the amount of energy they have. Gamma rays and X-rays are the most energetic of these and will cause ionization in the material they traverse.
- 4) Dense materials like lead and steel are needed for shielding from gamma radiation. Clothing provides little shielding from penetrating radiation but will prevent contamination of the skin by these materials.
- 5) Gamma radiation is easily detected by survey meters with a G-M or NaI detector probe.
- 6) Gamma radiation and/or characteristic X-rays frequently accompany the emission of alpha and beta radiation during radioactive decay.

Examples of some gamma emitters are: iodine-131, cesium-137, cobalt-60, radium-226, and technetium-99m.

3. How is Radiation Measured?

In the United States, radiation dose or exposure is often measured in the older, “conventional units” called a rad, rem, and roentgen (R). For practical purposes with gamma and X-rays, these units of measure for exposure or dose are considered equal. Thus, one (1) rad equals a rem, equals a roentgen.

Smaller fractions of these measured quantities often have a prefix, such as milli (m) means 1/1000. For example: 1 rad = 1,000 mrad; and micro (μ) means 1/1,000,000. So, 1,000,000 μ rad = 1 rad, or 10 μ R = 0.000010 R.

The “System International” of units (SI system) for radiation measurement is now the official system of measurement and uses the “gray” (Gy) and “sievert” (Sv) for absorbed dose and equivalent dose, respectively.

1 Gy = 100 rad

1 mGy = 100 mrad

1 Sv = 100 rem

1 mSv = 100 mrem

With radiation counting systems and survey meters, radioactive transformation events can be stated in units of “disintegrations per minute” (dpm) but, because instruments are not 100% efficient in detection, measurements are displayed and registered in “counts per minute” (cpm). Background radiation levels are typically less than 10 μ R/hr, but due to differences in detector size, type, and detection efficiency, the apparent background cpm reading with a fixed portal monitor and various hand-held survey meters will vary considerably.

4. How Much Radioactivity versus Material is Present?

The size or weight of a quantity of radioactive material does not indicate how much radioactivity is present. A large quantity of material can contain a very small amount of radioactivity, or a very small amount of material can have a lot of radioactivity. This is a function of the RAM's half-life.

For example, uranium-238, with a 4.5-billion-year half-life, has only 0.00015 curies of activity per pound, while cobalt-60, with a 5.3-year half-life, has nearly 513,000 curies of activity per pound. This "specific activity," or curies per unit mass, of a radioisotope depends on the unique radioactive half-life, and dictates the time it takes for half the radioactive atoms to decay.

In the U.S., the amount of radioactivity present is traditionally determined by estimating the number of curies present. The more curies present, the greater the amount of radioactivity and emitted radiation.

Common fractions of the curie are the millicurie (1 mCi = 1/1,000 Ci), the microcurie (1 μ Ci = 1/1,000,000 Ci), and the picocurie (1 pCi = 1/1,000,000,000,000). In terms of transformations per unit time, 1 μ Ci = 2,220,000 dpm.

The SI system uses the unit of becquerel (Bq) as its unit of radioactivity. One curie is 37 billion Bq. Since the Bq represents such a very small amount of radioactivity, one is likely to see a prefix on the unit noting a large multiplier used with the Bq, for example:

37 GBq = 37 billion Bq = 1 Curie
1 Bq = ~ 27 picocuries
1 MBq = 1 million Bq = ~ 27 microcuries
1 GBq = 1 billion Bq = ~ 27 millicuries
1 TBq = 1 trillion Bq = ~ 27 Curies

5. How Can You Detect Radiation?

Radiation cannot be detected by human senses. A variety of instruments are available for detecting and measuring radiation. The most common of these are:

Geiger-Mueller (G-M) Tube or Probe - A gas-filled device that creates an electrical pulse when radiation interacts with the gas in the tube. These pulses are converted to a reading on the instrument meter. If the instrument has a speaker, the pulses also give an audible click. Common readout units are: roentgens per hour (R/hr), milliroentgens per hour (mR/hr), rem per hour (rem/hr), millirem per hour (mrem/hr), and counts per minute (cpm). G-M probes (e.g., "pancake" type) are most often used with hand-held radiation survey instruments.

Sodium Iodide (NaI) Detector - A solid crystal of NaI creates a pulse of light when radiation interacts with it. This pulse of light is converted to an electrical signal, which gives a reading on the instrument meter. If the instrument has a speaker, the pulses also give an audible click. Common readout units are: microroentgens per hour (μ R/hr) and counts per minute (cpm). NaI detectors are often used with hand-held instruments and large stationary radiation monitors. Special plastic "scintillator" materials are also used in place of NaI.

(Note: For practical purposes, consider the rad, roentgen, and the rem to be equal with gamma or X-rays. So, 1 mR/hr is equivalent to 1 mrem/hr.)

6. How Can You Keep Radiation Exposure Low?

Although some radiation exposure is natural in our environment, it is desirable to keep radiation exposure ALARA in an occupational setting. This is accomplished by the techniques of time, distance, shielding, and administrative controls.

Time: The shorter the time in a radiation field, the less the radiation exposure you will receive. Work quickly and efficiently. Plan your work before entering the radiation field.

Distance: The farther a person is from a source of radiation, the lower the radiation dose. Levels decrease by a factor of the square of the distance. Do not touch radioactive materials. Use shovels, or remote handling devices, etc., to move materials to avoid physical contact.

Shielding: Shielding behind a massive object (such as a truck, dumpster, building, lead bricks, or pile of dirt) provides a barrier that can reduce radiation exposure.

Controls: Limiting access to areas having RAM present, wearing protective clothing and gloves will reduce external exposure and prevent skin contamination with loose RAM.

7. What is Radioactive Contamination?

If radioactive material is not in a sealed source container, it might be spread “contamination” onto other objects. Contamination occurs when material that contains radioactive atoms is deposited on materials, skin, clothing, or any place where it is not desired. It is important to remember that radiation does not spread or get “on” or “in” people; rather, it is radioactive contamination that can be spread. A person contaminated with radioactive material will receive radiation exposure until the source of radiation (the radioactive material) is removed.

- A person is *externally* contaminated if radioactive material is on the skin or clothing.
- A person is *internally* contaminated if radioactive material is breathed in, ingested, or absorbed through wounds.
- The *environment* is contaminated if radioactive material is spread about or is unconfined.

8. How Can You Work Safely Around Radiation or Contamination?

You can work safely around radiation and/or contamination by following a few simple precautions and administrative controls:

- A. Use time, distance, and shielding to reduce exposure;
- B. Avoid contact with the contamination;
- C. Wear protective clothing that, if contaminated, can be removed;
- D. Wash with non-abrasive soap and water any part of the body that may have come in contact with the contamination; and

- E. Assume that all materials, equipment, and personnel that came in contact with the contamination are also contaminated. Radiological monitoring is recommended before leaving an area where radioactive sources are present.

9. Is it Safe to be Around Sources of Radiation?

A single high-level radiation exposure (i.e., greater than 10,000 mrem) delivered over a very short period of time may have potential health risks. From follow-up of the atomic bomb survivors, we know acutely delivered very high radiation doses can increase the occurrence of certain kinds of disease (e.g., cancer) and possibly negative genetic effects. To protect the public, radiation workers and the environment from the potential effects of chronic low-level exposure (i.e., less than 10,000 mrem), the current radiation safety practice is to prudently assume similar adverse effects are possible with low-level protracted exposure to radiation. Thus, the risks associated with low-level medical, occupational and environmental radiation exposure are conservatively calculated to be proportional to those observed with high-level exposure. This is called the “linear non-threshold” (LNT) model for radiation protection. These calculated risks are compared to other known occupational and environmental hazards, and appropriate safety standards have been established by international and national radiation protection organizations (e.g., ICRP and NCRP) to control and limit potential harmful radiation effects.

<u>Annual Radiation Dose Limits-TEDE</u>		
Facility staff-	5,000 mrem	(if considered as “radiation workers”)
Facility staff-	100 mrem	(considered member of the “public”)
Vehicle driver-	100 mrem	(considered member of the public)
General Public-	4 mrem	(for the drinking water pathway)
General Public-	10 mrem	(for the air pathway)
General Public-	25 mrem	(for TENORM disposal, all pathways combined, including radon)

Both public and occupational dose limits are set by federal (i.e., EPA and NRC) and state agencies (i.e., DEP) to limit cancer risk. For radon, we limit the concentration in air to 4 and 30 pCi/L for residential and occupational exposure scenarios.

Lastly, it is important to remember when dealing with radiation sources in other materials or waste, there may be chemical or biological hazards separate and distinct from the radiation hazard. These chemical or biological hazards are often more dangerous to humans than the radiation hazard.

**APPENDIX H: APPLICABLE OR RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS
USED FOR RADIUM, RADON, AND TENORM**

Parameter:	Criteria:	Reference:	Potentially Apply to:
Volumetric Solids, e.g., Cleanup Criteria	3 pCi/g Total Radium (Ra-226 + Ra-228) above background	ANSI/HPS N13.53-2009, Control and Release of TENORM	Spills, Sediment, Beneficial Use Surface Soil, Surface Soil on Well Sites
Volumetric Solids, e.g., Cleanup Criteria	5 pCi/g Total Radium (Ra-226 + Ra-228) above background	US EPA Directive No. 9200.4-35, Remediation Goals for Radioactively Contaminated CERCLA Sites	Spills, Sediment, Beneficial Use Surface Soil, Surface Soil on Well Sites
Volumetric Solids, e.g., Transport Criteria	270 pCi/g and 0.27 Ci Total Radium (Ra-226 + Ra-228)	US DOT 49 CFR 173.4, Radioactive Material (with regards to transportation)	O&G Sludge, Filter Cake, Filter Socks, Scale, Cuttings, Soil, and other TENORM
Volumetric Liquids, e.g., Groundwater	5 pCi/L Total Radium (Ra-226 + Ra-228) in drinking water	US EPA Drinking Water Standards	Effluent Water from Well Sites
Volumetric Liquids, e.g., Discharges	60 pCi/L Total Radium (Ra-226 + Ra-228) direct discharge	US NRC 10 CFR 20 Appendix B, Table 2, Liquid Effluent	Effluent Water from Well Sites and Wastewater Facilities
Volumetric Liquids, e.g., Discharges	600 pCi/L Total Radium (Ra-226 + Ra-228) discharge to sanitary sewer	US NRC 10 CFR 20 Appendix B, Table 2, Liquid Effluent (assumes dilution and solubility of radium)	Effluent Water from Well Sites and Wastewater Facilities
Total Alpha Surface Contamination, e.g., Release Criteria	100 dpm/100cm ²	US NRC RG 8.23, Table 3, Criteria for Ra-226	Structural surfaces on Well Sites and within wastewater facilities, and equipment released from sites.
Total Beta Surface Contamination, e.g., Release Criteria	1,000 dpm/100cm ²	US NRC RG 8.23, Table 3, Criteria for natural Thorium including Ra-228	Structural surfaces on Well Sites and within wastewater facilities, and equipment released from sites.
Removable Alpha Surface Contamination, e.g., Release Criteria	20 dpm/100cm ² (of surface area smear sampled)	US NRC RG 8.23, Table 3, Criteria for Ra-226	Structural surfaces on Well Sites and within wastewater facilities, and equipment released from sites.

Parameter:	Criteria:	Reference:	Potentially Apply to:
Removable Beta Surface Contamination; e.g., Release Criteria	200 dpm/100cm ² (of surface area smear sampled)	US NRC RG 8.23, Table 3, Criteria for natural Thorium including Ra-228	Structural surfaces on Well Sites and within wastewater facilities, and equipment released from sites.
Volumetric Gas, e.g., Room Criteria	4 pCi/L Radon-222	US EPA, Indoor Radon Abatement Act, 1988	Buildings, General Public Exposure
Volumetric Gas, e.g., Room Criteria	30 pCi/L Radon-222 (DAC)	US NRC 10 CFR 20 Appendix B, Table 2	Occupational Exposure
Volumetric Gas, e.g., Air Effluents from an Operation or Facility	9E-4 pCi/L Ra-226	US NRC 10 CFR 20 Appendix B, Table 2	General Public
Volumetric Gas, e.g., Air Effluents from an Operation or Facility	2E-3 pCi/L Ra-228	US NRC 10 CFR 20 Appendix B, Table 2	General Public
Annual Exposure, e.g., Release and Disposal Criteria	25 mrem/year Radon and All Other Pathways "On," plus ALARA	US NRC 10 CFR 20 Subpart E, Radiological Criteria for Unrestricted Use	General Public
Annual Exposure	100 mrem/year	US NRC 10 CFR 20 Subpart D, Radiation Dose Limits for Members of the Public	General Public, Workers not trained as Radiation Workers, i.e. Well Sites and water facilities workers.
Annual Exposure	5,000 mrem/year	US NRC 10 CFR 20 Subpart C, Occupational Dose Limits	Trained Radiation Workers

APPENDIX I: FLOWCHART OF RECOMMENDED IMMEDIATE ACTIONS FOR A SOLID WASTE FACILITY RADIATION ALARM

