

Colorado Department of Health
Newport Test Site - Venting and Venting

Radiological Surveillance

On December 18, 1970, the Colorado Department of Health was notified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the Nevada Radiological Health Laboratory (SWRHL), Las Vegas, Nevada, had detected a release of radioactive material to the atmosphere which occurred at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) during a nuclear device detonation.

Upon this notification, the Department's Radiological Health Staff activated the various radiological surveillance programs to provide adequate monitoring of the situation.

Four air sampling programs were so activated. These included air sampling stations used for (1) the Nevada Test Site (NTS) Atomic Energy Commission-Rocky Flats surveillance program, (2) the Environmental Agency (EPA) and (3) the NTS-EPA network. A total of 68 air samples were collected from 46 air sampling stations throughout the State. Of these 68 samples collected, 68 were retained by the Department for analysis. The remaining 68 samples submitted to EPA, SWRHL for their determination.

A total of 164 determinations have been made on the 68 samples retained by the Department. The results of these determinations on the air samples collected deviated from background levels as determined by the Department prior to the "venting".

The Department's milk surveillance program was activated and 16 milk samples were collected from 16 farms. A total of 16 determinations were made on these samples and the results showed that the radioactivity above that observed prior to the "venting".

In conferring with representatives of the EPA, the air samples collected in Colorado and submitted to EPA for analysis have shown no increase in environmental radioactivity which can be attributed to the "venting".

Individual air sample analysis results as furnished by the Department, are tabulated in the attached results report. The results show that the concentration of long-lived beta (β) or Alpha (α) concentration was not elevated above background concentration, picocurie (2.22 disintegrations per minute per liter of air, $\mu\text{Ci}/\text{m}^3$). All milk samples had non-detectable levels of radioactivity above background levels while the naturally-occurring Potassium-40 concentration was not elevated above background levels.

In summary, radiological release of radioactive material was not detected in Colorado during the "venting" on December 18, 1970.

LARGE FILTER, HI-VOLUME AIR SAMPLING RESULTS - DECEMBER 1970 pCi/m³

#	Location	18		19*		19		20*		20		21*		21		22	
		B	α	B	α	B	α	B	α	B	α	B	α	B	α	B	α
2	Colo. Dept. of Health			.39	.249			.14	.004								
5	School Admin. Bldg.							.22	.016								
7	Aurora							.13	.009								
8	Adams City			.65	.503			.14	.010					.16	.003		
9	Englewood			.26	.165	.13	.005										
11	Cherry Creek Dam							.21	.010								
13	Jefferson County							.13	<.001								
15	Arvada							.17	.005								
16	Golden							.18	.003								
19	Essex																.14
21	IFB																.007
22	Yonkers							.14	<.001								
24	Yonkers					.21	.003	.16	.003					.20	.001		
27	Yonkers																
28	Yonkers																
29	Yonkers																
30	Yonkers																
31	Yonkers																
32	Yonkers																
33	Yonkers																
34	Yonkers																
35	Yonkers																
36	Yonkers																
37	Yonkers																
38	Pueblo																.17
41	Trinidad			.10	.004			.09	--								
60	Castle Rock			.68	.477	.16	--										
70	Windsor							.19	--								
D-1	Dow	.17	.011	.43	.070	.09	.009	1.61	.157	.16	.010	2.66	1.719	.24	.010	.11	.009
D-2	Dow	.15	.003	.35	.081	.10	.008	1.34	.124	.12	.004	2.31	1.632	.20	.007	.11	.012
D-3	Dow	.18	.010	.43	.089	.10	<.001	1.75	.255	.16	.002	2.99	2.139	.24	.004	.12	IFB
D-4	Dow	.18	.008	.39	.076	.10	.007	1.45	.214	.16	.005	2.56	1.778	.20	.009	.18	.003
D-5	Dow	.16	.002	.41	.086	.10	.100	1.70	.265	.12	.007	3.78	2.712	.18	<.001	.12	IFB
38	Specials	.14	--	3.96	***--	.18	--										

* Early count, includes short-lived activity
 ** Bad sample - small deposit
 *** Polonium 210 by alpha spectroscopy
 **** Thoron daughter activity

IFB = Indistinguishable From Background

RAN - 24 hr. Fine Air Sam. - December 1970

Total μ =

	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
Denver	1.0	4.1	1.9	4.9	1.4
				3.3	0.3

The first samplers for the 24 hr. post sampling analysis are to be installed at the 24 hr. post sampling duration. This is a result of the short-lived nature of the particulates.

NTS - 24 hr. Fine Air Sam. - December 1970

	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
Denver	*	*	*	*	*
Durango	*	*	*	*	*
Grand Junction	*	*	*	*	*
Pueblo	*	*	*	*	*
Rangely	*	*	*	*	*

* Two samplers per location. One for particulates and one for materials captured on the charcoal. Samplers manned by State personnel. All personnel and determinations made by State personnel. Individual sample results are not available at this time.