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ISSUES IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL DATA USED IN DD&ER WORKER DOSE EXPOSURES

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Sites designated for decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) or remediation are frequently from the U.S. Department of Energy operations that began during and shortly after World War II. In addition, sites have been identified that were contaminated from nuclear energy industrial activities, which have been operating in this country for several decades. The source term at each site differs and may include broad categories of several forms of contamination with radionuclides, chemicals, or combinations of radioactive and chemical materials. The reasons for the cleanup process may include the need for reutilization of the land and facilities or may come from a concern for the impact on populations surrounding these sites. Scientifically based health protection from the source terms being cleaned up is not only important for those in the surrounding communities, but also is a key concern for the workers involved in the D&D and environmental restoration (ER) cleanup process. Some of these issues will be addressed by other presentations. This paper discusses selected problems in the use of environmental data for D&D and ER worker dose exposure calculations.

The need to identify sources of potential worker dose exposure prior to beginning D&D activities at contaminated sites is not always recognized as a critical planning element by the project engineer assigned to plan, design, manage, and conduct the cleanup operations. When contractors are selected to perform the D&D or ER efforts, some previous environmental characterization already has been accomplished and documented. These data

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