
Project Category: Metabolic and Physiological Studies

Funding Source(s): AEC

Institution(s): INEL

Principal Investigator(s): C. A. Hawley

Objective(s) of Project: To obtain quantitative information on the kinetics of radioiodine transport from the point of release to the atmosphere through the entire air-vegetation-cow-milk sequence in the human food chain.

Short Description: The preliminary experiment was conducted during May and June of 1963. The experiment was conducted near the southern boundary of INEL (formerly the NRTS). Approximately one curie of Iodine-131 was released atmospherically, and deposited on pasture area downwind from the release point. Six dairy cows were placed on the contaminated pasture and seven human volunteers consumed portions of the resulting contaminated milk over an 18-day period.

During September 1964, approximately the same quantity and chemical form of Iodine-131 was atmospherically released to an area designated the Experimental Dairy Farm located on the INEL (approximately seven miles northeast of the Idaho Chemical Processing Plant). Three human volunteers were on the test area during the time of cloud passage and were later subjected to inhalation thyroid dose measurements.

During November 1965, the 1964 experiment was repeated using similar quantities and forms of Iodine-131 in the same area. Seven volunteers were seated in the test area next to high volume air samplers to correlate inhalation uptake with the amounts of iodine present in the air.

Follow-up Data: Due to the relatively short half-life of Iodine-131 (eight days) and the low thyroid doses received by the human volunteers (ingestion dose, range 230 to 630 mrad; inhalation dose, range 6.1 to 15 mrad) no follow-up data acquisition was considered necessary.

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SUMMARY FACTSHEET HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION - SFS12.003

Project Category: Metabolic and Physiological Studies

Funding Source(s): AEC

Institution(s): INEL

Principal Investigator(s): C. W. Still

Objective(s) of Project: The determination of the metabolic fate of radionuclides ingested or inhaled by humans in good health, and calibration of both static and rotational scanning instruments for the direct in-vivo measurement at internally deposited radionuclides.

Short Description: Eight human volunteers were involved with the human studies endeavor, which consisted of thirteen individual experiments conducted during the period May 1965 to January 1972. All of the eight persons involved were employed by the ID-AEC, and all were associated with the Analytical Chemistry Branch of the Health and Safety Division. Four of the experiments involved inhalation of Argon-41 (a noble gas with a half life of 1.8 hours) and nine experiments resulted in the volunteers swallowing insoluble polyethylene capsules containing microcurie amounts of radioactivity.

Follow-up Data: The short half life of Argon-41 and its small residence time in the body resulted in very small radiation doses to the volunteers. The insoluble capsules required about 24 hours to pass through the body and produced very small doses due to the quantities of radioisotopes involved. As a consequence, no follow-up data acquisition was considered necessary.

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