

# QUANTITATIVE EVALUATION OF AN AIR MONITORING NETWORK USING ATMOSPHERIC TRANSPORT MODELING AND FREQUENCY OF DETECTION METHODS

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2                   **QUANTITATIVE EVALUATION OF AN AIR MONITORING**  
3                   **NETWORK USING ATMOSPHERIC TRANSPORT MODELING AND**  
4                   **FREQUENCY OF DETECTION METHODS**

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## ABSTRACT

28

A methodology has been developed to quantify the performance of an air-monitoring network in terms of frequency of detection. Frequency of detection is defined as the fraction of “events” that result in a detection at either a single sampler or network of samplers. An “event” is defined as a release to the atmosphere of a specified amount of activity over a finite duration that begins on a given day and hour of the year. The methodology utilizes an atmospheric transport model to predict air concentrations of radionuclides at the samplers for a given release time and duration. Another metric of interest determined by the methodology is called the network intensity, which is defined as the fraction of samplers in the network that have a positive detection for a given event. The frequency of detection methodology allows for evaluation of short-term releases that include effects of short-term variability in meteorological conditions. The methodology was tested using the U.S. Department of Energy Idaho National Laboratory Site ambient air monitoring network consisting of 37 low-volume air samplers in 31 different locations covering a 17,630 km<sup>2</sup> region. Releases from six major facilities distributed over an area of 1,435 km<sup>2</sup> were modeled and included three stack sources and eight ground-level sources. A Lagrangian Puff air dispersion model (CALPUFF) was used to model atmospheric transport. The model was validated using historical <sup>125</sup>Sb releases and measurements. Relevant one-week release quantities from each emission source were calculated based on a dose of  $1.9 \times 10^{-4}$  mSv at a public receptor (0.01 mSv assuming release persists over a year). Important radionuclides were <sup>241</sup>Am, <sup>137</sup>Cs, <sup>238</sup>Pu, <sup>239</sup>Pu, <sup>90</sup>Sr, and tritium. Results show the detection frequency was over 97.5% for the entire network considering all sources and radionuclides. Network intensity results ranged from 3.75% to 62.7%. Evaluation of individual samplers indicated some samplers were poorly located and added little to the overall effectiveness of the network. Using the frequency of detection methods, alternative sampler placements were simulated that could substantially improve the performance and efficiency of the network.

51

52 **Keywords:** atmospheric transport, atmospheric emissions, air monitoring, meteorological  
53 modeling, radiation monitoring.

# INTRODUCTION

Ambient air monitoring networks are an important part of a facility's environmental monitoring program. They monitor for routine and unforeseen releases, provide verification that the facility is in compliance with radiological dose limits, and can be used to assess impact to the environment over time. The overall effectiveness of an air monitoring network is dependent on number and placement of samplers, flow rates and sampling times of the samplers, and analytical methods used to measure radionuclides in air. Placement of samplers based on the annual wind roses or annual average dispersion patterns provides a good first-cut at identifying favorable sampling locations. However, it does not provide a quantitative measure of the sampler or overall network performance for typical filter collection times (1-week), or for releases of short duration.

Earlier investigators (Pelletier 1968, Waite 1973) used methods linked to Gaussian Plume models to evaluate the probability of detecting a radionuclide release. Ritter et al. (2013) expanded upon this methodology and generalized it for use with a Lagrangian Puff dispersion model. The goal of the Ritter et al. (2013) study was to develop an objective measure of the performance (or effectiveness) of a regional network of air sampling stations as it is affected by: 1) the positions of samplers within the region relative to the positions of sources; 2) meteorology; and 3) air sampling/analysis parameters (i.e., flow rate, measurement sensitivity, and period for collection or compositing of sample collection media). Ritter et al. (2013) proposed the criterion for ‘effectiveness’ of a sampling network to be the likelihood that the activity collected by a minimum number of samplers in the network will exceed the minimum detectable activity (MDA). They also proposed the “likelihood of detection” could be based on an evaluation of the “frequency of detection.” The frequency of detection is determined using a numerical air-dispersion model that utilizes multiple independent historical meteorological data sequences and simulates releases of constant activity, beginning at various times (1-hour resolution) and extending at a constant rate over

77 various durations (1-hour increments), with each combination of release start time and duration  
78 corresponding to an equal potential time-integrated concentration (*TIC*) and offsite dose (actual *TICs* are  
79 dependent on actual meteorological conditions).

80 In this paper, the frequency of detection methodology described in Ritter et al. (2013) is generalized  
81 and fully implemented so that it can be applied using any appropriate atmospheric dispersion model.  
82 Meteorological data was on a 1-hour time resolution, but the methodology could be applied to finer time  
83 increments allowing for evaluation of sub-hour releases. The methodology is then applied to the existing  
84 sampling network at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) using a Lagrangian Puff atmospheric dispersion  
85 model. Predicted concentrations from atmospheric transport model are compared with measurements to  
86 provide confidence in model results. Finally, the model and methodology are used to suggest measures  
87 that could be taken to optimize or improve the existing network.

## 88 **Idaho National Laboratory Site**

89 The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) INL Site is a 2,305 km<sup>2</sup> reservation located on the Eastern  
90 Snake River Plain of southeastern Idaho, approximately 25 miles west of Idaho Falls (Fig. 1). Federal  
91 lands surround much of the INL Site, including Bureau of Land Management lands and Craters of the  
92 Moon National Monument to the southwest, Challis National Forest to the west, and Targhee National  
93 Forest to the north. About 60% of the INL Site is open to livestock grazing and hunting is permitted in a  
94 limited area on the northwest and northeast portions of the Site.

95 The INL was established in 1949 as the National Reactor Testing Station. The original mission of  
96 INL was to build, test, and operate various nuclear reactors and associated support facilities. Since 1949,  
97 the INL has designed and built 52 mostly first-of-their-kind nuclear reactors creating the largest  
98 concentration of reactors in the world. The isolated location ensured maximum public safety in the field  
99 of nuclear research. Today, INL is a multi-program laboratory that supports DOE missions and business  
100 lines of nuclear energy research, energy resources, science and technology, and national security. The  
101 INL Site consists of several primary facilities situated on an expanse of otherwise undeveloped terrain  
102 (Fig. 2). Buildings and structures at the INL Site are clustered within these facilities, which are typically

103 less than 5 km<sup>2</sup> in size and separated from each other by kilometers of undeveloped land. The major  
104 facilities at the INL Site are the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) Complex (ATRC); Central Facilities Area  
105 (CFA); Critical Infrastructure Test Range Complex (CITRC); Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering  
106 Center (INTEC); Materials and Fuels Complex (MFC); Naval Reactors Facility (NRF); Radioactive  
107 Waste Management Complex (RWMC); and Test Area North (TAN), which includes the Specific  
108 Manufacturing Capability (SMC).

## 109 **Air Monitoring Network**

110 The INL Site ambient air-monitoring network consists of 37 low-volume air samplers in 31 different  
111 locations (Fig. 1). Twenty-one samplers with the BEA prefix are operated by Battelle Energy Alliance  
112 (BEA), and 16 samplers with the ESER prefix are operated by the Environmental Surveillance,  
113 Education, and Research (ESER) program. There are collocated samplers at Craters of the Moon National  
114 Monument, Sugar City, Blackfoot, Idaho Falls, Van Buren Avenue (near Highway 20/26), and the  
115 Experimental Field Station

116 The low-volume air samplers are configured with particulate filters for collection of particulate  
117 radionuclides and charcoal filter cartridges for collection of <sup>131</sup>I. The samplers run continuously (24/7)  
118 and particulate filters are collected weekly and analyzed for gross-alpha and gross-beta activity. The  
119 filters are also composited quarterly (every 13 weeks) and analyzed for gamma-emitting radionuclides.  
120 Selected ESER sample composites are analyzed for <sup>90</sup>Sr, <sup>137</sup>Cs, and actinides (i.e., <sup>238</sup>Pu, <sup>239/240</sup>Pu, and  
121 <sup>241</sup>Am) each quarter on a rotating basis. BEA screens for these radionuclides using gross-alpha/beta  
122 activity and gamma analyses, and requests additional radionuclide specific analyses if results are  
123 anomalous. The average flow rate of the samplers between weekly collections is approximately 3.38 m<sup>3</sup>  
124 hr<sup>-1</sup> (2 ft<sup>3</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>).

125 Tritium is also monitored in atmospheric water vapor at five locations (Blackfoot, Idaho Falls,  
126 Craters of the Moon, Van Buren Boulevard, and Atomic City). Samples of atmospheric water vapor are  
127 collected on average over a 27-day period, but vary from 14 days in the summer when the absolute  
128 humidity is high, to about 40 days in the winter when the absolute humidity is low. The average sampler

129 flow rate is about 19.4 L hr<sup>-1</sup> and the average absolute humidity in air at the INL Site is about 0.00345 g  
130 L<sup>-1</sup>. Thus, about 43 mL of water is collected during a sampling period. From the collected atmospheric  
131 water sample, a 9 mL aliquot is taken and analyzed for tritium. The MDA for tritium in a 9 mL aliquot of  
132 collected water is 27.8 mBq (0.751 pCi).

## 133 METHODS

134 This section describes the frequency of detection methodology used to evaluate an air monitoring  
135 network. This includes a description of the atmospheric transport modeling and implementation and  
136 integration of the frequency of detection methodology with the atmospheric transport model output.

### 137 Frequency of Detection Methods

138 Frequency of detection is defined as the fraction of “events” that result in detection at either a single  
139 sampler or network of samplers. An “event” is defined as a release to the atmosphere of a specified  
140 amount of activity over a finite duration that begins on a given day and hour of the year. Assuming a  
141 single source is emitting radionuclides into the atmosphere, frequency of detection (*FD*) is defined as:

$$142 FD_{r,s} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^N f(D_{r,s,k})}{N} \quad (1)$$

143 where

144  $f(D_{r,s,k})$  = a binary function that returns 1 if the detection ( $D_{r,s,k}$ ) is true (detection), and 0 if it is false  
145 (non-detection) for radionuclide  $r$  at sampler  $s$ , and event  $k$ ,

146  $N$  = the number of “events”

147  $r$  = radionuclide index

148  $s$  = sampler index

149  $k$  = event index

150

151 The number of events is the number of release periods simulated in the assessment and depends on  
152 the number of hours of meteorological data present. For example, 8,761 hours of meteorological data are  
153 needed to model 8,760 1-hr events. Likewise, 8,784 hours of meteorological data are needed to model  
154 8,760 24-hr events. A “detection” ( $D_{r,s,k}$ ) is defined in terms of the radionuclide ( $r$ ), the sampler ( $s$ ), and  
155 the event ( $k$ ). Detection is either true or false (i.e., either the sampler can detect the activity collected from  
156 airborne sampling or it does not). Detection is assigned a true value if the following condition is met:

$$TIC_{r,s,Q,Tr} \times F \geq MDA_r \quad (2)$$

158 where

159  $TIC_{r,s,Q,Tr}$  = time-integrated concentration of radionuclide  $r$  at sampler  $s$  for release quantity  $Q$   
 160 released over time  $Tr$  (Bq-hr m<sup>-3</sup>)

162  $MDA_r$  = minimum detectable activity for radionuclide  $r$  (Bq).

163 Equation (2) assumes background contribution is negligible. In practice, the activity accumulated on  
164 the filter would include activity released by the facility and any background contribution. Whether  
165 background is important will depend on the *TIC* necessary to produce an inhalation dose of concern,  
166 and the background concentration of the radionuclide. In this application, background contributions were  
167 negligible.

168 Detections are a function of sampler performance (i.e., the flow rate and collection time), the  
169 sensitivity of the analytical techniques used to measure a given radionuclide, sampler placement relative  
170 source, and the meteorology during the release. The concentration is integrated over the time the sampler  
171 is operating ( $T_s$ ) to obtain the total activity accumulated on the sampler filter.

172 The atmospheric transport model is used to compute the *TICs* at each of the samplers for a release of  
 173 quantity  $Q$  released over a duration  $Tr$ , and sampling time of  $Ts$ . The time integrated concentration is  
 174 defined by:

175 
$$TIC_{r,s,Q,Tr} = \int_0^{Ts} C_{r,s,Q,Tr}(t) dt \quad (3)$$

176 where

177  $TIC_{r,s,Q,Tr}$  = time-integrated concentration for radionuclide  $r$  at sampler  $s$ , release quantity  $Q$ , release  
178 duration  $Tr$ , and sampling time  $Ts$  (Bq-hr m<sup>-3</sup>).

179  $C_{r,s,Q,Tr}(t)$  = concentration as a function of time for radionuclide  $r$  at sampler  $s$ , release quantity  $Q$ , and  
180 release duration  $Tr$  (Bq m<sup>-3</sup>).

181 The sampling time ( $Ts$ ) is assumed to begin at the start of the release. This makes little difference in  
182 the results as long as the release duration is within the sampling period. For example, assume the  
183 sampling period begins on Monday at 8:00 AM and the sampling time is 168 hours (one week). An  
184 unplanned 1-hour release starts on Saturday at 8:00 AM and persists for 24 hours (i.e., ends Sunday at  
185 8:00 AM). In this case, the total release is encompassed in the sampling period because the sampler filter  
186 is changed out on 8:00 AM the following Monday. This example assumes that the airborne plume from  
187 the release impacts the sampler (i.e., the plume travels in the direction of the sampler from the release  
188 point). The method may also be used to evaluate cases where the release begins a significant time into the  
189 sampling period and persists past filter change-out time.

190 As a matter of practicality,  $TICs$  are not calculated for each radionuclide and for all possible release  
191 durations. Instead, a  $TIC$  for a unit release ( $TICu$ ) is calculated for each hour of the meteorological  
192 dataset.  $TICu$  is then scaled to the actual release quantity and duration to estimate the actual  $TIC$ . The  
193  $TICu$  for a given source is defined by:

194 
$$TICu_{s,h} = \frac{\int_h^{\infty} Cu_s(t) dt}{Qu} \quad (4)$$

195 where

196  $TICu_{s,h}$  = time-integrated concentration at sampler  $s$  for a unit release rate from a given source that  
197 begins at hour  $h$  ( $\text{hr}^2 \text{ m}^{-3}$ )

198  $Cu_s(t)$  = concentration as a function of time at sampler  $s$  for a unit release rate from a given source  
199 beginning at hour  $h$  ( $\text{Bq m}^{-3}$ )

200  $Qu$  = unit release rate from given source that persists for 1-hour ( $1.0 \text{ Bq hr}^{-1}$ ).

201

202 It is important to note that the  $TICu$  values are defined for each source-sampler pair. In practice,  
203 infinity in the integrand is a finite amount of time to allow the activity emitted from the source over the  
204 1-hour period to dissipate from the model domain. Complete dissipation occurs by either transport out of  
205 the model domain or dilution, resulting in concentrations that are negligible. The longest transport  
206 distance from any INL Site source to the edge of the model domain is about 180 km. A conservative  
207 estimate of the maximum transport time was made, assuming a mean wind speed of  $1.0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and a  
208 straight-line trajectory:

209 
$$T = \frac{180 \text{ km} \times 1000 \text{ m/km}}{1.0 \text{ m/s} \times 3600 \text{ s/hr}} = 50 \text{ hrs}$$
.

210 Simulations were performed to confirm this value. If the integration time is long enough for  
211 complete dissipation, then the  $TICu$  value for 50 hours would be the same as the  $TICu$  value for 60 hours.  
212 Using 2006 meteorological data, it was found that in most cases a 50-hour integration time was sufficient  
213 for complete dissipation. However, there were some cases where the  $TICu$  value for 60-hours was slightly  
214 greater than that for 50-hours. This condition would occur during (1) very light wind speeds; (2) spatially  
215 variable wind directions, resulting in curvilinear trajectories; or (3) situations where the wind direction  
216 changed significantly during transport, resulting in recirculation of the airborne activity within the model  
217 domain. For this reason, the integration time was increased to 70-hours to assure  $TICu$  values captured all  
218 activity in the air observed at the sampler.

219 The  $TICu$  values are scaled and decay-corrected (to account for activity that decays on the filter) to  
220 obtain the  $TIC$  values for the actual release by the equation:

221

$$TIC_{r,s,Q,Tr} = \frac{\sum_{i=h}^{X+h} TICu_{s,i} e^{-\lambda_r(X+h-i)} \times Q_r}{Tr} \quad (5)$$

222 where

223  $X$  = the minimum of  $Tr$  or  $Ts$ ,

224  $\lambda_r$  = radioactive decay constant ( $\text{hr}^{-1}$ )

225  $Q_r$  = release quantity for radionuclide  $r$  (Bq).

226 Equations 1 through 5 are used to evaluate the frequency of detection at a single sampler. The  
227 frequency of detection for the entire sampling network ( $FD_{net,r}$ ) is evaluated by:

228

$$FD_{net,r} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^N fn(D_{r,k})}{N} \quad (6)$$

229 where

230  $fn(D_{r,k})$  = a binary function that returns 1 if one or more samplers in the network has a detect, and 0  
231 if no samplers in the network have a detect for radionuclide  $r$  and event  $k$

232  $N$  = the number of events.

233 The network  $FD$  is then the same if the release is detected by one sampler or multiple samplers.

234 Thus, another quantity of interest called network intensity is defined. Network intensity is the fraction of  
235 samplers in the network that have positive detection. For example, if all detections from a release  
236 originate from a single sampler in the network, then the intensity will be low. However, if the release is  
237 detected by multiple samplers in the network, then the network intensity will be relatively high. Intensity  
238 is given by

239

$$I_r = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{s=1}^{Nw} f(D_{r,s,k})}{N \times Nw} \quad (7)$$

240 where

241  $f(D_{r,s,k})$  = a binary function that returns 1 if the detection ( $D_{r,s,k}$ ) is true and 0 if it is false for  
242 radionuclide  $r$  at sampler  $s$ , and event  $k$ .

243  $N$  = number of events

244  $Nw$  = number of samplers in network.

245

## 246 Atmospheric Transport Model

247 This section describes the atmospheric transport model used to evaluate frequency of detection at the  
248 INL Site. The frequency of detection methodology does not depend on the atmospheric transport model,  
249 and any model appropriate to the modeling domain and meteorological and terrain conditions could be  
250 used.

### 251 Model Selection

252 Previous evaluations of air monitoring network designs have relied on steady-state Gaussian plume  
253 models to describe dispersion conditions during radioactive releases to the atmosphere (Pelletier 1968,  
254 Waite 1973, DOE 1991, NCRP 2010). Although these models may be appropriate for network planning,  
255 they have limited applicability for modeling the range of spatial and temporal scales necessary for  
256 evaluating network performance at the INL site. Thus, only non-steady-state Lagrangian puff dispersion  
257 models were considered for the regional analysis, although a Gaussian plume model could be considered  
258 for a local-scale analysis (<10 km). The three models considered were MDIFFH, HYSPLIT, and  
259 CALPUFF.

260 MDIFFH (Sagendorf et al. 2001) was developed by the Idaho Falls National Oceanic and  
261 Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) field office and was designed to estimate impacts over periods of  
262 up to one year or more on and around the INL Site, and is currently used to estimate annual dispersion  
263 factors from INL Site sources that are used to calculate representative individual and annual population  
264 doses. Although MDIFFH incorporates site-specific dispersion parameters and has been validated in the  
265 near field, it does not explicitly model terrain effects, utilize upper air data for vertical wind shear, include  
266 deposition and plume depletion, or allow discrete receptors (i.e., only receptors at grid nodes are allowed).  
267 The INL Site is situated on the relatively flat Eastern Snake River Plain and bordered by the Lemhi, Lost  
268 River, and Pioneer mountain ranges to the west, the Beaverhead and Centennial mountain ranges to the  
269 north, and the Big Hole and Caribou mountain ranges to the east. These features result in wind channeling  
270 between the ranges and influence diurnal air flow, resulting in spatially variable wind fields within the  
271 model domain. Although terrain effects are likely to be important because of the moderately complex  
272 terrain surrounding the INL Site, meteorological data collected by NOAA and used by MDIFFH  
273 implicitly incorporate these terrain effects into model simulations. Thus, the lack of discrete receptors was  
274 the most significant limitation of MDIFFH in terms of application to this study.

275 The HYSPLIT (Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory) model was developed by  
276 the NOAA Air Resources Laboratory (Draxler 1999; Draxler et al. 2013) for emergency response  
277 modeling. The HYSPLIT model includes terrain effects (as resolved by the meteorological data),  
278 accounts for vertical wind shear, and includes deposition. Special gridded meteorological datasets  
279 covering the entire United States at various resolutions are used as basic input to the model. However, the  
280 model is not configured off-the-shelf for incorporating site-specific surface meteorological data as  
281 collected by NOAA.

282 The CALPUFF model (Scire et al. 2000a; Scire et al., 2000b) includes features and options that were  
283 considered important for this study. Namely, the model includes explicit treatment of terrain features;  
284 deposition and plume depletion; incorporation of upper air data (allowing for the effects of vertical wind  
285 shear to be modeled), and allows discrete receptors so the actual location of INL samplers are modeled

286 instead of using the grid node nearest the sampler. CALPUFF is the U.S. Environmental Protection  
287 Agency (EPA)-approved, long-range (i.e., greater than 50 km) model for evaluation of air quality impacts  
288 in Federal Class 1 areas (i.e., national parks). For these reasons, CALPUFF was the model selected for  
289 this analysis. The EPA-approved version of the model (Version 5.8, Level 130731) was used in the  
290 calculations. The CALPUFF model code consists of three modules: (1) a meteorological model  
291 (CALMET), (2) a Lagrangian puff dispersion and deposition model (CALPUFF), and (3) a post-  
292 processing program (CALPOST). Numerous preprocessing programs are also used to develop input data  
293 sets. Computations were made using an eight-core MacPro workstation running OS X Lion. The  
294 FORTRAN source code was compiled using the gfortran (GNU Project) compiler for the Mac Unix  
295 operating system.

296 **Model Domain and Grid**

297 To adequately assess the INL Site ambient air monitoring network, the model domain must  
298 encompass the sampler locations, significant topographic features that influence airflow in the region, and  
299 primary population centers that may be impacted by INL Site releases. It was also desirable to include as  
300 many of the INL Site meteorological data stations as possible. Practical elements such as grid size and  
301 simulation run time were also considered (i.e., larger domains with finer grid resolution take longer to  
302 run).

303 The model domain selected (Fig. 1) is 240 km east to west and 200 km north to south for a total area  
304 of 48,000 km<sup>2</sup>. This domain encompasses all sampler locations (with the exception of the sampler in  
305 Jackson, Wyoming) and all meteorological data stations that make up the INL Site Mesonet system (see  
306 Meteorological Data). It extends from the town of Carey in the west to the Idaho-Wyoming border in the  
307 east, and from 16 km south of Pocatello in the south to 20 km north of Dubois in the north. The eastern  
308 boundary includes the portion of Yellowstone National Park that lies just inside the Idaho State line.

309 The model domain was discretized into a uniform grid of 2-km resolution, comprising 120 east-west  
310 nodes and 100 north-south nodes for a total of 12,000 nodes. This grid resolution was selected to be

311 consistent with the current MDIFFH model resolution of 2 km and to resolve the primary topographic  
312 features of the domain. Vertical discretization included 10 layers. Layer heights conformed to those  
313 recommended by EPA for federal land managers (Fox 2009). The top of each layer above ground level  
314 was set to 20, 40, 80, 160, 320, 640, 1200, 2000, 3000, and 4000 meters. The Universal Transverse  
315 Mercator (UTM) coordinate system was used in the model. The domain lies within UTM Zone 12.

316 **Meteorological Data**

317 Meteorological data included three years (2006-2008) of data from the prognostic Weather Research  
318 Forecasting (WRF) model (Skamarock et al., 2008), upper air data from Boise Idaho, surface data from  
319 35 stations comprising the NOAA/INL Mesoscale Meteorological Monitoring Network (MESONET),  
320 and one airport surface station.

321 The WRF data consisted of 12-km data for 2006-2008 across the entire United States. These data  
322 were received from Alpine Geophysics LLC, Denver Colorado already processed through the CALWRF  
323 preprocessor. A subset of the data covering the model domain was extracted from the WRF files for use  
324 in CALMET. The WRF data contained wind speed, wind direction, temperature, precipitation, and  
325 atmospheric pressure at 37 levels above the ground surface.

326 Upper air data for 2006 through 2008 were obtained from the NOAA Earth Science Research  
327 Laboratory (ESRL) Radiosonde online database (NOAA, 2014a) for the Boise, Idaho Airport (Station  
328 Number 24141). Airport surface data for the Idaho Falls Regional Airport (Station Number 24145) were  
329 obtained from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information in the TD3505/CDO format  
330 (NOAA, 2014b).

331 Meteorological data from the NOAA/INL MESONET system (Fig. 3) was obtained from the NOAA  
332 Air Resources Laboratory Field Research Division in Idaho Falls, who maintains the network. Thirteen of  
333 the stations are located within the boundaries of the INL Site. The remaining stations are located at key  
334 locations on the Eastern Snake River Plain. Thirty of the stations are 15-m tall. Three of the stations on  
335 the INL Site extend to heights ranging from 46- to 76-m, with instrumentation installed at multiple levels,

336 including at 15-m. Because of practical and aesthetic considerations, the measurements heights at Craters  
337 of the Moon and on Big Southern Butte stations are only 9-m and 6-m, respectively. Wind speed and  
338 direction at the 15-m level was used in all cases except for Craters of the Moon (9-m) and Big Southern  
339 Butte (6-m). Other data included temperature at the 2- and 15-m levels (when applicable) and height  
340 insensitive data including barometric pressure, relative humidity, and solar radiation. These data were  
341 converted to a format compatible with the SMERGE data preprocessor for use in CALMET.

## 342 **Geophysical Data**

343 Geophysical data include terrain elevations and land use. Land use defines surface roughness height,  
344 albedo, vegetative cover, and other parameters that determine energy balance at the earth's surface. The  
345 terrain model used United States Geological Survey (USGS) digital elevation model data. For the region  
346 encompassing the model domain, 22 one-degree digital elevation model data files were obtained (grid  
347 resolution of 90 m) from the USGS website (USGS 2014). Land use data were also obtained from the  
348 USGS website in the Global Lambert Azimuthal for North America format. Land use and land cover  
349 types are divided into 37 categories. Most of the land within the modeling domain is classified as  
350 rangeland. Forested land occupies the western, northern, and eastern boundaries of the domain, and  
351 agriculture land occupies regions near the I-15 and US 20 highway corridors.

## 352 **CALPUFF/CALMET Model Options**

353 Model options for the CALMET module were generally taken from those recommended by EPA for  
354 long-range transport as described in Fox (2009), with a few exceptions. A finer grid resolution of 2 km  
355 was used as opposed to the recommended value of 4 km because the modeling domain contained  
356 significant terrain features. The UTM coordinate system was also used instead of the Lambert Conic  
357 Conformal projection. The Lambert Conic Conformal projection is important for large domains (greater  
358 than 400 km), but is more cumbersome to work with when producing base maps with multiple geographic  
359 layers.

360 In general, default input parameters for CALPUFF were used, with two exceptions: (1) the terrain  
361 adjustment algorithm and (2) the dispersion coefficient option.

362 Terrain adjustment options in CALPUFF include the simple industrial source complex-type  
363 adjustment, the CALPUFF-type of terrain adjustment, and a partial plume path adjustment (default  
364 option). The CALPUFF-type terrain adjustment uses a simplified version of the complex terrain  
365 algorithm for subgrid features. In the CALPUFF-type terrain algorithm, properties of the puff are adjusted  
366 on the basis of local strain to the flow imparted by the underlying terrain. Based on analysis of isopleth  
367 plots of plumes in other simulations (Rood et al. 2008), the CALPUFF-type of terrain adjustment was  
368 used because it appeared to better simulate terrain effects.

369 The default dispersion coefficient option in CALPUFF is the Pasquill-Gifford Turner scheme  
370 (Dispersion Option 3) for urban and rural conditions. Other dispersion options include dispersion  
371 coefficients that are computed from micrometeorological variables and user input schemes. For these  
372 simulations, dispersion coefficients that are computed based on estimates of micrometeorological  
373 variables were chosen because they represent the current state-of-the-art in atmospheric dispersion  
374 modeling. This option calculates dispersion coefficients ( $\sigma_y$  and  $\sigma_z$ ) based on an energy balance at the  
375 earth's surface. The energy balance is then related to turbulence using similarity theory.

## 376 **Dispersion Patterns**

377 An isopleth map of the annual unit *TIC* values for steady-state releases from the 70-m TRA-770  
378 stack is illustrated in Fig. 3. In general, air flow is channeled up and down the Eastern Snake River Plain  
379 in a diurnal cycle. Drainage flow from northeast to southwest down the Plain occurs in the evening hours  
380 as cooler air sinks and descends off the higher terrain to the west and north of the INL Site. During  
381 daytime hours winds are primarily out of the southwest owing to predominate westerly winds and diurnal  
382 surface heating. Local terrain effects are evident along the mountains to the northwest and southeast of  
383 the INL Site. Additionally, the elevated plume impacts the upper reaches of one of the buttes south of the  
384 INL Site boundary and where the meteorological station labeled SUM is located. Dilution and dispersion

385 result in a factor of 15 to 30 reduction in ambient air concentration from the INL Site to the surrounding  
386 communities in Idaho Falls and Pocatello.

### 387 **Implementation of Frequency of Detection Methods**

388 Although a three-year meteorological data set was processed, only one year of data (2006) was used  
389 for frequency of detection analysis. Development of *TICu* values for each source for one year of data took  
390 about 12-14 hours of simulation time per emission source. Analysis of model output using all three years  
391 of data showed that annual *TICu* values at each of the samplers were relatively consistent from year-to-  
392 year. Thus using a different year or more than one year of meteorological data was not expected to make a  
393 significant difference in the frequency of detection results.

394 Frequency of detection calculations were implemented using Fortran codes and Perl scripts. A Perl  
395 script was used as a “wrapper” to set-up, execute, and post-process the CALPUFF simulations for  
396 calculating *TICu* values. The script takes the years, days, and hours that will be simulated and the source  
397 location and release parameters as input. The script then constructs a run matrix that includes (1) selecting  
398 the CALMET files that cover the meteorological period simulated, (2) writing the CALPUFF input files  
399 and executing CALPUFF, (3) post-processing results at the sampler locations using CALPOST and  
400 calculating the *TICu*, and (4) writing *TICu* to an output file. The *TICu* file is not model dependent, and  
401 could be developed using any atmospheric transport model. For example, a Gaussian Plume model was  
402 also developed to calculate *TICu* values for near-field samplers located within several kilometers of  
403 selected sources.

404 A Fortran code was used to calculate frequency of detection. The code reads the *TICu* results  
405 generated from the atmospheric transport model, and a parameter file that identifies all samplers in the  
406 simulation, sampler flow rates, radionuclide detection limits and release quantities, and whether to include  
407 the sampler in the analysis. Output includes frequency of detection results for individual samplers and the  
408 sampling network, network intensity, probability distributions of estimated *TICs* and doses for a given  
409 release duration, and maximum *TICs* and doses for each radionuclide and source.

## Emission Sources

411       Eleven INL emission sources were considered in the assessment (Table 1). Sources included three  
412       stack sources located at the ATR Complex, INTEC and MFC facilities, and ground-level releases at all  
413       major facilities. Where a specific emission source was not identified, ground sources were located near  
414       the center of each facility and assumed an initial  $\sigma_y$  of 100-m and initial  $\sigma_z$  of 20 m to account for wake  
415       effects and multiple emission points. Frequency of detection results were calculated separately for each of  
416       the emission sources. The ability of a monitoring network to detect a radionuclide release depends on the  
417       detection limit of the radionuclide in the sample, the quantity of the radionuclide released, the duration of  
418       the release, and the sampler flow rate. To evaluate the effectiveness of an air monitoring network,  
419       minimum relevant release quantities must be determined. A minimum relevant release quantity is the  
420       minimum quantity of a radionuclide released from a facility that would result in a given dose constraint  
421       being met at a defined receptor.

## 422 Important Radionuclides and Relevant Release Quantities

423 Release of radionuclides to the environment are regulated by limits on the total effective dose  
424 incurred by members of the public exposed to radionuclides present in the environment that are attributed  
425 to releases from the facility. Department of Energy regulations limit the total effective dose to a member  
426 of the public from radiological activities including releases to the environment to  $1 \text{ mSv yr}^{-1}$  (DOE  
427 2011a). The effective dose limit for members of the public exposed to radionuclides released to the  
428 atmosphere from DOE facilities is  $0.1 \text{ mSv yr}^{-1}$  (EPA, 2006). To ensure detection of radionuclides well  
429 before dose standards are approached, thus assuring protection of the public, a more conservative  
430 monitoring and modeling dose constraint of 10% of  $0.1 \text{ mSv yr}^{-1}$  limit ( $0.01 \text{ mSv yr}^{-1}$ ) to a member of the  
431 general public was adopted. Thus, a minimum relevant release quantity would be the activity released  
432 from a facility that has the potential to result in a dose of  $0.01 \text{ mSv yr}^{-1}$  to a member of the public.  
433 Because particulate air samplers only collect for seven days before the filter change-out, it would be  
434 important for the monitoring network to detect a release during the 1-week sampling time that would have

435 the potential, if continued over the course of a year, to produce an estimated dose to a member of the  
436 public of  $0.01 \text{ mSv yr}^{-1}$ . Thus, the minimum release quantity that results in a dose of  $1.9 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mSv}$  ( $0.01$   
437  $\text{mSv yr}^{-1} \div 52 \text{ weeks yr}^{-1}$ ) over a 1-week period to a member of the public was defined as the minimum  
438 relevant release quantity.

439 Demonstration of compliance with the  $0.1 \text{ mSv yr}^{-1}$  dose criteria at the INL Site is documented in the  
440 Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER). The ASER contains monitoring results and public dose  
441 estimates based on estimated effluent releases, atmospheric transport modeling, terrestrial transport  
442 modeling, and receptor scenarios for residents living near the INL Site boundary (DOE-ID 2014).  
443 Important radionuclides released from INL facilities identified through ASER modeling and that are  
444 routinely monitored for include  $^{241}\text{Am}$ ,  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ ,  $^{238}\text{Pu}$ ,  $^{239}\text{Pu}$ , and  $^{90}\text{Sr}$ . Tritium was also identified as an  
445 important radionuclide, but is not sampled or measured in the same manner as the particulate  
446 radionuclides. Furthermore, tritium is only released from three of the major INL Site facilities; RWMC,  
447 INTEC (CPP-1774 stack), and ATR Complex (TRA-770 stack).

448 Calculated doses are based not only on direct inhalation, but other exposure pathways from air  
449 emissions as well, using a unit all-pathway dose factor ( $\text{mSv Bq}^{-1}$ ) calculated from the ASER model  
450 output for calendar year 2013. These pathways include ingestion of meat, milk, and produce, cloud shine,  
451 and external exposure from radionuclides deposited on soil. The ASER all-pathway unit dose factor,  
452 breathing rate, and air monitor sampling time were used to estimate the minimum relevant release  
453 quantity that would result in the dose constraint being met at any of the public receptors. The release  
454 quantity is calculated using the following equation

$$455 \quad Qr = \min \left[ \frac{D_{ED} Tr}{\sum_{i=h}^{Tr+h} TICu_{p,i} e^{-\lambda_r (X+h-i)} UDFBR} \quad p = 1 \dots n \right] \quad (8)$$

456 where

457  $Qr$  = minimum relevant release quantity that results in an effective dose,  $D_{ED}$  (Bq),

458  $D_{ED}$  = the effective dose constraint ( $1.9 \times 10^{-4}$  mSv),  
 459  $Tr$  = release duration (168 hours),  
 460  $h$  = hour index (1–8760),  
 461  $TICu_{p,i}$  = unit  $TIC$  value for public receptor  $p$  and hour  $i$  ( $\text{hr}^2 \text{ m}^{-3}$ ),  
 462  $UDF$  = all-pathway unit dose factor (mSv  $\text{Bq}^{-1}$ ),  
 463  $BR$  = ASER breathing rate for reference individual ( $0.917 \text{ m}^3 \text{ hr}^{-1}$ ),  
 464  $n$  = number of public receptors,  
 465  $p$  = public receptor index.

466 Note that in  $TICu$ , the public receptor index ( $p$ ) replaces the sampler index ( $s$ ). For conservatism,  
 467 ASER uses the inhalation solubility class with the highest dose coefficient except for tritium, where the  
 468 chemical form is tritiated water vapor. For particulate samplers, frequency of detection was based on a  
 469 release duration and sampling time of 168 hours (1 week). For tritium, frequency of detection was based  
 470 on a release time of 168 hours and a sampling time of 648 hours (27 days). The release duration can be  
 471 any increment of time greater than or equal to the meteorological sampling time (1-hour).

472 The all-pathway unit dose factors were calculated using the total dose reported in the 2013 ASER  
 473 report at the location of the maximally exposed individual (MEI), the ASER air concentration at that  
 474 location, and the breathing rate.

$$475 \quad UDF = \frac{D_{MEI}}{C_{MEI} BR} \quad (9)$$

476 where

477  $D_{MEI}$  = annual all-pathway effective dose at the MEI location (mSv  $\text{yr}^{-1}$ ),  
 478  $C_{MEI}$  = annual average air concentration at the MEI location ( $\text{Bq m}^{-3}$ ),  
 479  $BR$  = annual breathing rate ( $8033 \text{ m}^3 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ).

480 Other criteria may be used as well depending on monitoring objectives. Using the all-pathway unit  
481 dose factors to determine minimum relevant release quantities results in the smallest amount of activity  
482 released that has the potential for a dose of regulatory significance. Thus, if the monitoring network can  
483 detect the minimum release quantity, it will certainly have the ability to detect larger release quantities.  
484 The all-pathway unit dose factors along with the inhalation dose coefficients from DOE (DOE 2011b),  
485 and analytical MDA are presented in Table 2. Note that the inhalation dose coefficient for the actinides is  
486 only slightly less than the all-pathway unit dose factors, while for the fission and activation products, the  
487 difference is more pronounced. This is because for actinides, most of the dose is incurred through direct  
488 inhalation, while for the fission and activation products, a significant portion of the dose is incurred  
489 through ingestion pathways and external radiation. Relevant release quantities for the important  
490 radionuclides and the INL sources are presented in Table 3.

## 491 **Model Validation**

492 Atmospheric dispersion models are inherently uncertain, and model validation exercises provide a  
493 means to quantify the magnitude of uncertainty and build confidence in the model. Radonjic et al. (2005)  
494 used CALPUFF to model short-term releases of fission and activation products from INL Site sources.  
495 The CALPUFF model was validated as part of this project using data from a 1999 atmospheric SF<sub>6</sub> tracer  
496 experiment conducted by NOAA (Clawson et al., 2000). The tracer dataset consisted of hourly  
497 measurements of SF<sub>6</sub> at 56 samplers distributed in sampling arcs 15-, 30-, and 50-km from the source.  
498 Seven separate tests were conducted under varying meteorological conditions, and in general 59% of  
499 model predicted maximum hourly-average concentrations were within a factor of two of the observations.

500 Rood (2014) evaluated CALPUFF for one- and 9-hour average concentrations using a separate SF<sub>6</sub>  
501 tracer study performed at the former U.S. DOE Rocky Flats Plant. Twelve, 11-hour tests were conducted  
502 where a SF<sub>6</sub> tracer was released and measured hourly at 140 samplers distributed in concentric rings 8-  
503 and 16-km from the release point. Results of the Rood (2014) study showed CALPUFF exhibited little  
504 bias when estimating the maximum 1-hour average concentration (geometric mean predicted-to-observed  
505 ratio of 0.99) and over 50% of the predictions were within a factor of two of the observations.

506        Another model validation exercise was performed by the authors using annual-average predicted and  
 507        observed concentrations at 21 air samplers from a 587-GBq (15.9-Ci) release of  $^{125}\text{Sb}$  from the Flourinel  
 508        and Storage (FAST) stack at the INTEC facility in 1987. The 21 samplers were located both on and off  
 509        the INL Site. Shorter-term averages (i.e., weekly or monthly) would have been more appropriate but were  
 510        not available. Nevertheless, the annual average comparison provides a measure of model performance  
 511        within the entire model domain using the INL Site sampling network. The release of  $^{125}\text{Sb}$  in 1987 was  
 512        identified in a 1987 DOE-ID memo\* as an opportunity to validate the MESODIF (Start and Wendell  
 513        1974) meteorological air dispersion model. The MESODIF model was the precursor to the MDIFFH  
 514        model described previously. Annual average concentrations were compared with MESODIF model-  
 515        predicted values in a DOE memo†. The MESODIF simulation was based on annual average dispersion  
 516        conditions for 1987 and a constant release of the  $^{125}\text{Sb}$  activity over the year. The CALPUFF simulation  
 517        was based on monthly-average dispersion conditions and monthly release rates of  $^{125}\text{Sb}$  as provided in  
 518        DOE-ID (1988). Releases varied considerably from month to month, ranging from 170 GBq (4.59 Ci) for  
 519        February to 0.07 GBq (0.0019 Ci) for November, 1987 (Table 4). Because meteorology and dispersion  
 520        conditions are generally repeatable from year-to-year, the 3-year meteorological dataset was used in  
 521        CALPUFF (i.e., 2006, 2007, and 2008) to estimate average monthly dispersion conditions for 1987.

522        Performance measures included the fraction bias ( $FB$ ), normalized mean square error ( $NMSE$ ),  
 523        regression coefficient (Hanna et al., 1991), and geometric mean and standard deviation of the predicted-  
 524        to-observed ratios. Fractional bias is given by

$$525 \quad FB = \frac{2(\bar{C}_o - \bar{C}_p)}{\bar{C}_o + \bar{C}_p} \quad (10)$$

526        where  $C_p$  and  $C_o$  are the predicted and observed concentrations, respectively. Overbars indicate averages  
 527        over the sample. The  $NMSE$  is given by

$$528 \quad NMSE = \frac{\overline{(C_o - C_p)^2}}{\bar{C}_o \bar{C}_p} \quad (11)$$

529

530 Log-transformed measures include the geometric mean bias (*MG*) and the geometric mean variance (*VG*)  
531 and are defined by

532

$$MG = \exp\left(\overline{\ln C_o} - \overline{\ln C_p}\right) \quad (12)$$

533

$$VG = \exp\left[\overline{(\ln C_o - \ln C_p)^2}\right] \quad (13)$$

534 where the overbars indicate averages over the sample. Geometric mean bias values of 0.5 and 2.0 indicate  
535 a factor of 2 over-prediction and under-prediction, respectively. A *VG* value of 1.6 indicates a typical  
536 factor of about 2 between the predicted and observed data pairs. A perfect model would have *FB* and  
537 *NMSE* values of 0, and *MG* and *VG* values of 1.0.

538 Annual-average predicted and observed  $^{125}\text{Sb}$  concentrations in air at the samplers are presented in  
539 Table 5. The geometric mean of the predicted-to-observed ratio for CALPUFF and MESODIF was 0.73  
540 and 2.17, respectively, and the geometric standard deviation for CALPUFF and MESODIF was 2.22 and  
541 3.22, respectively (Table 6). The log-transformed regression coefficient (*r*) was 0.853 for CALPUFF and  
542 0.739 for MESODIF (Fig. 4). An *F*-test indicated that the linear regression for both CALPUFF and  
543 MESODIF were significant ( $P>0.95$ ). The other performance measures are summarized in Table 6. By  
544 almost all other quantitative measures of performance, CALPUFF was judged to perform better than  
545 MESODIF. The NMSE for CALPUFF was substantially higher (although not significantly different) than  
546 its optimum value, and was driven almost entirely by the highest predicted ( $9620 \text{ MBq m}^{-3}$ ) and observed  
547 ( $3590 \text{ MBq m}^{-3}$ ) concentration at the BEA-INTEC sampler. This validation exercise demonstrates that  
548 CALPUFF provides concentration estimates from INL Site releases that were within the established  
549 uncertainty of atmospheric transport models for predicting annual average concentrations in a complex-  
550 terrain environment (Miller and Hively 1987).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Frequency of detection and network intensity results for the minimum relevant release quantities for each major INL facility including the three stack sources are presented in Table 7. All detection frequencies for 168-hr release durations exceed 97.5% for all sources, radionuclides, release times. Network intensity results for particulates ranged from 3.75% for  $^{241}\text{Am}$  releases from MFC-1774 to 62.7% for  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  released from the NRF facility. Despite having only four samplers, detection frequency and network intensity for tritium was excellent.

For particulate releases, it is assumed the entire 168-hour release is captured during the 168-hour sampling time (tritium uses a 648-hr sampling time). This of course is an ideal situation, and in most cases, the release will have started sometime during the sampling period, so a portion of the release will be captured during the week the release began, and the remainder of the release will be captured on the subsequent week. The effects of simulating week-long releases beginning partway through 1-week sampling period are illustrated in Fig. 5 for a 0.029 GBq  $^{241}\text{Am}$  releases from the TRA-770 stack. If the release begins during the latter stages of the first week sampling period such that only a few hours of the release are encompassed the first sampling period, then most of the release will be captured during the second week. Minimum detection frequencies occur when the release starts midway through the sampling period. In this example, frequency of detection reaches a minimum of about 75% for a release starting 84 hours into the first week sampling period.

The sensitivity of detection frequency to release time for a fixed release quantity is illustrated in Fig. 6. The same quantity released over a shorter time will result in higher concentrations, but a smaller spatial extent of the plume, thereby lowering the probability that the plume will impact a sampler. The minimum network detection frequency was 3.85% for a 0.029 GBq release of  $^{241}\text{Am}$  from the TRA-770 stack released over 1-hour period. For a 1-hr 0.98 GBq release of  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  from the same source, the detection frequency was 69.9%. The difference between the  $^{241}\text{Am}$  and  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  detection frequencies are related to the minimum relevant release quantities that yield a 1-week effective dose of 0.00019 mSv. While the MDA

576 for  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  is about a factor of 8 greater than that of  $^{241}\text{Am}$ , the release quantity of  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  was a factor of 33.8  
577 greater than  $^{241}\text{Am}$ . The net effect is that more  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  activity above the MDA is collected on the filter  
578 compared to  $^{241}\text{Am}$ , resulting in a greater detection frequency of  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  compared to  $^{241}\text{Am}$ .

579 Assuming a frequency of detection performance standard for the network of 95% for a 168-hr  
580 release, the existing INL network would meet such a standard. However, the question remains of whether  
581 the sampling network in its current configuration is optimal. That is, can the performance and efficiency  
582 of the network be improved by adding, removing, or repositioning samplers? Examination of individual  
583 sampler detection frequencies can provide valuable insight in terms of their overall effectiveness within  
584 the network (Table 8). Limiting the examination to only onsite samplers, we note that some samplers have  
585 generally low detection frequencies or when detection frequency is high, there are other samplers located  
586 nearby that have similar detection frequencies. Also note that only a few samplers had detections for  
587 sources at MFC. This is reflected in the relatively low network intensities for this source. Frequency of  
588 detection methods can be used to identify optimum placement and number of samplers and is discussed in  
589 the next section.

## 590 **Network Optimization**

591 The frequency of detection method can be useful for identifying optimum sampler locations and  
592 removing samplers that are ineffective. This procedure can be used to design a sampling network or to  
593 evaluate an existing network. The procedure is iterative, and begins with identifying all potential or  
594 existing sampler locations and running the simulation for the release quantity of interest. Next, individual  
595 samplers that have high detection frequencies and are in different azimuth locations are identified, along  
596 with poor performing samplers. The model is rerun using a selected set of samplers having high detection  
597 frequencies and spaced apart so as to improve the likelihood of detection of a plume traveling in multiple  
598 directions from the source. Frequency of detection is then calculated and the overall network detection  
599 frequency is compared to the original sampler configuration, and adjustments are made to optimize  
600 network performance. A sample application of network optimization was performed for the existing INL  
601 Site network. In this example, hypothetical samplers were added south of the RWMC, and north and

602 south and of MFC to improve detection frequency and intensity for releases from MFC and RWMC  
603 sources. At the same time, samplers BEA-ARA, BEA-PBF, ESER-MAI, and ESER-FAA were removed  
604 from the network because these samplers either had poor performance or were located near other  
605 samplers that exhibited similar performance. Network detection frequency remained greater than 97% for  
606 all sources and all radionuclides despite the removal of four samplers. Network intensity decreased an  
607 average of 4.7% across all sources except MFC sources, mainly due to the removal of the BEA-ARA, and  
608 BEA-PBF samplers. For MFC sources, network intensity improved from 5.05% to 10.6% for  $^{241}\text{Am}$   
609 releases from MFC-764, and from 3.75% to 8.8% for  $^{241}\text{Am}$  releases from MFC-774. Similar  
610 improvements in network intensity from MFC sources were observed for  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  and  $^{238}\text{Pu}$  as well, while a  
611 smaller improvement in intensity was observed for  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  and  $^{90}\text{Sr}$ . Sources that exhibited a decrease in  
612 intensity already had relatively high network intensities ranging from 11.3% for  $^{241}\text{Am}$  releases from  
613 CPP-708 to 62.7% for  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  releases from the NRF. Thus, overall network performance and efficiency  
614 could be improved by simply moving some samplers to optimum locations, and removing samplers that  
615 showed similar performance to other existing samplers.

616 Of course, other considerations such as available power or access may limit placement of samplers,  
617 or they may justify sampler placement in locations that are less than optimal, such as requirements to be  
618 near population centers or National Monuments. In these cases, frequency of detection methods could  
619 also be used to assess the adequacy of the sampler in terms of detecting releases that have dose  
620 consequences at those locations. Additionally, frequency of detection methods could be used to test the  
621 likelihood that a background sampler will detect releases from a potential source.

## 622 CONCLUSIONS

623 The frequency of detection methodology is a useful and effective approach for quantitative evaluation  
624 of an air monitoring network. The methodology was demonstrated by performing an assessment of the  
625 INL Site ambient air monitoring network. Based on this assessment, the current INL monitoring network  
626 is more than adequate (greater than 95% detection frequency for a 168-hr release) in terms of detecting a

627 minimum relevant release that would result in a weekly dose of  $1.9 \times 10^{-4}$  mSv, or if continuous over a  
628 year, 0.01 mSv (10% of the annual dose limit of 0.1 mSv from airborne releases). However,  
629 improvements in network performance were identified using the methodology.

630 While a wind rose or annual average dispersion modeling may serve as a first cut at identifying  
631 sampler locations, it cannot quantify the ability of the network to detect releases. Furthermore, many  
632 releases at nuclear facilities are not constant throughout the year. The frequency of detection methodology  
633 allows for evaluation of short-term releases that include effects of short-term variability in meteorological  
634 conditions. As presented, the methodology is not tied to any specific dispersion model, and in fact, a  
635 Gaussian Plume or other model could be used as well. For this exercise, the size of the modeling domain  
636 dictated the use of a Lagrangian puff model because of spatially-variable meteorological conditions and  
637 terrain that typically occur across regions of this size. For smaller domains or near-field network designs,  
638 a Gaussian Plume model may be perfectly adequate.

639 The detection frequencies provided in this paper assume a negligible background contribution.  
640 However, depending on the levels of background, the activity accumulated on the filter that would  
641 provide a positive detection could be indistinguishable from the activity accumulated on the filter from  
642 background. The effects of background concentrations on the ability of the sampling network to detect  
643 releases can be evaluated using this methodology by adjusting the MDA to reflect background  
644 contributions.

645 Application of the methodology should include input from stakeholders (i.e., regulators, operators,  
646 and members of the public), who would need to come to consensus on the acceptable frequency of  
647 detection level (i.e., 90%, 95%, 97.5%, etc.) and dose constraints that would be adhered to. Facility  
648 operators and technical staff would also need to provide input on the practical physical constraints of any  
649 sampling program including sampler flow rates, sampling times, radionuclide MDAs, and availability of  
650 electrical power and access at a given location.

651

652

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655

656

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726

## **Footnotes**

727     \* Memorandum from E.W. Chew, Chief Environmental Science Branch, Radiological and Environmental  
728       Sciences Laboratory, to M.M. Williamson, Director Radiological and Environmental Sciences

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730     † Letter to L.E. Rockhold, Battelle Energy Alliance LLC from R.L. Dickson, U.S. Department of Energy,  
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## Figure Captions

Fig. 1. Eastern Idaho model domain showing major cities, Idaho National Laboratory Site boundary, terrain elevations, and air monitoring locations (triangles). The station labeled FRENCHCBN is not a monitoring station but the location of the Maximally Exposed Individual for annual dose assessment modeling.

Fig. 2. Major facilities on the INL and locations of potential nearby residences (circles). Some locations represent more than one potential residence and not all locations are currently habituated.

Fig. 3. INL MESONET meteorological tower locations (circles with cross) and isopleths of annual unit time-integrated concentration values ( $\text{hr}^2 \text{ m}^{-3} \times 10^9$ ) for releases from the TRA-770 stack.

Fig. 4. Predicted and observed annual average ambient air concentrations of  $^{125}\text{Sb}$  for 1987.

Fig. 5. Frequency of detection as a function of first-week sampling time for a 168-hr release split between two weeks. For example, a release that begins at hour 108 during the first week sampling period will have 60 hours of sampling time during the first week and 108 hours of sampling time during the second week. Plot is based on frequency of detection of a 0.029 GBq release of  $^{241}\text{Am}$  from the TRA-770 stack.

Fig. 6. Sensitivity of detection frequency as a function of release time for 0.029 GBq release of  $^{241}\text{Am}$  and a 0.98 GBq release of  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  from the TRA-770 stack.

Table 1. Modeled source locations for the frequency of detection evaluation.

Facility	Source	Release type	Source description
ATRC	TRA-770	Stack	Advanced Test Reactor Complex, Advanced Test Reactor Stack
INTEC	CPP-708	Stack	Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center, Main Stack
MFC	MFC-764	Stack	Materials Fuels Complex, Experimental Breeder Reactor-II Main Stack
ATRC	ATR	Ground	Advanced Test Reactor Complex, no specific source identified, release assumed from center of facility
CFA	CFA-625	Ground	Central Facilities Area, lab fume hoods (near center of CFA)
CITRC	PBF-632	Ground	Critical Infrastructure Test Range Complex, Waste Reduction Operations Complex Support Building Vent
INTEC	CPP-1774	Ground	Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center, Three Mile Island-2 Spent Fuel Storage Installation (Near center of INTEC)
MFC	MFC-774	Ground	Materials and Fuels Complex, Zero Power Physics Reactor Support Wing
NRF	NRF	Ground	Naval Reactors Facility, no specific source identified, release assumed from center of facility
RWMC	RWMC	Ground	Radioactive Waste Management Complex, no specific source identified, release assumed from center of facility
SMC/TAN	TAN-679	Ground	Specific Manufacturing Capability/Test Area North, Manufacturing and Assembly Building

Table 2. All-pathway unit dose factors, inhalation effective dose coefficients from DOE (2011b), and minimum detectable activity in airborne samples for important radionuclides at the INL Site.

Radionuclide (Solubility Class)	All-pathway unit dose factor ( $\mu\text{Sv Bq}^{-1}$ )	Reference person inhalation dose coefficient ( $\mu\text{Sv Bq}^{-1}$ )	Minimum detectable activity [MDA] (mBq)
$^{241}\text{Am}$ (F)	101	98.1	1.07
$^{137}\text{Cs}$ (S)	1.16	0.42	25.9
$^{238}\text{Pu}$ (F)	113	110	0.814
$^{239}\text{Pu}$ (F)	125	121	0.814
$^{90}\text{Sr}$ (S)	3.30	0.16	7.96
$^3\text{H}$ (V, HTO)	$2.40 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.93 \times 10^{-5}$	27.8

Table 3. Minimum relevant release quantities (GBq) for each source that result in a 1-week dose of 0.00019 mSv at an offsite resident location.

Source	<sup>241</sup> Am	<sup>137</sup> Cs	<sup>238</sup> Pu	<sup>239</sup> Pu	<sup>90</sup> Sr	<sup>3</sup> H
ATR	0.043	3.8	0.039	0.035	1.5	
CFA-625	0.024	2.1	0.021	0.019	0.79	
CITRC	0.026	2.3	0.023	0.021	0.87	
CPP-1774	0.038	3.3	0.034	0.031	1.3	15,940
CPP-708 (stack)	0.035	3.1	0.032	0.029	1.2	
MFC-764 (stack)	0.12	10.4	0.11	0.10	4.0	
MFC-774	0.012	1.02	0.010	0.010	0.39	
NRF	0.062	5.4	0.055	0.050	2.1	
RWMC	0.016	1.4	0.014	0.013	0.53	6,686
TAN-679	0.022	1.9	0.020	0.018	0.74	
TRA-770 (stack)	0.029	2.6	0.026	0.024	0.98	12,395

Table 4. Monthly estimates of 1987  $^{125}\text{Sb}$  releases from FAST stack at INTEC facility.

	$^{125}\text{Sb}$ Release (GBq)	$^{125}\text{Sb}$ Release (Ci)
January	28.1	0.759
February	170	4.59
March	53.7	1.45
April	55.4	1.50
May	35.4	0.956
June	42.9	1.16
July	34.7	0.938
August	54.8	1.48
Septembe r	88.8	2.40
October	20.4	0.550
Novembe r	0.070	0.0019
Decembe r	2.68	0.072
Total	587	15.9

Table 5. Predicted and observed  $^{125}\text{Sb}$  concentrations at INL network air samplers

Location	Sampler designation	MESODIF ( $\mu\text{Bq m}^{-3}$ )	CALPUFF ( $\mu\text{Bq m}^{-3}$ )	Measured ( $\mu\text{Bq m}^{-3}$ )
Craters of the Moon NM	ESER-CRA	15.5	14.3	81.4
Idaho Falls	ESER-IDA	23.3	20.5	37.0
Arco	ESER-ARC	19.2	33.4	96.2
Atomic City	ESER-ATO	501	83.0	81.4
FAA Tower	ESER-FAA	154	42.0	7.40
Howe	ESER-HOW	154	101	177
Montevue	ESER-MON	77.3	54.7	29.6
Mud Lake/Terreton	ESER-TER	270	78.3	88.8
RENO	<sup>a</sup>	77.3	62.8	70.3
Materials Fuel Complex	BEA-MFC	386	76.6	88.8
Auxiliary Reactor Area	BEA-ARA	618	95.1	111
Central Facilities Area	BEA-CFA	3,087	542	629
Experimental Breeder Reactor	BEA-EBR	1,158	381	1,073
Experimental Field Station	BEA-EFS	3,087	696	592
Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center	BEA- INTEC <sup>b</sup>	3,859	9,624	3,589
Naval Reactors Facility	BEA-NRF	1,544	162	218
Power Burst Facility	BEA-PBF	1,544	155	414
Radioactive Waste Management Complex	BEA-RWMC	772	261	592
Test Area North	BEA-SMC	309	92.2	59.2
Advanced Test Reactor Complex	BEA-TRA <sup>c</sup>	1,544	232	629
Van Buren Boulevard	BEA-VANB	1,930	524	1,184

<sup>a</sup> Inactive station formally located 11 km southeast of the ESER-BLU station.

<sup>b</sup> Formerly Idaho Chemical Processing Plant.

<sup>c</sup> Formerly Test Reactor Area

Table 6. Performance measures for the  $^{125}\text{Sb}$  comparison with CALPUFF and MESODIF.

Performance Measure	Optimum Value	CALPUFF <sup>a</sup>	MESODIF <sup>a</sup>
Fractional Bias ( <i>FB</i> )	0.0	<b>-0.297</b>	-0.728
Normalized Mean Square Error ( <i>NMSE</i> )	0.0	<b>6.05</b>	<b>1.76</b>
% within a factor of 2	100	52.4	33.3
Geometric Mean Bias ( <i>MG</i> )	1.0	<b>1.36</b>	0.460
Geometric Mean Variance ( <i>VG</i> )	1.0	<b>2.02</b>	6.73
Geometric Mean P/O ratio ( <i>GM</i> )	1.0	0.73	2.17
Geometric Standard Deviation ( <i>GSD</i> )	1.0	2.22	3.22
Regression Coefficient ( <i>r</i> )	1.0	<b>0.929</b>	0.758
Regression Coefficient, log-transformed	1.0	<b>0.853</b>	0.739

<sup>a</sup> Bolded values indicate 95% confidence intervals calculated with the BOOT software (Hanna et al. 1991) encompassed the optimum value of the performance measure.

Table 7. Frequency of detection and intensity results for a 168-hr release of the minimum relevant release quantity that would result in a 1-week dose of 0.00019 mSv.

Source	Frequency of Detection					
	<sup>241</sup> Am	<sup>137</sup> Cs	<sup>3</sup> H	<sup>238</sup> Pu	<sup>239</sup> Pu	<sup>90</sup> Sr
ATR	100%	100%		100%	100%	100%
CFA-625	100%	100%		100%	100%	100%
CITRC	100%	100%		100%	100%	100%
CPP-1774	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
CPP-708 (stack)	100%	100%		100%	100%	100%
MFC-764 (stack)	100%	100%		100%	100%	100%
MFC-774	100%	100%		100%	100%	100%
NRF	100%	100%		100%	100%	100%
RWMC	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
TAN-679	100%	100%		100%	100%	100%
TRA-770 (stack)	97.5%	100%	100%	99.3%	98.3%	100%
Source	Intensity					
	<sup>241</sup> Am	<sup>137</sup> Cs	<sup>3</sup> H	<sup>238</sup> Pu	<sup>239</sup> Pu	<sup>90</sup> Sr
ATR	44.8%	56.0%		46.1%	45.3%	58.3%
CFA-625	38.0%	49.5%		40.0%	38.8%	51.4%
CITRC	28.0%	49.6%		31.0%	29.2%	52.1%
CPP-1774	44.6%	55.5%	85.5%	46.0%	45.2%	57.6%
CPP-708 (stack)	11.3%	31.7%		13.4%	12.1%	35.4%
MFC-764 (stack)	5.05%	33.4%		6.5%	5.56%	40.9%
MFC-774	3.75%	10.5%		4.2%	3.92%	12.2%
NRF	49.1%	60.5%		50.8%	49.8%	62.7%
RWMC	32.1%	45.0%	69.1%	34.6%	33.3%	46.6%
TAN-679	8.22%	41.1%		10.5%	9.1%	46.7%
TRA-770 (stack)	6.19%	25.0%	79.2%	7.3%	6.7%	29.2%

Table 8. Frequency of detection for onsite samplers for  $^{241}\text{Am}$  releases from six INL Site sources.

Sampler	Source					
	MFC-774	MFC-764	TRA-770	CPP-1774	RWMC	TAN-679
BEA-TRA	0.00%	1.00%	76.3%	97.1%	79.0%	1.70%
BEA-CPP	0.00%	0.00%	1.60%	99.8%	86.5%	6.40%
BEA-RWMC	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.1%	100%	0.00%
BEA-VAN	0.00%	0.00%	3.80%	96.5%	99.2%	0.20%
BEA-SMC	0.00%	3.80%	0.00%	1.50%	0.00%	100%
BEA-GATE	0.00%	4.90%	0.00%	28.0%	0.00%	98.1%
BEA-ARA	7.60%	3.30%	0.00%	69.5%	20.7%	2.50%
BEA-REST	0.00%	1.20%	38.8%	88.9%	99.7%	0.00%
BEA-NRF	0.00%	0.00%	5.80%	95.3%	12.7%	14.1%
BEA-RTC	0.00%	1.10%	83.2%	98.6%	70.8%	2.70%
BEA-EBR	0.00%	0.00%	0.60%	94.6%	99.6%	0.20%
BEA-MFC	100%	99.4%	0.00%	11.9%	0.00%	3.90%
BEA-PBF	0.00%	0.20%	0.00%	94.4%	46.7%	7.00%
BEA-INTEC	0.00%	0.00%	0.10%	100%	80.8%	7.00%
BEA-CFA	0.00%	0.00%	0.30%	99.0%	89.1%	0.60%
BEA-EFS	0.00%	0.00%	3.40%	100%	50.3%	15.1%
ESER-VAN	0.00%	0.00%	3.80%	96.5%	99.2%	0.20%
ESER-FAA	17.9%	0.80%	0.00%	2.20%	0.00%	0.00%
ESER-MAI	0.00%	1.60%	0.00%	96.2%	58.3%	0.80%
ESER-EFS	0.00%	0.00%	3.00%	100%	50.2%	15.1%
ESER-ATO	9.50%	15.9%	0.00%	48.6%	13.4%	0.00%

Figure1

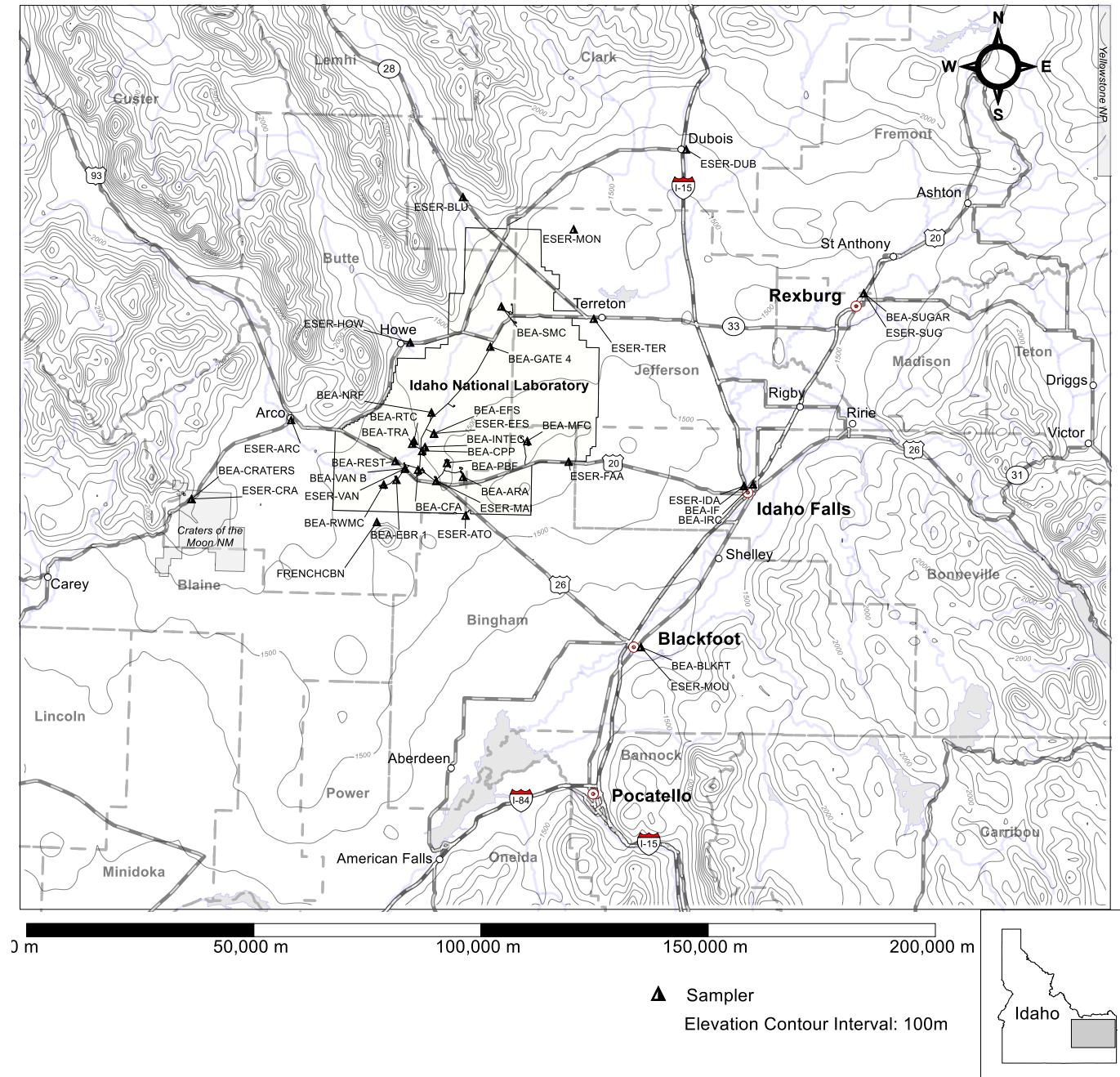


Fig. 1

Figure2

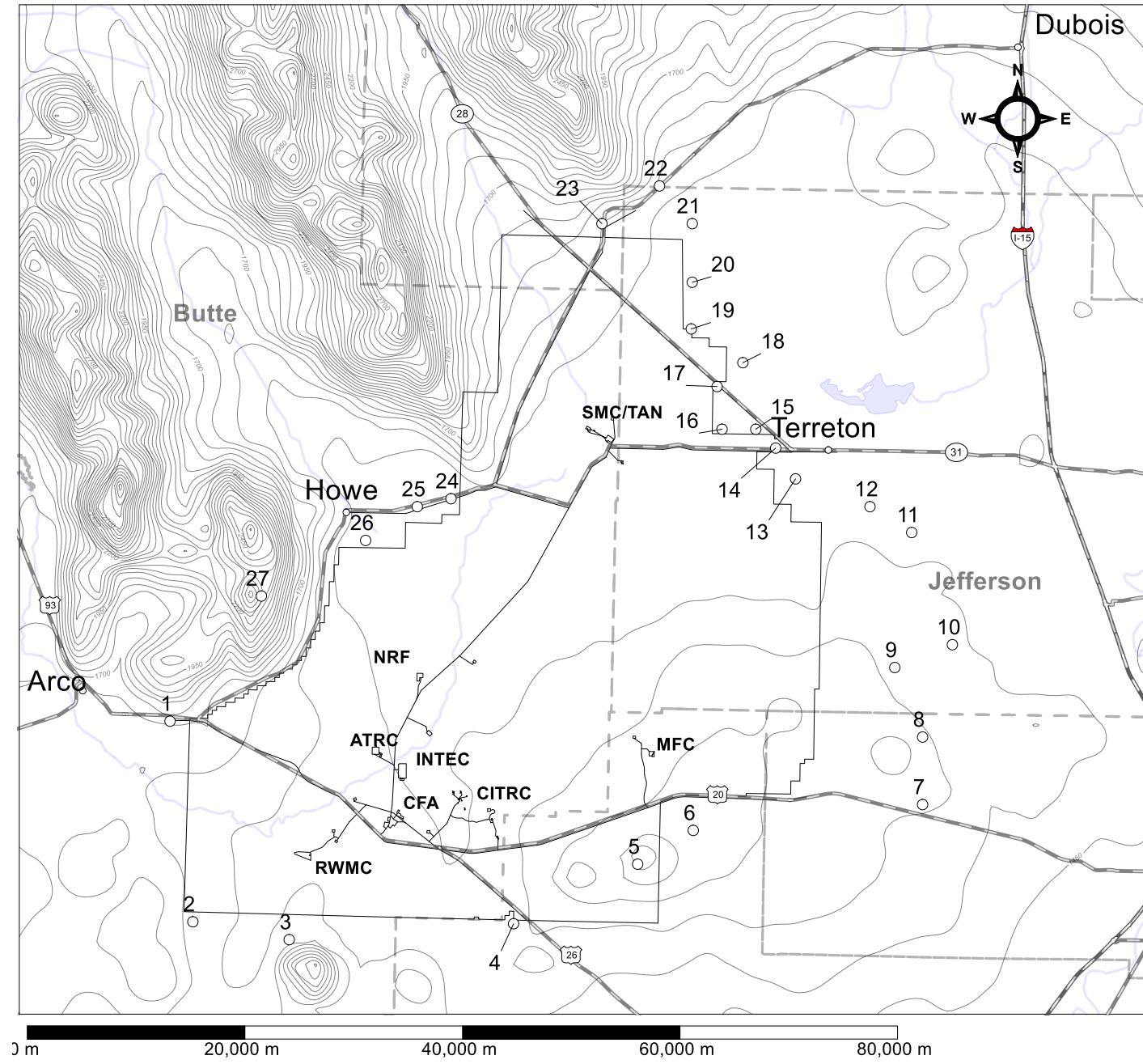


Fig. 2

Figure3

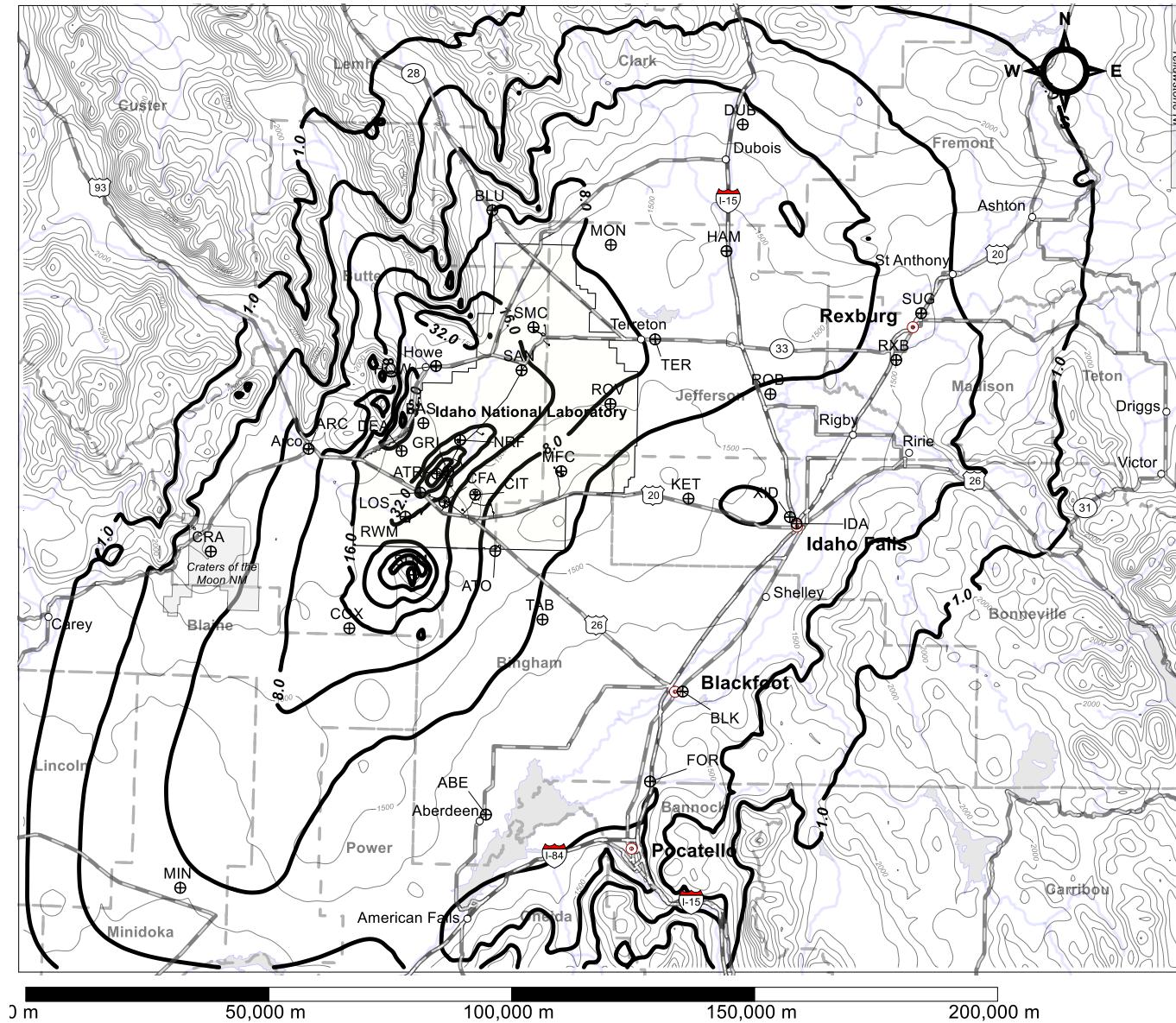


Fig. 3

Figure4

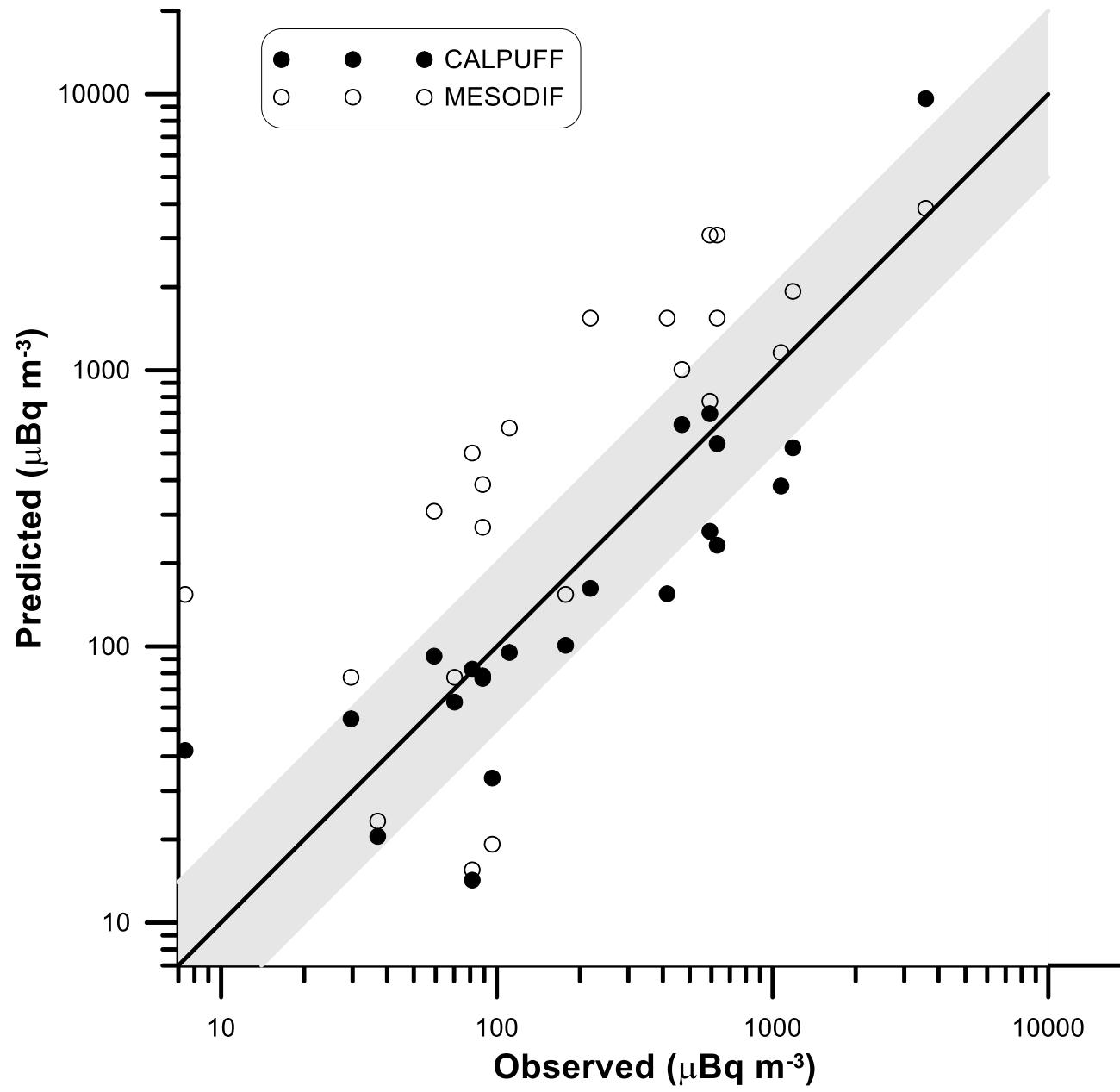


Fig. 4

Figure5

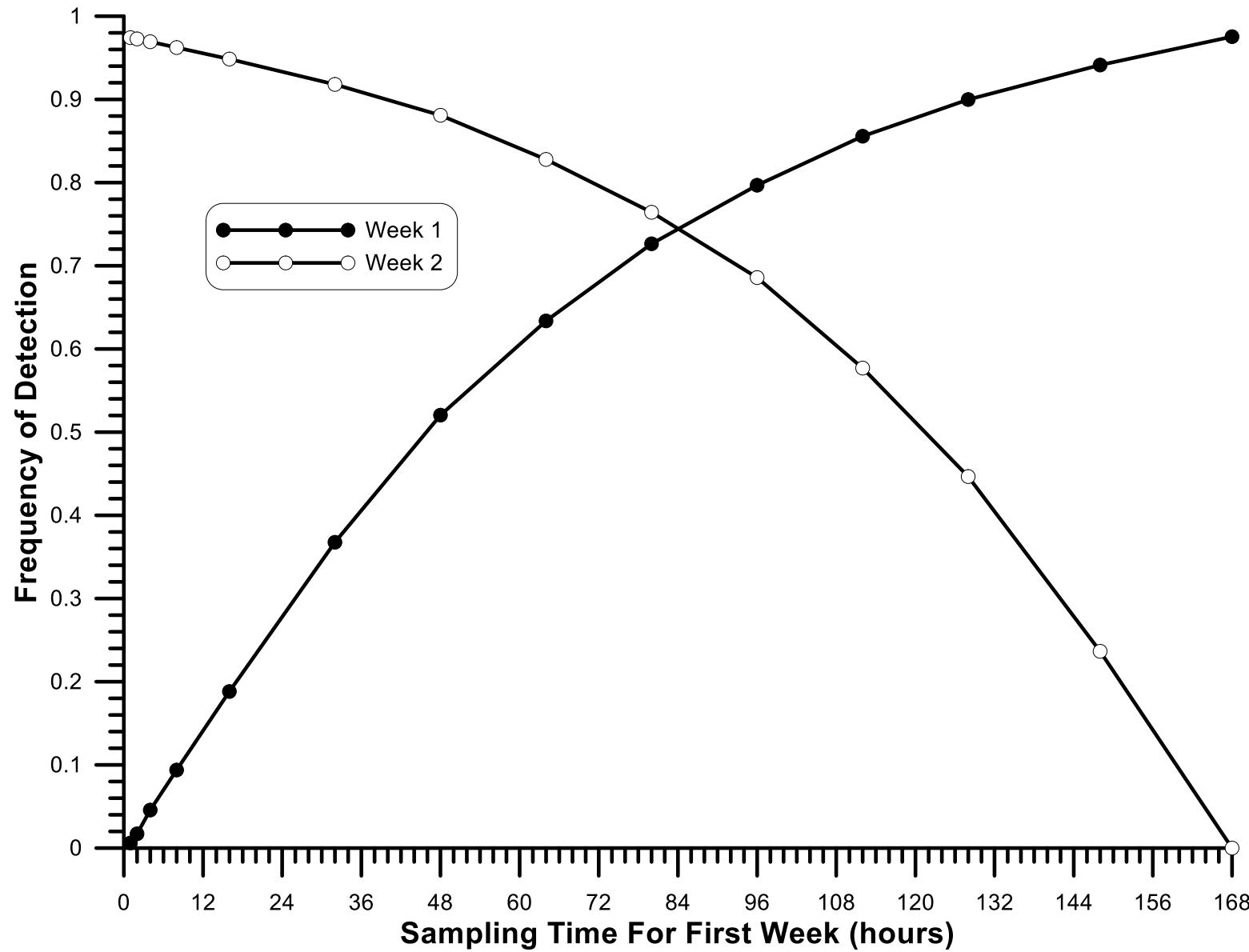


Fig. 5

Figure6

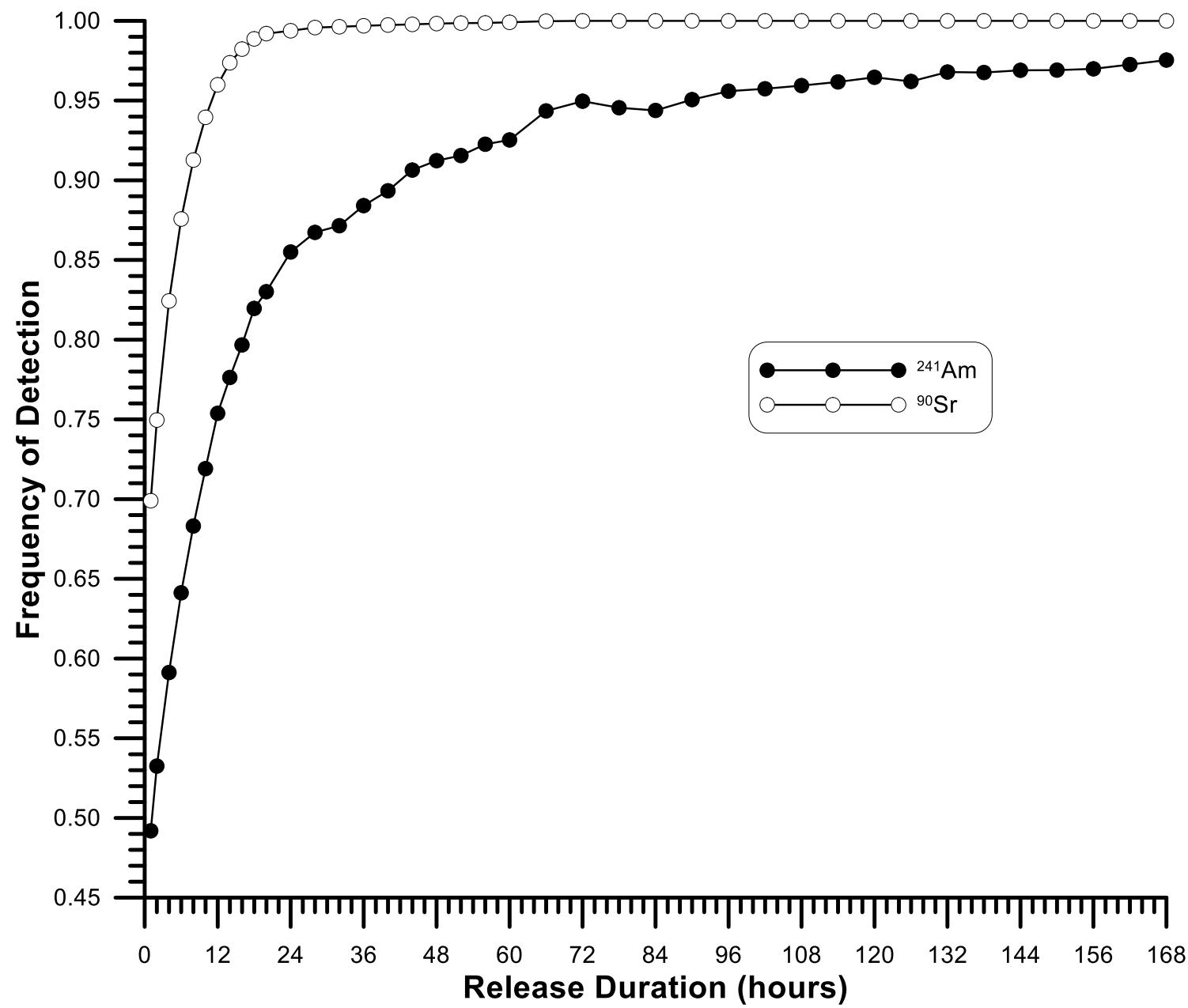


Fig. 6