State of Wisconsin

2012

Zion

Environmental Radioactivity Survey

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
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State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services

2012

Zion Environmental Monitoring Survey

Executive Summary

Wisconsin Public Health Statutes 254.41 mandates the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services to conduct environmental radiation monitoring around the nuclear power facilities that impact Wisconsin. This environmental monitoring report is for the Zion nuclear generating plant for the calendar year January - December 2012 and provides a description and results of this environmental monitoring program.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services' environmental monitoring program consists of the collection of various types of samples from the air, water and terrestrial exposure pathways, sample analysis and interpretation of the data. The sampling program included samples of air, ambient gamma radiation, surface water, soil and vegetation that are collected from selected locations at planned sampling intervals.

Program Summary

For 2012, all sample results from the Zion environmental monitoring area were less than state and federal standards or guidelines.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services' environmental monitoring programs provide an ongoing baseline of radioactivity measurements to access any Wisconsin health concerns from the operation of nuclear power generating facilities in or near Wisconsin or other radiological incidents that may occur within Wisconsin or worldwide. These monitoring programs show the following:

- Environmental radioactivity levels have been trending downward in the time period since the 1950's-1960's atmospheric nuclear testing and such radiological incidents as the Chernobyl nuclear reactor incident.
- There were no incidents during 2012, such as the 2011 Japan Fukushima Daiichi incident, that required additional environmental monitoring.
- There is no radioactive problem in types of food consumed in Wisconsin or a health problem for Wisconsin citizens.

The ongoing environmental monitoring programs will continue to provide assurances to the citizens of Wisconsin that the environment surrounding the Zion nuclear power facility and other monitoring areas will continue to be evaluated.

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Introduction

Wisconsin Public Health Statutes 254.41 mandates the Wisconsin (WI) Department of Health Services (DHS) to conduct environmental radiation monitoring around the nuclear power facilities that impact Wisconsin. This environmental monitoring report is for the Zion nuclear facility for the calendar year January - December 2012 and provides a description and results of this environmental monitoring program.

WI DHS Zion Environmental Monitoring Sampling Program

The WI DHS environmental monitoring program consists of the collection of various types of samples from the air, water and terrestrial exposure pathways. The sampling program included samples of air, ambient gamma radiation as measured by thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLD), surface water, soil and vegetation that are collected from selected locations at planned sampling intervals.

Table 1 is a listing of presently used sampling sites that have been renumbered after eliminating sample sites that have been discontinued. Sampling sites that have been discontinued were last listed as sampling sites in WI DHS's environmental monitoring report for the Zion nuclear plant for the calendar year of January - December 2000. Table 2 provides a listing of types of samples collected, collection frequency, sites where samples are collected, the number of samples collected, number of samples that were missed or had sample or analysis deviations and a listing of the required analyses. Table 3 provides an explanation of missing samples or non-routine sample analyses. Figure 1 is a map showing the location of each environmental sampling site.

Program Modifications

In January 1998 ComEd announced that it was permanently closing the Zion nuclear power station and initiated the process of decommissioning the Zion station. In response to this and due to other funding restrictions, the Zion environmental monitoring program was reviewed and modified in 1998 and 2000.

Due to funding restrictions, additional program modifications were implemented beginning in the 3rd quarter of 2010.

There were no further program modifications in 2012.

Laboratory Services and Quality Assurance

The analysis of the samples is performed under contract with the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH). WSLH maintains a quality assurance program. Analytical procedures provide for routine replicate analyses to verify methods and instrument operation. Traceable sources are used to regularly calibrate the counters and daily performance checks are made between calibrations. In addition, quality control charts are maintained on the counters.

WSLH participates in the Environmental Resource Associates' Proficiency Testing program and has performed satisfactorily over the report period. Proficiency testing results are available from the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

Detection Limits

Detection limits, required by WI DHS, will be expressed as a lower limit of detection (LLD). The required WI DHS LLD as indicated in Table 4 under the heading "LLD" is an "a priori" estimate of the capability for detecting an activity concentration by a given measurement system, procedure, and type of sample. Counting statistics of the appropriate instrument background are used to compute the LLD for each specific analysis. Using 4.66 times the standard deviation (s_b) of the instrument background, the LLD for each specific analysis is defined at the 95% Confidence Level.

The LLD for each radioisotope listed in Table 4 has been calculated from the following equation:

$$LLD = \frac{4.66\ s_b}{E * V * 2.22 * Y * S * \exp(-dt)}$$

Where:

LLD	is the "a priori" lower limit of detection as defined above, as picocuries per unit mass or volume,
s_b	is the standard deviation of the background counting rate or of the counting rate of blank sample as appropriate, as counts per minute,
E	is the counting efficiency, as counts per disintegration,
V	is the sample size in units of mass or volume,
2.22	is the number of disintegrations per minute per picocurie,
Y	is the fractional radiochemical yield, when applicable,
S	is the self-absorption correction factor,
d	is the radioactive decay constant for the particular radionuclide, and
t	for environmental samples is the elapsed time between sample collection, or end of the sample collection period, and time of counting.

Typical values for E, V, Y and dt have been used to calculate the LLD.

Reporting of Sample Analysis Results

Results for specific analyses will be reported as either a "less than" (<) value or an actual activity value. The reporting of results in Table 4 under the heading "Range" and in Tables 5-9 is "a posteriori" calculation based on the actual analysis performed using the actual sample values for E, V, Y and dt. Typically the reported "less than" (<) results are lower than the required WI DHS LLD indicating that the required WI DHS LLD has been met.

An actual activity value will be accompanied by an uncertainty term for that analysis. The uncertainty term is a plus or minus counting uncertainty term at the 2 sigma (95%) confidence interval and is printed as (+- or $\pm$). Examples and explanations of data reporting are:

Example	Nuclide	Activity reported
1	^{137}Cs	< 10 pCi/liter
2	^{137}Cs	15 $\pm$ 3 pCi/liter

In example 1 we can be 95% confident that the sample activity, if any, is less than the LLD of 10 pCi/liter. In example 2 we can be 95% confident that the actual sample activity is greater than the LLD for that analysis and is between 12 and 18 pCi/liter.

Table 1. WI DHS Zion environmental monitoring sampling sites.

Sample site	Distance and direction (miles)	Location description
ZI-1	3.8 N	Chiwaukee Prairie.
ZI-2	8.5 NW	Pleasant Prairie, Roger Prange Municipal Center (discontinued July 2010)
ZI-3	10.0 N	Water intake - 4700 feet from shore.
ZI-4	5.9 NW	Junction of Highway 31 and County ML.
ZI-T41	4.7 NW	Junction of 122th Street and 39th Avenue
ZI-T42	3.8 N	Chiwaukee Prairie.
ZI-T43	10.1 N	Kenosha Water Utility

Table 2. Sample collection summary and required analyses.

Sample Type	Collection and Frequency	Site locations	Number of Samples Collected	Number of Samples Deviations	Required Analyses
Air Particulate	C/BW	1	24	2	GA, GB, GI
TLD	C/Q	T41 - T43	12	0	direct exposure
Surface Water	G/SA	3	2	0	GA, GB, GI, Sr, H
Vegetation	G/A	1, 4	2	0	GA, GB, GI
Soil	G/A	1, 4	2	0	GA, GB, GI

Collection type: C/ = continuous; G/ = grab

Frequency: /W = weekly; /M = monthly; /Q = quarterly; /A = annually; /BW = bi-weekly; /SA = semi-annually

Required analyses: GA = gross alpha; GB = gross beta; GI = gamma isotopic; Sr = strontium; H = tritium

Table 3. Missing sample report and listing of non-routine analyses.

Sample type	Date	Site	Explanation
Air Particulate	06/27/12	ZI-1	The air site was not operating for approximately 20 hours at the end of the sampling period.
Air Particulate	06/27/12 – 07/24/12	ZI-1	Due to an air pump failure, the air site was not operating from 06/27/12 - 07/24/12.

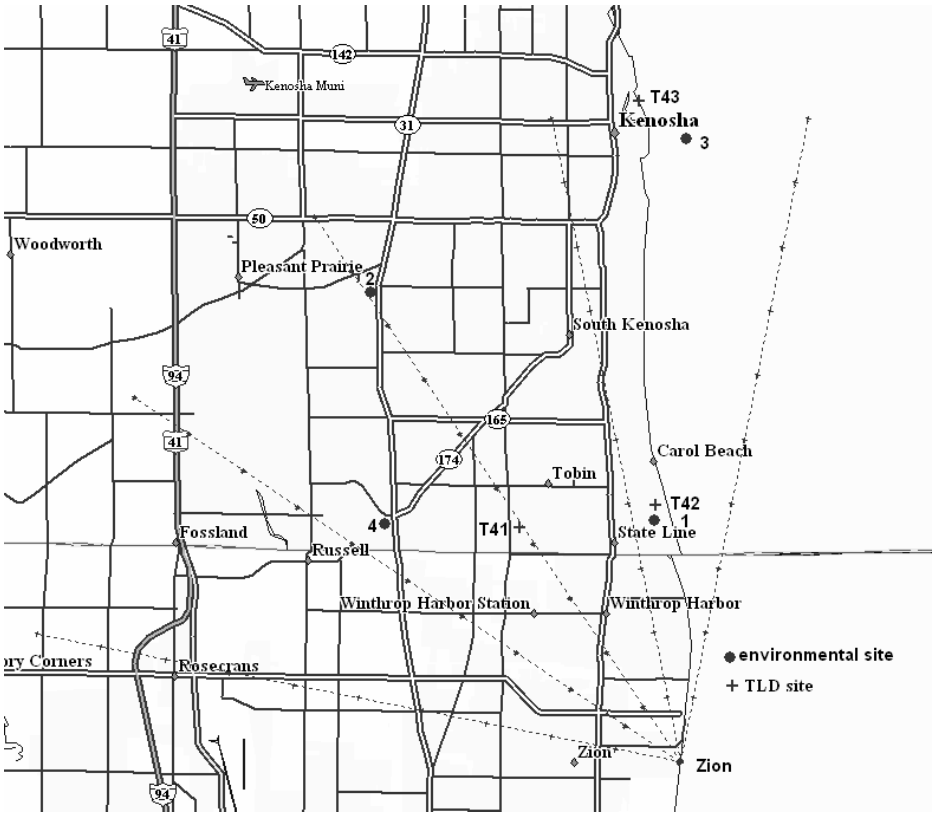

Figure 1. WI DHS environmental monitoring sites for the Zion environmental monitoring program.

Results and Discussion for the Zion Environmental Monitoring Program

Air Particulate

A summary of reported activities by WI DHS for air particulate samples is included in Table 4. Results from the individual sample analyses are listed in Tables 5 and 6.

From the bi-weekly and quarterly gross beta activities listed in Table 5 it may be noted that there are no significant differences from gross beta activities in the three other WI DHS environmental monitoring programs. With no significant differences, an increase in gross beta activity attributable to the Zion facility is not evident.

The gamma isotopic analysis of the quarterly air particulate filter composites detected only small amounts of the radioisotopes listed in Table 4. Beryllium-7 (^{7}Be), detected in all composites, is a naturally occurring radioisotope that is constantly produced through nuclear reactions between cosmic rays and nuclei in the atmosphere and is detected in air composites from other areas of the state on a routine basis. Influence by the Zion facility on air quality is not evident from air particulate analysis.

Ambient Gamma Radiation – Thermoluminescent Dosimeters (TLDs)

A summary of reported activities by WI DHS for ambient gamma radiation is included in Table 4. Results from the individual sample analyses are listed in Table 7.

Ambient gamma radiation (TLD) data for 2012 from the WI DHS network was comparable for all sites. Significant differences in exposure were not noticed at different distances from the Zion facility. The average quarterly exposure from the three sites located within Wisconsin was 14.3 $\pm$ 1.9 milliroentgens. The average yearly exposure is at background levels and is comparable to other areas within Wisconsin. Influence by the Zion facility is not evident from air ambient gamma radiation analysis.

Surface Water

A summary of reported activities by WI DHS for surface water samples is included in Table 4. Results from the individual sample analyses are listed in Table 8.

The surface water samples showed no unusual activities. All detected activities are at background levels and are comparable to data from previous years. The surface water samples uniformly show activities below state or federal standards. Influence by the Zion facility is not evident from surface water sample analysis.

Vegetation

A summary of reported activities by WI DHS for vegetation samples is included in Table 4. Results from the individual sample analyses are listed in Table 9.

Analysis of the vegetation samples showed no unusual activities. The gamma isotopic analysis detected only small amounts of the naturally occurring radioisotopes beryllium-7 (^{7}Be) and potassium-40 (^{40}K) listed in Table 4. Influence by the Zion facility is not evident from vegetation sample analysis.

Soil

A summary of reported activities by WI DHS for soil samples is included in Table 4. Results from the individual sample analyses are listed in Table 9.

Analysis of the soil samples showed no unusual activities. The gamma isotopic analysis detected only small amounts of the radionuclides listed in Table 4. Potassium-40 (^{40}K) is a naturally occurring radioisotope. The reported activities for cesium-137 (^{137}Cs) were also detected in previous years and are attributable to fallout from previous atmospheric nuclear tests. Naturally occurring radioisotopes from the uranium-238 (^{238}U) and thorium-232 (^{232}Th) decay series are commonly detected but have not been quantified or reported. Influence by the Zion facility is not evident from soil sample analysis.

Dose to an Average Individual

Federal regulations 10 CFR 20, 10 CFR 50 Appendix I and 40 CFR 190 restrict the annual exposure of the population from all parts of the nuclear fuel cycle, including nuclear power plants. Doses resulting from gaseous and liquid effluent releases from the Zion facility are less than the limits as stated in these Federal regulations.

The WI DHS limits for permissible levels of radiation exposure from external sources in unrestricted areas are defined in the Wis. Adm. Code section DHS 157.23. Doses resulting from gaseous and liquid effluent releases from the Zion facility are less than the limits as stated in Wis. Adm. Code section DHS 157.23.

References

State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Administrative Code, DHS 157.23

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Radiation Requirements for Normal Operations of Activities in the Uranium Fuel Cycle, EPA 520/4-76-016, 40 CFR Part 190, November 1976.

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Title 10, Part 20.

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Title 10, Part 50, Appendix I.

Table 4. Sample activity summary for the WI DHS Zion environmental monitoring program for 2012.

Sample type (units)	LLD	Number of samples [a]	Analysis	Range
Air particulate	0.005	24 / 24	gross beta	0.012 - 0.037
(pCi/m^3)			gamma isotopic	
	0.020	4 / 4	Be-7	0.043 – 0.111
	0.002	4 / 0	Mn-54	< 0.0005
	0.002	4 / 0	Co-58	< 0.0004
	0.005	4 / 0	Fe-59	< 0.0010
	0.002	4 / 0	Co-60	< 0.0005
	0.005	4 / 0	Zn-65	< 0.0006
	0.002	4 / 0	Nb-95	< 0.0005
	0.005	4 / 0	Zr-95	< 0.0006
	0.002	4 / 0	Ru-103	< 0.0004
	0.015	4 / 0	Ru-106	< 0.0030
	0.020	4 / 0	I-131	< 0.0017
	0.002	4 / 0	Cs-134	< 0.0004
	0.002	4 / 0	Cs-137	< 0.0004
	0.030	4 / 0	Ba-140	< 0.0032
	0.020	4 / 0	La-140	< 0.0016
	0.002	4 / 0	Ce-141	< 0.0006
	0.005	4 / 0	Ce-144	< 0.0018
Ambient gamma	1.0 [b]	12 / 12	ambient gamma	11.2 -16.9
(mR/Std Qtr)				
Vegetation	5000	2 / 0	gross alpha	< 3940
(pCi/kg wet)	4000	2 / 2	gross beta	5000 – 8200
			gamma isotopic	
	600	2 / 2	Be-7	1740 – 1880
	2000	2 / 2	K-40	4170 – 4760
	90	2 / 0	Mn-54	< 34
	100	2 / 0	Co-58	< 30
	200	2 / 0	Fe-59	< 72
	100	2 / 0	Co-60	< 43
	250	2 / 0	Zn-65	< 85
	100	2 / 0	Nb-95	< 28
	200	2 / 0	Zr-95	< 34
	80	2 / 0	I-131	< 30
	80	2 / 0	Cs-134	< 32
	90	2 / 0	Cs-137	< 25
	350	2 / 0	Ba-140	< 112
	100	2 / 0	La-140	< 28

Table 4. Sample activity summary for the WI DHS Zion environmental monitoring program for 2012, continued.

Sample type (units)	LLD	Number of samples [a]	Analysis	Range
Surface water	3.0	2 / 1	gross beta (sol)	< 1.5 – 1.0
(pCi/liter)	3.0	2 / 0	gross beta (insol)	< 1.4
	3.0	2 / 0	gross alpha (sol)	< 2.2
	3.0	2 / 0	gross alpha (insol)	< 1.4
	300	2 / 0	H-3	< 200
	2.0	2 / 0	Sr-89	< 1.2
	1.0	2 / 0	Sr-90	< 0.6
			gamma isotopic	
	15	2 / 0	Mn-54	< 10
	15	2 / 0	Co-58	< 9
	30	2 / 0	Fe-59	< 18
	15	2 / 0	Co-60	< 12
	30	2 / 0	Zn-65	< 17
	15	2 / 0	Nb-95	< 11
	30	2 / 0	Zr-95	< 16
	15	2 / 0	I-131	< 12
	15	2 / 0	Cs-134	< 10
	15	2 / 0	Cs-137	< 13
	60	2 / 0	Ba-140	< 40
	15	2 / 0	La-140	< 14
Soil	6000	2 / 2	gross beta	6300 – 25700
(pCi/kg dry)	10000	2 / 1	gross alpha	< 7050 – 17000
			gamma isotopic	
	800	2 / 2	K-40	9000 – 19300
	60	2 / 0	Mn-54	< 29
	90	2 / 0	Co-58	< 24
	600	2 / 0	Fe-59	< 53
	90	2 / 0	Co-60	< 32
	300	2 / 0	Zn-65	< 58
	100	2 / 0	Nb-95	< 25
	250	2 / 0	Zr-95	< 43
	80	2 / 0	Cs-134	< 28
	80	2 / 2	Cs-137	110 - 200

a - Number of analyses / number of analyses detected above the WI DHS LLD.
b - 1.0 mR/TLD.

Table 5. WI DHS air particulate gross beta analysis results from the Zion environmental monitoring program.

Measurements in units of pCi/m^3

Site: ZI-1; Chiwaukee Prairie

Collection Date	Volume m^3	Air Particulate	Collection Date	Volume m^3	Air Particulate
01/10/12	1,208	0.023 +- 0.002	*b		
01/23/12	1,131	0.024 +- 0.002	08/08/12	1045	0.019 +- 0.001
02/06/12	1,180	0.025 +- 0.002	08/22/12	1023	0.016 +- 0.001
02/20/12	1,219	0.021 +- 0.001	09/05/12	1016	0.027 +- 0.002
03/08/12	1,393	0.021 +- 0.001	09/17/12	870	0.022 +- 0.002
03/22/12	1,143	0.021 +- 0.001	10/04/12	1253	0.015 +- 0.001
1st Qtr mean +- s.d.		0.023 +- 0.002	3rd Qtr mean +- s.d.		0.020 +- 0.005
04/03/12	994	0.013 +- 0.001			
04/16/12	1067	0.015 +- 0.001	10/19/12	1112	0.019 +- 0.001
05/01/12	1245	0.018 +- 0.001	10/31/12	907	0.020 +- 0.002
05/17/12	1265	0.013 +- 0.001	11/14/12	1118	0.022 +- 0.001
05/30/12	1031	0.019 +- 0.002	11/28/12	1097	0.037 +- 0.002
06/13/12	1112	0.012 +- 0.001	12/12/12	1107	0.030 +- 0.002
06/27/12 *a	1094	0.014 +- 0.001	12/28/12	1263	0.025 +- 0.001
2nd Qtr mean +- s.d.		0.015 +- 0.003	4th Qtr mean +- s.d.		0.026 +- 0.007

a - The air site was not operating for approximately 20 hours at the end of the sampling period.

b - Due to an air pump failure, the air site was not operating from 06/27/12 - 07/24/12.

Table 6. WI DHS gamma isotopic analysis results from the quarterly composites of air particulate filters collected from the Zion environmental monitoring program.

Measurements in units of pCi/m^3

Site: ZI-1	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter
Be-7	0.056 +- 0.007	0.077 +- 0.008	0.111 +- 0.006	0.043 +- 0.007
Mn-54	< 0.0003	< 0.0003	< 0.0002	< 0.0005
Co-58	< 0.0004	< 0.0004	< 0.0002	< 0.0003
Fe-59	< 0.0010	< 0.0006	< 0.0004	< 0.0007
Co-60	< 0.0005	< 0.0002	< 0.0002	< 0.0004
Zn-65	< 0.0006	< 0.0006	< 0.0003	< 0.0006
Nb-95	< 0.0004	< 0.0002	< 0.0002	< 0.0005
Zr-95	< 0.0005	< 0.0005	< 0.0003	< 0.0006
Ru-103	< 0.0003	< 0.0003	< 0.0002	< 0.0004
Ru-106	< 0.0029	< 0.0021	< 0.0014	< 0.0030
I-131	< 0.0012	< 0.0010	< 0.0017	< 0.0014
Cs-134	< 0.0004	< 0.0003	< 0.0002	< 0.0003
Cs-137	< 0.0003	< 0.0004	< 0.0002	< 0.0004
Ba-140	< 0.0022	< 0.0018	< 0.0024	< 0.0032
La-140	< 0.0011	< 0.0008	< 0.0008	< 0.0016
Ce-141	< 0.0005	< 0.0005	< 0.0004	< 0.0006
Ce-144	< 0.0016	< 0.0015	< 0.0010	< 0.0018

Radioisotopes other than those reported were not detected.

Table 7. WI DHS TLD network for the Zion environmental monitoring program.

	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter
Date Placed:	01/03/12	04/02/12	07/02/12	10/01/12
Date Removed:	04/02/12	07/02/12	10/01/12	01/03/13
Days in the Field:	90	91	91	94
	Individual quarterly date is reported as: mR / Standard Quarter + 2 sigma counting error.			
T-41	16.9 +- 0.7	12.7 +- 0.6	16.0 +- 0.7	16.5 +- 0.8
T-42	14.9 +- 1.1	11.2 +- 0.3	13.2 +- 0.6	14.7 +- 0.4
T-43	14.7 +- 1.0	12.3 +- 0.6	12.1 +- 0.4	15.9 +- 0.7

Table 8. WI DHS analysis results for surface water samples collected for the Zion environmental monitoring program.

Measurements in units of pCi/liter

ZI-3

Collection date:	04/03/12	10/22/12
gross alpha-sol	< 2.2	< 1.1
gross beta-sol	< 1.5	1.0 +- 0.5
gross alpha-insol	< 1.4	< 0.7
gross beta-insol	< 1.4	< 0.9
H-3	< 179	< 199
Sr-89	< 0.5	< 1.2
Sr-90	< 0.3	< 0.6
gamma isotopic		
Mn-54	< 3	< 10
Co-58	< 2	< 9
Fe-59	< 4	< 18
Co-60	< 3	< 12
Zn-65	< 5	< 17
Nb-95	< 2	< 11
Zr-95	< 4	< 16
I-131	< 3	< 12
Cs-134	< 3	< 10
Cs-137	< 3	< 13
Ba-140	< 9	< 40
La-140	< 4	< 14

Radioisotopes other than those reported were not detected.

Table 9. WI DHS analysis results for vegetation and soil samples collected for the Zion environmental monitoring program.

Vegetation	**Vegetation**		**Soil**	
	pCi/kilogram (wet)		pCi/kilogram (dry)	
Site:	ZI-1	ZI-4	ZI-1	ZI-4
Collection date:	07/24/12	07/24/12	07/24/12	07/24/12
gross alpha	< 3940	< 1640	< 7050	17000 +- 4800
gross beta	8200 +- 1800	5000 +- 600	6300 +- 1600	25700 +- 2100
gamma isotopic				
Be-7	1880 +- 370	1740 +- 260		
K-40	4760 +- 1060	4170 +- 840	9000 +- 1500	19300 +- 3100
Mn-54	< 34	< 20	< 17	< 29
Co-58	< 30	< 20	< 12	< 24
Fe-59	< 72	< 41	< 42	< 53
Co-60	< 43	< 29	< 24	< 32
Zn-65	< 85	< 46	< 37	< 58
Nb-95	< 28	< 21	< 16	< 25
Zr-95	< 31	< 34	< 29	< 43
I-131	< 30	< 25		
Cs-134	< 32	< 23	< 13	< 28
Cs-137	< 25	< 25	200 +- 30	110 +- 30
Ba-140	< 112	< 78		
La-140	< 11	< 28		

Soil: Naturally occurring radioisotopes such as radium-226 (^{226}Ra), bismuth-214 (^{214}Bi), lead-214 (^{214}Pb), actinium-228 (^{228}Ac), bismuth-212 (^{212}Bi), lead-212 (^{212}Pb) from the naturally occurring uranium-238 (^{238}U) and thorium-232 (^{232}Th) decay series are commonly detected but have not been quantified or reported.

Radioisotopes other than those reported were not detected