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Analytical Results for the Community Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP) Air Sampling and Dosimeter Network: Second Quarter CY2023

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January 2024

Prepared by

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Prepared for

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The Community Environmental Monitoring Program is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Field Office under Contract #89233122CNA000255.

The Community Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP) air sampling network is designed to monitor and collect radioactive airborne particles from Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) and non-NNSS activities, as well as background environmental sources. This report compiled by Desert Research Institute (DRI) summarizes the results from the analysis of air samples collected by CEMP station managers.

The CEMP air sampling network is comprised of 24 continuously operating environmental sampling stations. A total of 23 stations are equipped with a low-volume air sampler/totalizer configuration to collect particulate radionuclides on glass-fiber filter paper. Prior to October 1, 2013, all air samples were collected every two weeks with a target collection time of 336 hours. After October 1, 2013, approximately half of the stations were converted to "standby status," which means only one two-week sample was collected and analyzed each quarter during the year.

Beginning on October 1, 2017, all CEMP stations resumed full-time operation with samples being collected every two weeks. Currently, the procedure is to submit one set of samples per quarter for analysis. The remaining samples are archived to be accessed if needed. This protocol will be followed unless an important event were to occur on or off the NNSS (e.g., major fires, a transportation incident, or an unusual result). Archived samples would be used to assess conditions before and after an event. The samplers are calibrated on a quarterly basis by DRI to maintain a collection rate of 1.75 cubic feet per minute at Standard Temperature and Pressure (STP). All relevant information (such as collection times, variations in flow rate, actual flow volumes, power outages, and other information documenting the integrity of the sample) is recorded by the station managers. This allows for proper interpretation of the analytical results.

An accredited commercial laboratory analyzes the air filters for gross alpha/beta activity and uses high-resolution gamma spectrometry to detect the following isotopes:

- Actinium-228 (Ra-228)
- Americium-241
- Antimony-124
- Beryllium-7
- Bismuth-212
- Bismuth-214 (Ra-226)
- Cesium-134
- Cesium-137
- Cobalt-60

- Iridium-192
- Lead-212
- Lead-214
- Potassium-40
- Scandium-46
- Thallium-208
- Thorium-234 (U-238)
- Uranium-235

Table 1 contains the gamma results for the second quarter of calendar year (CY) 2023 for the analytes americium-241, cesium-134, cesium-137, cobalt-60, and uranium-235. The results for americium-241, cesium-134, cesium-137, cobalt-60, and

uranium-235 were all below the minimum detectable activity for all samples. Table 2 summarizes the gross alpha/beta results for the second quarter of CY2023. The average annual values for the previous year are provided for comparison. Table 3 shows the environmental dosimeter results for the second quarter of CY2023. The dosimeter results are reported in milliroentgens (mR). The pressurized ion chamber (PIC) exposure rate and dosimeter data from the previous year are also provided for comparison. Dosimeter values are commonly lower than the PIC results because the PIC offers greater sensitivity.

represent one analysis per quarter.						
Station	Americium-241 (× 10 ⁻¹⁵ μCi/mL)	Cesium-134 (× 10 ⁻¹⁵ µCi/mL)	Cesium-137 (× 10 ⁻¹⁵ μCi/mL)	Cobalt-60 (× 10 ⁻¹⁵ μCi/mL)	Uranium-235 (× 10 ⁻¹⁵ μCi/mL)	
Alamo	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Amargosa Valley	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Beatty	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Boulder City	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Caliente	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Cedar City	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Delta	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Duckwater	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Ely	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Goldfield	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Henderson	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Indian Springs	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Las Vegas	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Mesquite	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Milford	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Overton	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Pahrump	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Pioche	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Rachel	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Sarcobatus Flat	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
St. George	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Тесора	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	
Tonopah	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	below MDA	

Table 1.Gamma spectroscopy results for select analytes for the second quarter of CY2023. Data
represent one analysis per quarter.

MDA = minimum detectable activity

Station	Gross Alpha (× 10 ⁻¹⁵ μCi/mL)	2022 Average (× 10 ⁻¹⁵ μCi/mL)	Gross Beta (× 10 ⁻¹⁴ µCi/mL)	2022 Average (× 10 ⁻¹⁴ μCi/mL)
Alamo	4.68	6.72	0.93	1.34
Amargosa Valley	4.08	7.79	0.75	1.35
Beatty	4.06	9.09	0.96	1.44
Boulder City	6.61	10.02	1.11	1.55
Caliente	4.82	13.13	0.81	1.69
Cedar City	6.28	8.93	0.88	1.45
Delta	4.32	10.92	0.91	1.77
Duckwater	5.43	8.69	0.92	1.35
Ely	5.05	7.15	0.82	1.11
Goldfield	10.4	8.34	0.86	1.38
Henderson	6.65	10.31	1.08	1.63
Indian Springs	6.01	8.73	0.87	1.40
Las Vegas	9.84	17.40	0.80	1.54
Mesquite	3.93	8.85	0.88	1.66
Milford	4.45	10.95	0.86	1.79
Overton	4.99	8.24	0.97	1.65
Pahrump	5.20	12.38	0.99	1.48
Pioche	5.09	9.04	0.89	1.41
Rachel	4.47	7.30	0.94	1.40
Sarcobatus Flat	5.29	8.90	1.08	1.56
St. George	6.17	9.07	1.12	1.81
Тесора	6.19	8.88	0.92	1.73
Tonopah	6.81	11.18	1.06	1.50

Table 2.Gross alpha/beta results for the second quarter of CY2023. Data represent one analysis
per quarter.

Station	Second Quarter Exposure (mR)	Est. Annual Exposure (mR/yr)	2022 Exposure (mR/yr)	2022 PIC Exposure (mR/yr)
Alamo	7	32	65	113
Amargosa Valley	19	73	64	102
Beatty	18	87	112	143
Boulder City	19	70	66	131
Caliente	25	77	81	136
Cedar City	12	51	56	117
Delta	9	42	56	113
Duckwater	22	70	80	134
Ely	20	63	53	104
Goldfield	19	89	90	138
Henderson	23	84	76	122
Indian Springs	12	47	52	98
Las Vegas	22	82	62	93
Mesquite	11	49	50	101
Milford	21	91	115	166
Overton	6	23	28	96
Pahrump	4	16	25	74
Pioche	23	71	90	136
Rachel	10	47	102	136
Sarcobatus Flat	20	96	109	146
St. George	12	52	76	122
Тесора	14	57	64	109
Tonopah	20	98	96	140

Table 3.Dosimeter results for the second quarter of CY2023.