

aquifer contained an average of 2.2×10^{-6} $\mu\text{Ci/mL}$ of ^{238}Pu and 0.28×10^{-6} $\mu\text{Ci/mL}$ of $^{239,240}\text{Pu}$ at Well MCO-6. Results of the analyses of cores indicate no significant concentrations of ^{238}Pu in silts and clay of the alluvium aquifer or underlying tuff (Table XXIII). A comparison of the $^{239,240}\text{Pu}$

TABLE XXIII. Average Plutonium Concentration in Soil Cores from Mortadad Canyon

| Location | $\bar{x} + 2s$ | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | ^{238}Pu (pCi/g) | ^{239}Pu (pCi/g) |
| Core Hole 1 | 0.001 ± 0.005 | 0.004 ± 0.009 |
| Core Hole 2 | 0.0000 ± 0.003 | 0.011 ± 0.025 |
| Core Hole 3 | -0.001 ± 0.003 | 0.006 ± 0.015 |
| Core Hole 4 (Control) | -0.001 ± 0.002 | 0.000 ± 0.006 |
| Core Hole 5 (Control) | -0.001 ± 0.002 | -0.002 ± 0.003 |

concentrations are low, being much lower than those found in solution in the aquifer or attached to sediments in the stream channel.

Summary

In summary, a study of the distribution of moisture, tritium, and plutonium in the Mortadad Canyon aquifer indicates some infiltration of water into the underlying tuff. This infiltration was accompanied by similar movement of tritium. The concentrations of plutonium on the sediments in the aquifer were low when compared with the high concentrations in solution in an ionic complex that does not readily exchange or is adsorbed by clay minerals in the alluvium.

References

1. W. D. Purtyman, W. R. Hansen, and R. J. Peters, "Radiochemical Quality of Water in the Shallow Aquifer in Mortadad Canyon 1967-1978," Los Alamos National Laboratory report LA-9675-MS (March 1983).
2. W. D. Purtyman, J. R. Buchholz, and T. E. Hakonson, "Chemical Quality of Effluents and Their Influence on Water Quality in a Shallow Aquifer," *Journal of Environmental Quality* 6 (1) (1977).

TRANSPORT OF RADIONUCLIDES FROM THE LAMPF LAGOONS

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Monitoring of the discharge water from the Los Alamos Meson Physics Facility lagoons continued during 1983. Sampling frequency has been reduced to twice a year, in June and December. The list of radionuclides being monitored has been expanded so that it now includes ^7Be , ^{57}Co , ^{134}Cs , ^3H , ^{54}Mn , ^{22}Na , and ^{83}Rb . The sampling locations are shown in Fig. 21 and the data

obtained to date are shown in Table XXIV. Movement of radionuclides around the lagoons has been described in a previous report.¹

Reference

1. Environmental Surveillance Group, "Environmental Surveillance at Los Alamos During 1982," Los Alamos National Laboratory report LA-9762-ENV (April 1983).

TABLE XXIV. Most Recent Available Data from Samples Taken Below Los Alamos Meson Physics (TA-53) Lagoons

| Analysis | Units | 1983 Sampling Date | Sampling Location* | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Sediment | | | | | | | | | | |
| ⁷ Be | pCi/g | June | 1500 ± 150 | 3100 ± 310 | 14 000 ± 1400 | 660 ± 70 | 1700 ± 170 | 560 ± 60 | 11 ± 1.2 | -0.10 ± 0.25 |
| ⁷ Be | pCi/g | December | 1900 ± 190 | 2700 ± 270 | 4300 ± 430 | 1700 ± 170 | 180 ± 18 | 40 ± 4 | 7.5 ± 0.8 | 0.59 ± 0.06 |
| ⁵⁷ Co | pCi/g | June | 97 ± 10 | 460 ± 46 | 450 ± 46 | 13 ± 1.3 | 110 ± 11 | 96 ± 10 | 3.7 ± 0.4 | 0.03 ± 0.02 |
| ⁵⁷ Co | pCi/g | December | 300 ± 30 | 550 ± 55 | 680 ± 68 | 250 ± 25 | 120 ± 12 | 30 ± 3.0 | 7.9 ± 0.8 | 0.14 ± 0.01 |
| ¹³⁴ Cs | pCi/g | June | 330 ± 32 | 470 ± 48 | 1220 ± 120 | 150 ± 15 | 550 ± 55 | 180 ± 18 | 8.0 ± 0.8 | 0.03 ± 0.03 |
| ¹³⁴ Cs | pCi/g | December | 340 ± 34 | 580 ± 58 | 1100 ± 110 | 180 ± 18 | 270 ± 27 | 67 ± 6.7 | 5.5 ± 0.6 | 0.18 ± 0.02 |
| ³ H | 10 ⁻⁴ μCi/mL | June | 4.3 ± 0.4 | 4.2 ± 0.4 | 4.3 ± 0.4 | 4.2 ± 0.4 | 2.4 ± 0.2 | 0.88 ± 0.09 | 0.18 ± 0.02 | 0.028 ± 0.004 |
| ³ H | 10 ⁻⁴ μCi/mL | December | 11 ± 1.1 | 10 ± 1.0 | 11 ± 1.1 | 9.7 ± 1.0 | 1.5 ± 0.2 | 0.035 ± 0.004 | 0.03 ± 0.004 | 0.042 ± 0.005 |
| ⁵⁴ Mn | pCi/g | June | 110 ± 11 | 240 ± 24 | 730 ± 73 | 150 ± 15 | 340 ± 34 | 86 ± 8.7 | 3.3 ± 0.3 | 0.061 ± 0.028 |
| ⁵⁴ Mn | pCi/g | December | 190 ± 19 | 350 ± 35 | 320 ± 32 | 82 ± 8.2 | 91 ± 9.1 | 32 ± 3.2 | 6.2 ± 0.6 | 0.19 ± 0.02 |
| ²² Na | pCi/g | June | 5.4 ± 0.5 | 15 ± 1.6 | 5.5 ± 0.6 | 3.5 ± 0.4 | 6.7 ± 0.7 | 2.7 ± 0.3 | 0.92 ± 0.10 | -0.22 ± 0.03 |
| ²² Na | pCi/g | December | 4.4 ± 0.4 | 15 ± 1.5 | 4.8 ± 0.5 | 8.1 ± 0.8 | 7.4 ± 0.7 | 1.0 ± 0.1 | 1.1 ± 0.1 | 0.095 ± 0.010 |
| ⁸³ Rb | pCi/g | June | 200 ± 20 | 360 ± 36 | 230 ± 23 | 160 ± 16 | 350 ± 35 | 80 ± 8.0 | 2.0 ± 0.2 | 0.082 ± 0.040 |
| ⁸³ Rb | pCi/g | December | 43 ± 4.3 | 100 ± 10 | 52 ± 5.2 | 57 ± 5.7 | 55 ± 5.5 | 14 ± 1.4 | 6.3 ± 0.6 | 0.31 ± 0.03 |
| Water | | | | | | | | | | |
| ⁷ Be | 10 ⁻⁶ μCi/mL | June | 160 ± 16 | 1600 ± 160 | 460 ± 46 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry | -0.043 ± 0.004 |
| ⁷ Be | 10 ⁻⁶ μCi/mL | December | 510 ± 51 | 520 ± 52 | 440 ± 44 | 420 ± 42 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry |
| ⁵⁷ Co | 10 ⁻⁶ μCi/mL | June | 24 ± 2.4 | 130 ± 13 | 59 ± 6 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry | -0.012 ± 0.001 |
| ⁵⁷ Co | 10 ⁻⁶ μCi/mL | December | 15 ± 1.5 | 15 ± 1.6 | 14 ± 1.4 | 11 ± 1.1 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry |
| ¹³⁴ Cs | 10 ⁻⁶ μCi/mL | June | 13 ± 1 | 100 ± 10 | 120 ± 12 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry | -0.008 ± 0.001 |
| ¹³⁴ Cs | 10 ⁻⁶ μCi/mL | December | 6.7 ± 0.7 | 9.5 ± 1.0 | 5.0 ± 0.5 | 3.1 ± 0.3 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry |
| ³ H | 10 ⁻⁴ μCi/mL | June | 4.3 ± 0.4 | 4.3 ± 0.4 | 4.3 ± 0.4 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry | 0.026 ± 0.004 |
| ³ H | 10 ⁻⁴ μCi/mL | December | 11 ± 1.1 | 11 ± 1.1 | 11 ± 1.1 | 11 ± 1.1 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry |
| ⁵⁴ Mn | 10 ⁻⁶ μCi/mL | June | 24 ± 2.4 | 150 ± 15 | 60 ± 6 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry | 0.045 ± 0.005 |
| ⁵⁴ Mn | 10 ⁻⁶ μCi/mL | December | 2.7 ± 0.3 | 3.7 ± 0.4 | 2.6 ± 0.3 | 2.2 ± 0.2 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry |
| ²² Na | 10 ⁻⁶ μCi/mL | June | 7.7 ± 0.8 | 8.3 ± 0.8 | 8.9 ± 0.9 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry | 0.001 ± 0.0001 |
| ²² Na | 10 ⁻⁶ μCi/mL | December | 6.5 ± 0.7 | 5.5 ± 0.6 | 5.9 ± 0.6 | 5.6 ± 0.6 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry |
| ⁸³ Rb | 10 ⁻⁶ μCi/mL | June | 9.9 ± 1.0 | 50 ± 5 | 10 ± 1 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry | 0.010 ± 0.001 |
| ⁸³ Rb | 10 ⁻⁶ μCi/mL | December | 2.0 ± 0.2 | 1.8 ± 0.2 | 1.8 ± 0.2 | 1.5 ± 0.2 | Dry | Dry | Dry | Dry |

*See Fig. 21 for map of sampling locations. One sample per location.

*The ± value is the uncertainty (10%) of the analytical result.