

Contents

| | |
|---|------|
| PREFACE | xi |
| PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION | xv |
| PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION | xvii |
| | |
| 1. Introduction | |
| The Early History of Radioactivity | 2 |
| The Atomic Energy Industry | 5 |
| Early Studies of Radioactive Contamination of the Environment | 6 |
| | |
| 2. The Biological Basis of Radiation Protection | |
| Early Knowledge of Radiation Effects | 9 |
| Summary of Present Knowledge of Radiation Effects on Humans | 12 |
| | |
| 3. Radiation Protection Standards | |
| Evolution of the Maximum Permissible Dose | 32 |
| Changing Concepts of Standards Setting | 41 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Organizations Involved in Establishing and Implementing Radiation Protection Standards | 43 |
| 4. Some General Considerations Concerning Environmental Radioactivity, Including the Use of Models | |
| Comparison of Chemical and Radioactive Contamination | 49 |
| Use of Environmental Transport Models | 50 |
| Uncertainties in Use of Models | 52 |
| 5. Transport Mechanisms in the Atmosphere | |
| Properties of the Atmosphere | 59 |
| Deposition and Resuspension | 75 |
| Dose Calculations from Radioactivity in the Atmosphere | 78 |
| Tropospheric and Stratospheric Behavior | 79 |
| 6. Terrestrial and Aquatic Pathways | |
| The Food Chain from Soil to Humans | 84 |
| Transport in Aquatic Surface Systems | 105 |
| 7. Natural Radioactivity | |
| Naturally Occurring Radioactive Substances | 122 |
| Natural Radioactivity in Phosphate Fertilizers | 149 |
| Natural Radioactivity in Building Materials | 152 |
| Natural Radioactivity in Fossil Fuels | 152 |
| Induced Radionuclides | 155 |
| Natural Sources of External Ionizing Radiation | 157 |
| Areas Having Unusually High Natural Radioactivity | 165 |
| Summary of Human Exposures to Natural Ionizing Radiation | 172 |
| 8. Production and Reprocessing of Nuclear Fuels | |
| Uranium | 173 |
| Thorium | 188 |

9. Power Reactors

| | |
|---|-----|
| Some Physical Aspects of Reactor Design and Operation | 192 |
| Types of Reactors | 199 |
| Low-Level Discharges from Light-Water Reactors | 204 |
| Reactor Accidents | 216 |

10. Various Other Sources of Exposure

| | |
|---|-----|
| The Early History of Radium | 234 |
| Exposure from Radioluminescent Paints | 235 |
| Uranium and Thorium in Ceramics and Glass | 235 |
| Thorium in Gas Mantles | 236 |
| Use of Specific Radionuclides (“Isotopes”) in Research and Industry | 237 |
| Americium-241 in Smoke Detectors | 238 |
| Radionuclides as Sources of Power | 239 |
| Transportation of Radioactive Substances | 242 |

11. Radioactive Waste Management

| | |
|--|-----|
| Low-Level Wastes | 248 |
| High-Level Wastes | 254 |
| The Special Problems of Gaseous or Highly Soluble Long-Lived Radionuclides | 267 |

12. Fallout from Nuclear Explosions: I. Short-Term Effects

| | |
|---|-----|
| Physical Aspects of Nuclear Explosions | 275 |
| Some Problems of Recovery from Nuclear Attack | 305 |

13. Fallout from Nuclear Explosions: II. Worldwide Effects

| | |
|---|-----|
| How the Radioactive Debris Is Partitioned among the Three Components of Fallout | 317 |
| Behavior of Individual Radionuclides | 320 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 14. Accidents That Resulted in Contamination of the Environment | |
| Fallout from the Thermonuclear Detonation of March 1, 1954 | 344 |
| The Accident to Windscale Reactor Number One in October 1957 | 351 |
| The Oak Ridge Plutonium Release of November 1959 | 357 |
| The Army Stationary Low-Power Reactor (SL-1) | 360 |
| The Houston Incident of March 1957 | 362 |
| Fermi Reactor Fuel Meltdown | 364 |
| Abortive Reentry of the SNAP 9-A | 365 |
| Plutonium Fire at Rocky Flats | 366 |
| Reentry of the Satellite Cosmos 954 | 367 |
| Three Mile Island Unit 2 | 367 |
| Evidence for a Major Nuclear Accident in the Soviet Union (1957–1958) | 373 |
| The Reactor Accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station in the U.S.S.R., April 26, 1986 | 375 |
| Accidents Involving Military Aircraft Carrying Nuclear Weapons | 388 |
| 15. Radiation Exposure and Risk: Some Contemporary Social Aspects | |
| The Safety Record of the Atomic Energy Industry | 392 |
| The Disparity between Actual and Perceived Risk | 398 |
| What about the Future? | 403 |
| Appendix. The Properties of Certain Radionuclides | |
| Tritium (^3H) | 406 |
| Carbon-14 | 407 |
| Potassium-40 | 407 |
| Manganese-54 | 408 |
| Iron-55 | 408 |
| Iron-59 | 409 |
| Cobalt-60 | 410 |
| Zinc-65 | 410 |
| Krypton-85 | 411 |
| Strontium-89 | 411 |
| Strontium-90 | 412 |
| Technetium-99 | 412 |
| Iodine-129 | 413 |
| Iodine-131 | 414 |
| Cesium-134 | 414 |
| Cesium-137 | 415 |
| Lead-210 (Ra D) | 416 |
| Polonium-210 | 416 |
| Radon-222 | 417 |

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Radium-226 | 418 |
| Radium-228 | 418 |
| Thorium-230 | 419 |
| Thorium-232 | 419 |
| Uranium-235 | 420 |
| Uranium-238 | 421 |
| Neptunium-237 | 421 |
| Plutonium-238 | 422 |
| Plutonium-239 | 423 |
| Americium-241 | 423 |
| | |
| References | 425 |
| | |
| INDEX | 465 |