

14503

### Army Anagnostopoulos Exh. # 1-B

[Originally Attached As EXHIBIT HWA # 3 to Witness  
Anagnostopoulos' pre-filed testimony]

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of U.S. Army (JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND)

Docket No. 40-8838-MLA Official Exhibit No. ARMY EXH. # 1-B

OFFERED by: April A. [unclear] Intervenor \_\_\_\_\_  
 NRC Staff \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

IDENTIFIED on \_\_\_\_\_ Witness/Panel \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken: ADMITTED REJECTED WITHDRAWN

Reporter/Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

*Environmental Radioactivity Form Natural, Industrial,  
and Military Sources, Fourth Edition, Esenbud and  
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Docket No. 40-8838-ML

TEMPLATE = SEU-028

SEU-02

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*Environmental  
Radioactivity*

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*From Natural, Industrial, and Military Sources*

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FOURTH EDITION

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Academic Press

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potassium content of the body is under strict homeostatic control and is not influenced by variations in environmental levels. For this reason, the dose from  $^{40}\text{K}$  within the body is constant.

### RUBIDIUM-87

Of the two rubidium isotopes found in nature,  $^{85}\text{Rb}$  and  $^{87}\text{Rb}$ , only the latter is radioactive, with a half-life of  $4.8 \times 10^{10}$  years. Rubidium-87 is a pure  $\beta$  emitter, and it is present in elemental rubidium in the amount of 27.8%, which endows this element with a specific activity of  $0.02 \mu\text{Ci g}^{-1}$  ( $0.74 \text{ kBq g}^{-1}$ ). Pertsov (1964) quotes Vinogradov in listing the rubidium content of all but highly humic soils as about 0.01%. The  $^{87}\text{Rb}$  content of ocean water has been reported to be  $2.8 \text{ pCi L}^{-1}$  ( $104 \text{ Bq m}^{-3}$ ), with marine fish and invertebrates ranging from  $0.008$  to  $0.08 \text{ pCi g}^{-1}$  ( $0.3$  to  $3 \text{ Bq kg}^{-1}$ ) wet weight (Mauchline and Templeton, 1964). It is estimated (NCRP, 1987a) that the whole-body dose from  $^{87}\text{Rb}$  is  $0.3 \text{ mrem y}^{-1}$  ( $3 \mu\text{Sv y}^{-1}$ ) on average.

## NATURAL RADIOACTIVITY IN PHOSPHATE FERTILIZERS

Phosphate fertilizers are used in huge amounts around the world and are essential for food production. The natural resource from which agricultural phosphorus is obtained is phosphate rock, found in sedimentary formations, usually interbedded with marine shales or limestones. The United States is a major phosphate user, with extensive mines located in Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. In recent years, more than 90% of the phosphate rock mined in the United States has come from Florida. The location of the Florida phosphate deposits is shown in Fig. 6-6. They average 4 m in thickness and lie under sand and clay overburdens that vary from about 1 to 10 m in thickness (Roessler *et al.*, 1980). As the surface mining operations proceed, the overburdens, sand tailings, and other waste products are returned to the land.

It has been known since early in this century that the phosphate rocks contain relatively high concentrations of uranium. Depending on the economics of the uranium industry, uranium has periodically been extracted as a sidestream of phosphoric acid production (NCRP, 1993b). The concentration of uranium in U.S. phosphate ores ranges from 8 to 400 ppm. The phosphate rocks from the important Florida deposits average 41 ppm with  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  in secular equilibrium. Phosphate rock is mined in huge quantities: it is reported that in 1974, about 26 million tons of ore were sold for fertilizer production in the United States, and that the ore contained about 1000 Ci

## NATURAL RADIOACTIVITY IN PHOSPHATE FERTILIZERS

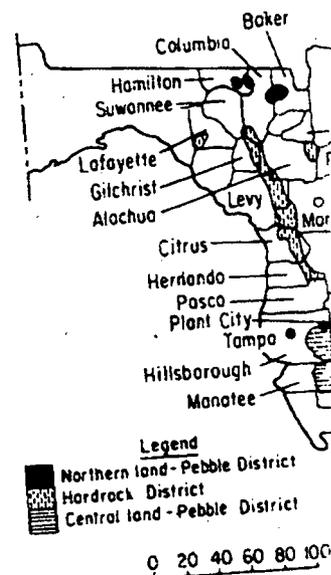


FIGURE 6-6 Phosphate deposits in Florida.

(37 TBq) of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  in equilibrium with  $^{226}\text{U}$ . If 26 million tons of ore had been removed from the land, the total amount of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  would be 37 TBq.

Several types of phosphate fertilizer are commonly used, and they are usually blended for application in the field. The radium is separated in the process of producing phosphate fertilizer (Roessler *et al.*, 1983). The radium passes to the gypsum product, and a fraction of the radioactivity is reported to be in the waste products.

Elevated concentrations of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  on land reclaimed from phosphate rock have been reported (Roessler *et al.*, 1983). A survey of indoor radon concentrations in buildings on or near the Florida phosphate mines by Guimond and Windham, who found that the land contained more than 0.01 WL. High levels were also found in structures

not been mined, but relatively few measurements were made. Although these  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  concentrations are above the average concentrations found in U.S. homes, it is noteworthy that many homes in areas of the United States contained higher concentrations than are found in the phosphate regions.

The high concentrations of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  also result in increased  $\gamma$ -radiation exposure in homes built on reclaimed land. Johnson and Bailey (1983) found excess  $\gamma$  dose to average  $17 \text{ mrem y}^{-1}$  ( $0.17 \text{ mSv y}^{-1}$ ), with values ranging as high as  $166 \text{ mrem y}^{-1}$  ( $1.66 \text{ mSv y}^{-1}$ ).

The radioactivity associated with the land reclaimed prior to the 1940s tends to be higher than that in land reclaimed more recently, because methods have been developed for separating the phosphate-rich clay fraction of the deposit. A major fraction of the radium and uranium associated with the phosphate minerals was formerly returned to reclaimed land (Roessler *et al.*, 1980). In 1978, the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitation Services ruled that some sort of rehabilitation would have to be applied to homes in which the  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  decay product concentrations exceeded  $0.029 \text{ WL}$ . This is about three times the remedial action level suggested by the Surgeon General for application to homes constructed over uranium mill tailings in Grand Junction, Colorado (see Chapters 7 and 15). It has been estimated that of the approximately 4000 buildings on reclaimed land in 1978, 6–10% would require some kind of corrective action. Roessler *et al.* (1980) found that most of these structures were located on land reclaimed prior to the 1940s. The radium and radon contents of water supplies from the phosphate rock region of North Carolina were investigated by Watson and Mitsch (1987), who found the levels to be well within acceptable limits.

The contribution of uranium and radium to agricultural lands owing to the application of phosphate fertilizers does not significantly affect the dose received from the general population (Kirchmann *et al.*, 1980; Ryan, 1981). However, phosphorus, in the form of mineral phosphate rock, is sometimes added to cattle feed and this practice can result in increased levels of uranium and radium in cows' milk (Reid *et al.*, 1977). However, continued application of phosphate fertilizers to soil over a period of many years could eventually double the radium and uranium content of the soil, which would result in a corresponding doubling of the dose to bone from this source. Spaulding and Sackett (1972) found that the uranium content of North American rivers is higher than in the past, which they attribute to increased runoff of phosphate fertilizers.

### NATURAL RADIOACTIVITY IN BUILDING MATERIALS

The Federal Republic of Germany conducted a survey of 30,000 dwellings and found that, on average, the external radiation exposure was 33% higher

within the dwellings that could absorb the radiation that enters the building is more than 10% of the materials of construction (Kilby in selected building materials spend 90% of their time in floors). radiation is increased somewhat sorbed dose to the population of from 40 to 80  $\text{mrad y}^{-1}$  (0.4–0.8  $\text{mSv y}^{-1}$ ) exposure. The natural radioactivity studied by Chang *et al.* (1974).

Wood-frame residences on the dry and provide some shielding against underlying soil. The NCRP (1987) and Canada, indoor dose rates to outdoor rates in the vicinity, on average indoor dose rates can vary considerably.

Two important by-products from gypsum and calcium silicate slag, both industry. Use of these products in building materials is a source of indoor  $^{222}\text{Rn}$ , as was discussed usually much less important than in

### NATURAL RADIOACTIVITY

Coal contains radionuclides of the uranium and thorium series. The uranium and thorium concentrations are assembled from various sources. Table 6-1, which includes data on natural radioactivity in the United States. The mean value for all coals is  $4.5 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$  for natural thorium, which is found in soils and rocks, also shown in Table 6-1. The estimated slightly lower average concentration is 3.2 ppm for thorium based on 5000 sampling areas (EPA, 1984a). Most investigators studying radionuclides of the uranium and thorium series (EPA *et al.* (1980) noted that there have been reports of disequilibrium in the evidence for disequilibria to be common. The quantity of radionuclides discarded in coal consumed depends on the concentration