

PINELLAS SITE PROFILE REVIEW ISSUES MATRIX

Issue No.	Issue	SC&A Statement
1	Reconstruction of doses in the absence of early health physics, industrial hygiene, and environmental records	The absence of pre-1980s records brings into question the ability to adequately assign radiation doses during the early years at Pinellas. The improvements in radiological monitoring and bioassay methodology, instrumentation, and in health physics, industrial hygiene, and environmental control programs, contraindicate the use of 1980s documentation for determining radiation doses for the early years of plant operations. The assumptions incorporated into ORAUT-TKBS-0029-4 and ORAUT-TKBS-0029-5, given the absence of firm information, appear to be claimant favorable. However, the uncertainties associated with projections without documentary evidence may result in missing doses that may not be accounted for by the claimant-favorable assumptions indicated in the documents.
Issue 1: Closed during the 11/19/2012 WG meeting see transcript page 12. TBDs updated in 2011.		
2	Potential doses from insoluble metal tritides not sufficiently addressed.	The neutron tube manufacturing process required spray coating the inside of a glass tube with a thin metal film, resulting in the formation of insoluble stable metal tritides (SMTs), namely ScT ₂ , ErT ₂ , and TiT ₂ . There is no internal documentation indicating that there were adequate means of detecting exposures or monitoring SMTs. No guidance is provided for estimating the exposure to metal tritides; in fact, Section 5.9.2, Metal Tritide Exposures, is reserved for later entry. The practice of destructive testing of neutron generators and the methodology for performing the testing make it possible that exposures to metal tritides occurred. Further discussion of the potential exposure pathway and doses should be included in ORAUT-TKBS-0029-5, when Section 5.9.2 is completed.
This issue remains open - NIOSH plans on completing the tritide approach in December 2015. See 11/19/2012 WG meeting see transcript pages 13-26.		
3	MDCs and uncertainties for plutonium and bioassay measurements are inadequately addressed (ORAUT-TKBS-0029-5).	ORAUT-TKBS-0029-5 should provide more information about how bioassay sample activity concentrations were calculated and the uncertainties associated with these values. NIOSH should provide information on the use of the values in Table 5.1 to calculate internal doses.
Issue 3: Closed before the 11/19/2012 WG meeting see transcript page 27. TBDs updated in 2011.		
4	Assessment of personnel badging policy during early years needs further review.	ORAUT-TKBS-0029-6 states: <i>From 1960 to 1973, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) annual exposure summary reports indicate that Pinellas had 27.5% of its labor force wearing dosimetry (377 of an average yearly labor force of 1,372). During the 1980s, while the data are not completely available, from 370 to approximately 400 of 1,650 to 1,975 workers (approximately 20%) were monitored for radiation dose. No documentation was found to show that all employees were monitored at some time during Pinellas operations.</i>

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		<p>It is important to know who was considered a “radiation worker” and how they were selected for badging, as this has dose consequence. In that era, radiation hazards were not well recognized. This resulted in some workers not being monitored during a period when not all radiation hazards were recognized. The TBD does not clearly address these issues by clarifying the basis for how monitoring was conducted, nor which worker categories were badged. These issues need to be reviewed and substantiation provided that the maximally exposed workers were badged, and that there is a means to estimate radiation dose to unmonitored support workers with access to production areas. Additionally, since many Pinellas records on facility monitoring, safety evaluations, investigations, etc., prior to 1980 are not available, the determination of the adequacy of badging assignment and allocation of unmonitored dose will be complicated. The impact of this absence of early information should be addressed.</p>
Issue 4: Closed during the 6/11/2009 WG meeting see transcript page 33. TBDs updated in 2011.		
5	Problems with personnel dosimetry.	<p>Section 6.2.2 of ORAUT-TKBS-0029-6 states,</p> <p><i>This analysis was unable to locate specific designs of the film dosimeters used for approximately the first 20 years (1957 to 1974) at the Pinellas Plant, and there is limited documentation that indicates there was an early relationship with Nuclear-Chicago (GEND 2004a).</i></p> <p>Table 6-5 on page 16 of ORAUT-TKBS-0029-6, assigns a missed dose of 0.24 rem for beta -photons (monthly) for badges used during this time period. This assignment of missing dose evidently assumes that the badges used during this time period were equivalent to those provided by Nuclear-Chicago. Additional discussion is needed on the uncertainty associated with the assumed missing dose given that the origin of the dosimetry is not clearly established.</p>
Issue 5: Closed during the 6/11/2009 WG meeting see transcript page 51. TBDs updated in 2011.		
6	The decontamination and decommission (D&D) era of Pinellas operations is not sufficiently addressed.	<p>Monitoring practices, particularly internal dosimetry, are not specified in the TBD for the D&D period (1995 – 1997) at the Pinellas Plant. A number of questions present themselves that are not addressed by the existing Pinellas Site Profile. What specific external and internal monitoring program was established for D&D operations, and how effectively was it implemented? With the use of first-, second-, and third-tier subcontractors, to what extent were these workers “captured” in the site’s dosimetry program, and were their records maintained? How would the co-worker dose model be applied for unmonitored workers located adjacent to D&D operations; was resuspension of radioactive particulates an on-site issue during D&D?</p> <p>Buildings at Pinellas were designed and constructed to provide ventilation systems, fumehoods, and gloveboxes to minimize inhalation uptakes by workers. As demolition workers began to remove walls and dividers, and to remove these contaminated fumehoods, gloveboxes, and ventilation systems, these engineering controls were breached and no longer became effective in minimizing inhalation uptakes. Contamination within the</p>

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		ventilation ductwork would have been an additional source of uptakes. Not always being aware of the presence of radionuclides in specific demolition areas and/or researcher-handling areas made it difficult to adequately prevent, monitor, and detect uptakes of these radionuclides.
Issue 6: Closed during the 6/11/2009 WG meeting see transcript page 51. TBDs updated in 2011.		
7	Missing internal dose estimation methods for unmonitored workers, e.g., maintenance and support personnel, not provided.	<p>It is not clear from the internal dosimetry TBD (ORAUT-TKBS-0029-5), how dose estimation would be performed for maintenance and support workers who were not classified as radiation workers and who had access to Pinellas Plant radiological operations. Section 5.9.1 of ORAUT-TKBS-0029-5 contains the statement:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All HTO and Plutonium potentially exposed workers have likely been monitored.</i></p> <p>The basis for this statement needs justification, particularly in light of the fact that tritium use and contamination were common in many Pinellas areas which may have been assessable to maintenance and, possibly, administrative personnel. However, no guidance is provided in this TBD with respect to missed dose calculations for unmonitored workers in the category of support personnel, whose actual jobs (contamination spill cleanup, equipment maintenance, janitorial functions) and whose access to various Pinellas buildings may have led to radionuclide exposures over their job history. It is also not clear how the designation of “radiological worker” was historically defined at Pinellas, and how workers were selected on this basis for bioassay for various operations.</p>
Issue 7: Closed see 11/19/2012 WG meeting see transcript page 55. TBDs updated in 2011.		
8	Potential for missed dose for depleted uranium.	<p>Section 2.3.2 contains a discussion of depleted uranium, including the statement:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The depleted uranium metal was fully contained inside the storage flask, and no information could be found to indicate that depleted uranium metal was released during plant operations (Ward, p. 12).</i></p> <p>Interviews with a former employee raised the possibility of loose depleted uranium contamination in an area of Building 100. There were no bioassay programs in place to determine internal dose from exposure to DU, thus DU internal exposure could represent a significant source of unmonitored exposure. There is minimal information in ORAUT-TKBS-0029-2 on the production of the tritium beds, so it is not possible to discern if the process involves operations that could lead to internal exposures. Further discussion of the DU related process is in order.</p>
Issue 8: Closed during the 6/11/2009 WG meeting see transcript page 51. TBDs updated in 2011.		
9		The current guidelines, as presented in (Kathren and Shockley 2003), go a long way to assuring that all occupational medical exposures are reasonably included in determining the overall dose estimations for claimants. Unfortunately, the interpretation, to date, by the contractor, ORAU, has not been applied

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<p>The TBD fails to adequately define and assess occupational medical exposure.</p>	<p>conservatively to be claimant favorable. The occupational medical dose TBD (ORAUT-TKBS-0029-3) assumes an interpretation, which has been also considered and applied at other sites, such as the Mound Plant and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Paducah. To this extent, the assumption that medical procedures are limited to only one pre-employment chest x-ray and chest x-rays which are part of routine physical exams, may substantially underestimate worker medical exposure, when evaluating occupational medical exposure.</p> <p>In more recent documentation, OTIB-0006, Revision 3 (Kathren and Shockley 2005), it is concluded that other examinations should be included, such as special screening exams (e.g., respiratory protection, beryllium workers, asbestos workers, etc.) and termination exams. The occupational medical TBD does not recognize this change from the previous Revision 2 of the OTIB, and also assumes that special chest radiography for respirator certification, beryllium and asbestos workers, and food handlers are accomplished as part of the routine physicals. This is not documented in the medical TBD. Another factor not discussed in the TBD is the potential and impact of x-ray procedures utilized by medical authorities to do special screenings that are performed outside the frequency suggested in the TBD.</p> <p>The TBD (ORAUT-TKBS-0029-3) makes the conclusion that chest examinations are often quite limited after 1974, after which KUBs were no longer taken in addition to chest x-rays. It is suggested the policy was every five years before age 40, and every three years after age 40, but nothing is documented. To the contrary, there is ample evidence that chest x-rays were often provided on a voluntary basis to nearly all workers, usually on an annual basis. The majority of workers had chest x-rays as a routine at DOE sites until the mid-1980s, when federal guidelines warning against routine screening were first being enforced.</p> <p>After discussion with NIOSH personnel, it was their decision to limit occupational medical exposure to those chest exams described above, and to conclude all other exposure as part of worker background. SC&A believes such an interpretation is not claimant favorable to those most at risk. Our concern is that specified "high-risk" workers, those most likely exposed to radiation and beryllium, would be at risk of having an incomplete dose assessment, if not all radiation associated with medical screening for job-related activities were included. Since all radiation provides some risk, and arguably, is cumulative, workers warrant consideration of all forms of work-related x-ray exposure, to be claimant favorable. SC&A believes NIOSH should review its interpretation of included medical exposure, and should reasonably adopt a broader interpretation of occupational medical dose, as provided in the most recent version of the OTIB (Kathren and Shockley 2005).</p>
<p>Issues 9, 10 and 11: Closed at the 6/11/2009 WG meeting see transcript page 64-68. TBDs updated in 2011.</p>	

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10	Techniques and protocols increase uncertainty of DCFs listed in the TBD.	<p>The TBD in Section 3.2 fails to describe adequately all the information upon which to establish beam quality for x-ray units in use from 1957–1997. In 1972, the site documented installation of a single phase GE 225 unit. There is only limited documentation to show that the GE 225 unit, in use from 1972 through 1997, had added filtration, approximately 3.5 mm of AL, as first measured by the Pinellas Health Department in 1972. In the absence of definitive tube output measurements, the TBD directs the use of default values and DCFs derived from ICRP Report No. 34 (ICRP 1982). These values are then applied to determine organ doses using Tables A.2 through A.8 of ICRP Report No. 34 (ICRP 1982). An issue of concern is that the DCFs are derived using a default HVL of 2.5 mm Al for Type 1 units, in use from 1946–1980.</p> <p>The occupational medical TBD (ORAUT-TKBS-0029-3) provides little documentation to support the assumed techniques and protocols applied to calculate the dose, which is mainly derived from NCRP Report 102. The TBD states that a PA chest x-ray was typically the only view. An undocumented assumption in the TBD is that exams required only a PA view. SC&A has inquired whether definitive protocols existed to validate that chest exams included PA views and LAT views, only on a limited basis after 1974. NIOSH has acknowledged in other TBD reviews that the lack of verifiable protocols is a generic problem at many sites, has planned to search all available records, and will include pertinent records and references in any future revision of this section of the TBD.</p> <p>The occupational medical TBD is also deficient in that little documentation exists to validate x-ray protocols, equipment maintenance and upkeep records prior to 1972.</p>
Issues 9, 10 and 11: Closed at the 6/11/2009 WG meeting see transcript page 64-68. TBDs updated in 2011.		
11	Frequency and type of x-ray exposure is uncertain.	<p>The occupational medical TBD relies on a very limited review of archived medical records to establish frequency assumptions. The assumption of one chest radiograph (PA) every three to five years is not reasonably conservative, in that workers could essentially request an x-ray, or be subject to special screening exams. The frequency of screenings, and number and type of workers receiving x-rays does vary from site to site.</p> <p>The occupational medical TBD in Section 3.2 provides no documentation or references to support the assumption that only a limited group of workers received x-ray exams more frequently than every five years after 1974. To the contrary, up until about 1985, most DOE sites performed chest x-rays almost on a voluntary basis. DOE medical program reviews documented, during the early 1990s, showed many sites still used chest radiography as a general screening exam. Most workers accepted chest x-rays, even though the job did not require it. Also, the assumption that workers in special exposure categories, such as beryllium workers, were given chest x-rays only as part of their routine physical is not well documented and not consistent with special screening guidelines. The TBD applies no conservative assumption to cover such exams.</p>

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		<p>The occupational medical TBD in Section 3.2 states that photofluorography (PFG) units, although generally available up to the late 1950s at most DOE sites, were not documented as being used at the Pinellas Plant. The undocumented absence of PFG units at Pinellas clearly has significant dose implications to workers who may have been given much higher doses from PFG units. The PFG unit provides a dose to the worker greater by a factor of 5-6, more than that delivered by conventional radiography. The TBD does not provide documentation for the types of equipment in use at Pinellas prior to 1972. SC&A believes it is not claimant favorable to instruct dose assessors to assume only PFG unit use from 1957-1960. To be fully claimant favorable, it would be appropriate to instruct dose assessors to use an annual dose of 3.0 rem per year, for chest radiographs, in accordance with guidelines set forth (Kathren 2005) until the review of medical records evidenced no further use of a PFG unit at Pinellas.</p>
<p>Issues 9, 10 and 11: Closed at the 6/11/2009 WG meeting see transcript page 64-68. TBDs updated in 2011.</p>		
<p>Secondary Issue 1</p>	<p>Additional factors contribute to uncertainties related to occupational medical exposures.</p>	<p>The Occupational Medical Dose TBD does not consider dose impacts due to less than optimal use of technology, such as using screens, grids, or bucky systems. The TBD does not consider these elements as potential contributions to uncertainty.</p> <p>The TBD does consider the potential contribution to dose that may have resulted in less than optimal use of collimation, at least prior to 1972, as stated in Section 3.3.2 of the TBD. Unresolved is the concern that the DCFs are derived from ICRP (1982), and therefore are not comparable, in terms of beam quality, which varies from unit to unit. These factors can contribute greatly to the dose to the chest and other organs; for the unit in other TBDs in operation prior to 1997, little or no documentation exists. NIOSH has indicated in other TBDs that it will continue to search for other available records to better define equipment use and beam quality, and include it as appropriate in an updated version of the TBD.</p> <p>Uncertainty is defined in the TBD as being due to measurement error and variation in kilovoltage, tube current, timers, and the skin-to-surface distance (SSD). This approach is quite similar to the uncertainty analyses documented in other DOE site profiles. The conclusion in this TBD and others is that dose reconstructors for exposure prior to 1997 should use an uncertainty factor of +30%. SC&A believes the uncertainty correction factor of 2.0 being applied at other sites is more appropriate for use.</p> <p>SC&A agrees that the TBD conservatively estimates these essential aspects of an uncertainty review. Unresolved is the contribution to uncertainty in dose, due to other errors introduced by lack of quality controls in processing equipment and lack of adherence to established Standard Operating Procedures. A reasonable estimate of these contributions to uncertainty would be an evaluation of retake rates per examination type.</p>

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		<p>NIOSH should revisit the potential for significant retake rates and evaluate its potential effect on dose as part of future revisions of this TBD, especially as it relates to prior to 1972.</p> <p>The Occupational Medical Dose TBD does not show that Pinellas applied dose minimization principles to reduce medical exposures. The document also does not assess or consider the likely exposure to workers who are referred to offsite medical facilities for follow-up. The TBD states that review of selected medical records and files did not reasonably show or match expected x-ray exam frequency and type of exam, as shown in Table 3.1.1. Little evidence exists to document the number of x-ray exams provided to the average worker, or for special exposure needs.</p>
See Issues No. 9 and 11. This secondary issue was completed with the completion of the primary issues.		
Secondary Issue 2	Inadequate descriptions for certain plant operations	The Site Description TBD, ORAUT-TKBS-0029-2, provides information on plant operations as they relate to understanding the source and relative magnitude of radionuclide doses. The information is sufficiently complete in the case of operations involving tritium, krypton, and plutonium. The TBD inadequately describes operations involving Ni-63, C-14, and, particularly DU and metal tritides. The TBD should be revised to provide the reader with a greater understanding of processes utilizing the indicated nuclides.
See Issue No. 7. This secondary issue was completed with the completion of the primary issues.		
Secondary Issue 3	Perimeter tritium monitoring stations	Tritium air monitoring stations were operated on the perimeter of the site for a major part of the plant operating history. Up to six samplers were continuously operated and collected samples for determining tritium gas and oxide airborne concentrations. The existence of these stations is not mentioned in ORAUT-TKBS-0029-4. This is a missed opportunity to verify the modeling results by comparing them to measured values.
This secondary issue was closed during the June 11, 2008 WG meeting.		
Secondary Issue 4	Inadequacy of ORAUT-TKBS-0029-4, Section 4.4 – Uncertainty	This section is inadequate and needs to be reworked to more adequately address the topic it is intended to discuss, i.e., uncertainty. The discussion in this section centers on factors that affect the quantity of dose calculated, and not the uncertainty associated with estimates. While it may not be possible to quantify the uncertainty of estimated doses, a more relevant discussion on the relative magnitude and factors affecting uncertainty is needed.
This secondary issue was completed with the completion of the primary issues.		
Secondary Issue 5	Rejection of plutonium bioassay results based on plutonium-238-to-plutonium-	<p>In ORAUT-TKBS-0029-5, two conditions for rejection of a positive plutonium bioassay result as follows:</p> <p><i>The ratio of ^{238}Pu to ^{239}Pu in a bioassay sample must be about 5:1 ($\pm 20\%$) or ^{238}Pu is detected while ^{239}Pu is not detectable.</i></p>

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	239 ratios, and non-detectable plutonium-239	<p>The meaning of “(±20%)” in this statement is not clear. Does it mean the range of ratios to be rejected is from 4 to 6? This inclusion needs further explanation.</p> <p>The application of these criteria to plutonium bioassay results for the 3 years discussed in the TBD (1988, 1989, and 1990) was responsible for approximately 30% of the samples being designated as non-positive. The high degree of uncertainty associated with alpha spectrometry results at the levels of Pu-238 expected in bioassay samples makes the use of such a ratio as a reason for rejecting a positive Pu-238 questionable.</p> <p>These results should be reviewed on an individual basis in that the use of this criterion, because of the relatively large uncertainties associated with values near the detection limits for plutonium, could result in the rejection of positive Pu-238 results. At a minimum, this would have prevented an investigation into the circumstances that could have led to the positive result.</p>
See Issue No. 3. This secondary issue was completed with the completion of the primary issues.		
Secondary Issue 6	Plutonium solubility	<p>In ORAUT-TKBS-0029-5, page 16, the following statement is made:</p> <p><i>ICRP Publication 68 lists plutonium oxides as absorption type S (ICRP 1995, p. 83). A discussion of absorption type for plutonium oxides in ICRP 71 indicates that bioassay data from accidentally exposed workers to ²³⁸PuO₂ could have been closer to type M (ICRP 1996, p. 329).</i></p> <p>Page 329 of ICRP 71 (ICRP 1996) also states that plutonium can have different lung clearance characteristics when inhaled as mixed metal oxide. The extent of increased dissolution/clearance depends on the metal and the relative proportions of plutonium to metal. Since there is an uncertainty on the definition of the solubility rates for Pu-238, and there is no clear definition of the solubility of the handled compound, the selection of the type of compound for dose reconstruction should be the one that is more claimant favorable. For some scenarios, the selection of Type M compound is not the claimant-favorable approach.</p>
This secondary issue was completed with the completion of the primary issues.		
Secondary Issue 7	Assumptions relative to unmonitored workers	<p>ORAUT-TKBS-0029-6, Section 6.4.1, contains the following statement:</p> <p><i>The analysis assumed that unmonitored (i.e., nonradiation) workers did not receive a significant dose compared to monitored workers; therefore, assigning a photon dose distribution for each year based on the dose received by monitored workers would ensure a claimant-favorable estimate of any unmonitored worker dose. Based on the review of the available dosimetry data,</i></p>

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		<p><i>employees with any significant potential for external dose exposure appear to have been routinely monitored, as evidenced by the large number of monitored individuals that routinely had doses below the reporting levels. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that unmonitored workers received less dose than monitored workers at the Pinellas Plant.</i></p> <p>The fact that a large number of monitored individuals routinely had doses below reporting levels may give some level of comfort that workers with a significant potential for external dose were adequately monitored, but it is not proof. Neither does it lead to the automatic conclusion that unmonitored workers received less dose than monitored workers. These assumptions may be true, but can only be verified if there is reasonable certainty that unmonitored workers were not subjected to different exposure potential or conditions than monitored workers. For example, unmonitored maintenance and janitorial personnel could be exposed during routine maintenance, waste removal, and cleaning operations to levels that exceeded those of operational personnel.</p>
See Issue No. 4. This secondary issue was completed with the completion of the primary issues.		
Secondary Issue 8	Assumptions relative to minimum detectable level adjustments to dosimetry for missed dose	<p>In Section 6.4.1.1, ORAUT-TKBS-0029-6, the following statement is made:</p> <p><i>Missed dose is primarily estimated on dosimeter results n (the number of zero or < MDL values) multiplied by MDL/2. The MDL is particularly important during the early years of operation, when MDLs were probably higher and the dosimeter exchange rate was monthly rather than quarterly. One option to estimate a claimant-favorable maximum potential dose is to multiply the MDL by the number of zero dose results. This will provide an estimate of the maximum missed dose to the worker. The following sections consider missed photon dose for dosimeter results less than the MDL according to facility or location, dosimeter type, year, and energy range.</i></p> <p>It is not clear from this discussion which approach was taken to adjusting dosimeter results in the analyses and Table 6-11, following this statement. A definitive statement indicating the selected approach should be made in this TBD.</p>
This secondary issue was completed with the completion of the primary issues.		