

Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) monitors both radioactive and nonradioactive emissions at several facilities on site to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act. In addition, the Laboratory conducts ambient air monitoring to verify local air quality and assess possible environmental impacts from Laboratory operations.

During 2009, BNL facilities released a total of 1,833 curies of short-lived radioactive gases. Oxygen-15 and carbon-11 emitted from the Brookhaven Linac Isotope Producer constituted 97.9 percent of the site's radiological air emissions.

Since natural gas prices were comparatively lower than residual fuel prices from May through December of 2009, the Central Steam Facility used natural gas to meet most of the heating and cooling needs of the Laboratory's major facilities during this period. As a result, annual facility emissions of particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and oxides of nitrogen were considerably lower in 2009 than in the years 2003 to 2005, when residual fuel satisfied more than 91 percent of BNL's major facility heating and cooling needs.

4.1 RADIOLOGICAL EMISSIONS

Federal air quality laws and DOE regulations that govern the release of airborne radioactive material include 40 CFR 61 Subpart H: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs)—part of the Clean Air Act (CAA), and DOE Order 5400.5, Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment. Under NESHAPs Subpart H, facilities that have the potential to deliver an annual radiation dose of greater than 0.1 mrem (1 μ Sv) to a member of the public must be continuously monitored for emissions. Facilities capable of delivering radiation doses below that limit require periodic, confirmatory monitoring. BNL has one facility that is continuously monitored, the Brookhaven Linac Isotope Producer (BLIP). Periodic monitoring is conducted at one active facility, the Target Processing Laboratory (TPL), and one inactive facility, the High Flux Beam Reactor (HFBR). Figure 4-1 indicates the locations of these monitored facilities, and Table 4-1 presents the airborne release data from each of these facilities during 2009. Annual emissions from monitored facilities are discussed in the follow-

ing sections of this chapter. Also discussed is a fourth inactive facility, the Evaporator Facility, which was periodically monitored in past years. The associated radiation dose estimates are presented in Chapter 8, Table 8-4.

4.1.1 Brookhaven Medical Research Reactor

In August 2000, DOE announced that the Brookhaven Medical Research Reactor (BMRR) would be permanently shut down due to a reduction of research funding. Until it stopped operating in late December 2000, the BMRR was fueled with enriched uranium, moderated and cooled by “light” (ordinary) water, and was operated intermittently at power levels up to 3 MW, thermal. Air from the interior of the containment building was used to cool the neutron reflector surrounding the core of the reactor vessel. As air was drawn through the reflector, it was exposed to a neutron field, resulting in activation of the argon fraction of the air. This produced argon-41 (Ar-41), an inert, radioactive gas (half-life 1.8 hours). After passage through the reflector, the air was routed through a roughing filter and a high-efficiency

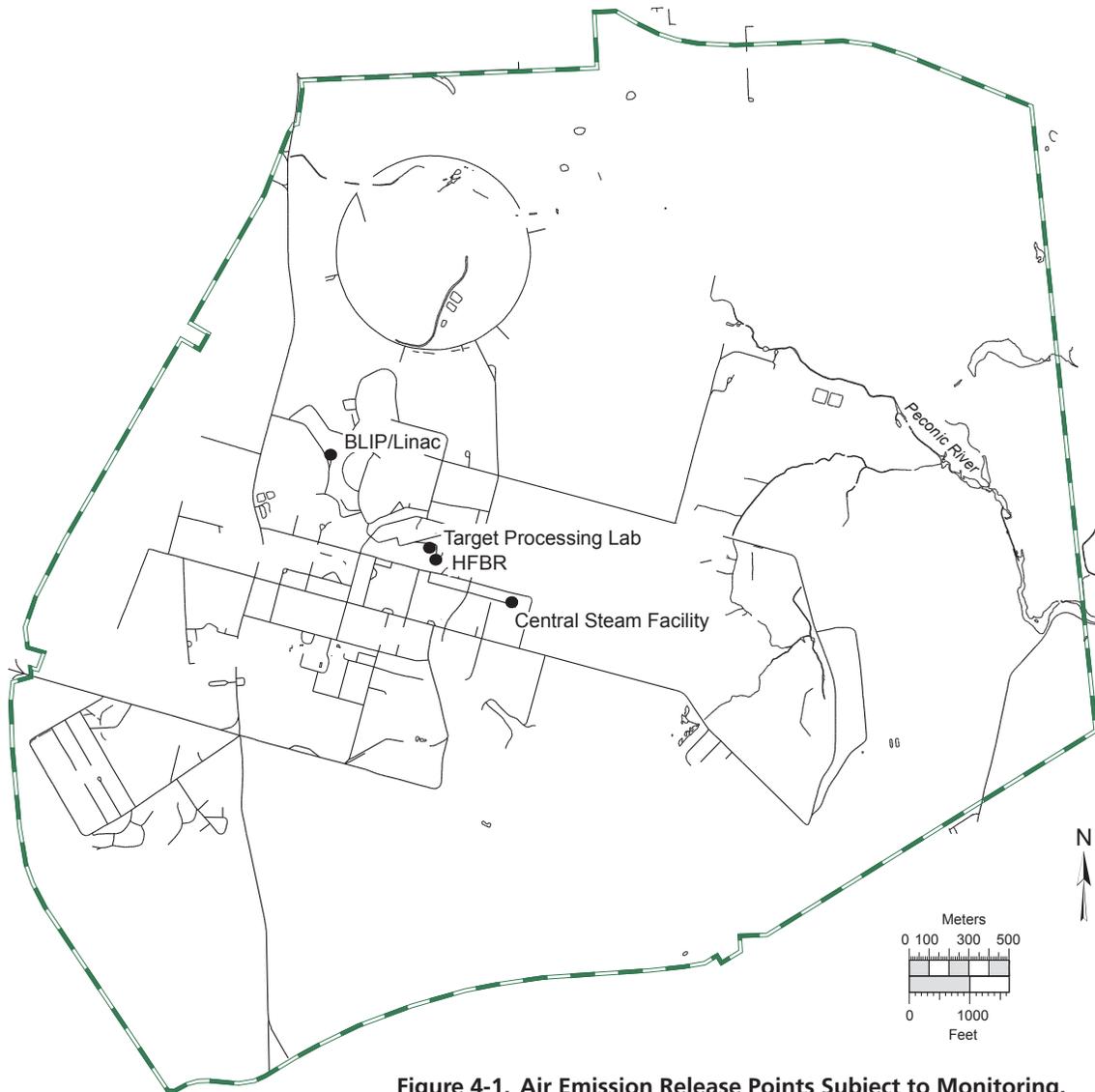


Figure 4-1. Air Emission Release Points Subject to Monitoring.

particulate air (HEPA) filter to remove any particulate matter. Charcoal filters were also used to remove radioiodines produced during the fission process. Following filtration, the air was exhausted to the atmosphere through a 150-foot stack adjacent to the reactor containment building. This air was continuously monitored for Ar-41 emissions.

After the BMRR stopped operating, continuous Ar-41 monitoring was reduced to periodic, semi-annual monitoring to confirm that radionuclide concentrations remained below detection limits. In January 2003, the remaining fuel was removed from the BMRR reactor vessel, eliminating the last significant source for radio-

nuclide emissions. The sole remaining BMRR emission source was evaporation of the cooling water, which contained the radioactive isotope tritium (H-3, half-life 12.3 years), produced by neutron activation when the BMRR operated. In January 2005, EPA approved BNL's petition to discontinue emissions monitoring at the BMRR. As a result, sample collection was stopped in 2006 and all removable radioactive materials were shipped off site to a disposal facility.

The BMRR remained closed as a radiological facility with continued surveillance and maintenance. In 2009, the primary and overflow resin vessels were removed and disposed at a licensed facility.

4.1.2 High Flux Beam Reactor

When the HFBR operated, “heavy” water was used as a neutron moderator and fuel coolant. Heavy water, or D₂O, is water composed of a nonradioactive isotope of hydrogen known as deuterium. When exposed to neutron fields generated inside a reactor vessel, deuterium becomes activated and produces radioactive tritium. As a result of the transfer of fuel elements from the reactor, the spent fuel storage pool contained tritiated heavy water (HTO) from the HFBR system. In 1997, a plume of tritiated groundwater was traced back to a leak in the pool. Consequently, the HFBR was put in standby mode, the pool was pumped out, and the HTO from the pool was properly disposed of as radioactive waste. The pool was repaired and double lined in accordance with Suffolk County Article 12 regulations (SCDHS 1993) and remained empty while the facility was in a standby mode.

The HFBR continued in standby mode until November 1999, when DOE declared that it was to be permanently shut down. Residual tritium in water in the reactor vessel and piping systems continues to diffuse into the building’s air through valve seals and other system penetrations, though emission rates are much lower than during the years of operation (Figure 4-2).

Table 4-1. Airborne Radionuclide Releases from Monitored Facilities.

| Facility | Nuclide | Half-Life | Ci Released |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| HFBR | Tritium | 12.3 years | 3.82E+01 |
| BLIP | Carbon-11 | 20.4 minutes | 6.70E+02 |
| | Oxygen-15 | 122 seconds | 1.13E+03 |
| | Tritium | 12.3 years | 2.75E-02 |
| TPL - Bldg. 801 | Germanium-68 | 270.8 days | 6.92E-09 |
| | Selenium-75 | 119.8 days | 5.89E-10 |
| Total | | | 1.83E+03 |

Notes:
 Ci = 3.7E+10 Bq
 BLIP = Brookhaven Linac Isotope Producer
 HFBR = High Flux Beam Reactor (operations were terminated in November 1999)
 TPL = Target Processing Laboratory

As shown in Figure 4-2, the increase in emissions in 2003 was attributed to evaporative losses when HTO remaining in the reactor core was pumped out for approved disposal. In 2004, the downward trend in emissions resumed: the level dropped from 9.0 Ci (the 2003 value) to 3.94 Ci. In 2005, tritium emissions climbed to 17.9 Ci, apparently due to evaporation of residual heavy water through an open drain-tank vent line. In 2006, tritium emissions dropped to 4.03 Ci, a level consistent with 2004 emissions. In 2007, tritium emissions dropped to 1.0 Ci. In 2008, tritium emissions climbed to 20.0 Ci, apparently due to venting of residual heavy water through an open drain-tank vent line. In 2009, tritium emissions dropped to 4.03 Ci, a level consistent with 2004 emissions.

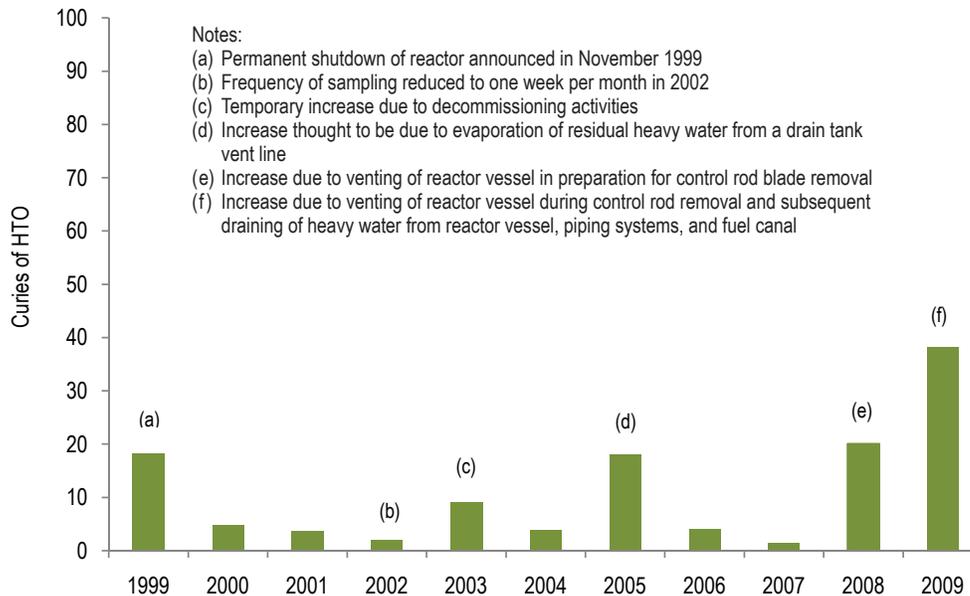


Figure 4-2. High Flux Beam Reactor Tritium Emissions, (1999–2009).

the downward trend continued, as tritium emissions fell to 1.33 Ci. The rise in tritium emissions in 2008 to 20.06 Ci was due to periodic venting of the reactor vessel when domestic water was added to the reactor vessel in preparation for the removal of the HFBR control rod blades. Observed tritium emission increases in 2009 were due to HFBR decontamination and dismantlement (D&D) activities that included the removal of control rod blades from January through March; draining and properly disposing of tritiated heavy water from the reactor vessel, piping systems, and the fuel canal from late spring into the summer; and the opening of contaminated piping systems to allow for the removal of residual volumes of tritiated heavy water. From 2002 through 2008, emissions from the HFBR facility were monitored via air sampling of the building at a frequency of one week per month. In 2009, the frequency of monitoring was increased to bi-weekly to better account for changes in tritium emissions during planned D&D activities.

4.1.3 Brookhaven Linac Isotope Producer

Protons from the Linear Accelerator (Linac) are sent via an underground beam tunnel to the BLIP, where they strike various metal targets to produce new radionuclides for medical diagnostics. The activated metal targets are transferred to the TPL in Building 801 for separation and shipment to various radiopharmaceutical research laboratories. During irradiation, the targets become hot and are cooled by a continuously recirculating water system. The cooling water also becomes activated during the process, producing secondary radionuclides. The most significant of these radionuclides are oxygen-15 (O-15, half-life 122 seconds) and carbon-11 (C-11, half-life 20.4 minutes). Both of these isotopes are released as gaseous, airborne emissions through the facility's 33-foot stack. Emissions of these radionuclides are dependent on the current and energy of the proton beam used to manufacture the radioisotopes.

In 2009, BLIP operated over a period of 24 weeks, during which 670 Ci of C-11 and 1,125 Ci of O-15 were released. Tritium produced from activation of the target cooling water was

also released, but in a much smaller quantity, 2.75 E-2 Ci. Combined emissions of C-11 and O-15 were approximately 31 percent lower than 2008 emissions, primarily due to operation at lower energy levels in 2009.

4.1.4 Evaporator Facility

In the past, liquid waste generated on site that contained residual radioactivity was accumulated at the Waste Concentration Facility (WCF) in Building 811. At this facility, reverse osmosis was used to remove suspended solids and a high percentage of radionuclides from the liquid. Because tritium is an isotope of hydrogen, it could not be removed from aqueous wastes. The tritiated water that remained following waste concentration was transferred to the Evaporator Facility in Building 802B, where it was converted to steam and released as an airborne emission. The Evaporator Facility was constructed primarily to reduce the amount of tritiated water released to the Peconic River through the BNL Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). Emissions from the Evaporator Facility were previously directed to the same stack used by the HFBR to exhaust building air. This method was preferable to releases to surface water because there was virtually no potential for the airborne emissions to influence groundwater (the primary drinking water source on Long Island), and the potential for the released tritium to contribute to an off-site dose was minimized by atmospheric dispersion.

No aqueous waste has been processed at the WCF since 2001. As a result, the Evaporator Facility has not been used and has produced no emissions of tritiated water vapor. Because generation rates of aqueous wastes containing residual radioactivity are expected to remain low, it is no longer cost effective to process the waste in the same manner. Wastes are now solidified and sent to an approved off-site disposal facility. Under the Environmental Restoration project, D&D of the WCF is planned for 2011.

4.1.5 Target Processing Laboratory

As mentioned in Section 4.1.3, metal targets irradiated at the BLIP are transported to the TPL in Building 801, where isotopes are chemically

extracted for radiopharmaceutical production. Airborne radionuclides released during the extraction process are drawn through multistage HEPA and charcoal filters and then vented to the HFBR stack. The types of radionuclides that are released depend on the isotopes chemically extracted from the irradiated metal targets, which may change from year to year. Annual radionuclide quantities released from this facility are very small, typically in the μCi to mCi range. In 2009, the total release from the TPL was 0.0075 μCi (see Table 4-1 for details).

4.1.6 Additional Minor Sources

Several research departments at BNL use designated fume hoods for work that involves small quantities of radioactive materials (in the μCi to mCi range). The work typically involves labeling chemical compounds and transferring material between containers using pipettes. Due to the use of HEPA filters and activated charcoal filters, the nature of the work conducted, and the small quantities involved, these operations have a very low potential for atmospheric releases of any significant quantities of radioactive materials. Compliance with NESHAPs Subpart H is demonstrated through the use of an inventory system that allows an upper estimate of potential releases to be calculated. Facilities that demonstrate compliance in this way include Buildings 463, 490, 490A, 510, 535, 555, 725, 801, and 830, where research is conducted in the fields of biology, medicine, high energy physics, chemistry, applied and materials science, advanced technology, and environmental sciences. See Table 8-4 in Chapter 8 for the calculated dose from these facility emissions.

4.1.7 Nonpoint Radiological Emission Sources

Nonpoint radiological emissions from a variety of diffuse sources were evaluated in 2009 for compliance with NESHAPs Subpart H. Diffuse sources evaluated included planned research, environmental restoration, and waste management activities. The EPA-approved CAP88-PC dose modeling computer program was used to calculate the possible dose to members of the public from each of the planned

activities. The evaluations determined whether NESHAPs permitting and continuous monitoring requirements were applicable, or whether periodic confirmatory sampling was needed to ensure compliance with Subpart H standards for radionuclide emissions. Chapter 8 discusses the NESHAPs evaluations of the research, environmental restoration, and waste management activities that occurred in 2009.

4.2 FACILITY MONITORING

In the past, potential sources of radioactive emissions have been monitored at the BMRR, HFBR, Evaporator Facility, TPL, and BLIP. Because the BMRR and HFBR are permanently shut down and the Evaporator Facility has not processed any aqueous wastes since 2001, no particulate sampling was conducted at these facilities in 2009.

The samplers in the TPL exhaust duct and the exhaust stack for BLIP are equipped with glass-fiber filters that capture samples of airborne particulate matter generated at these facilities (see Figure 4-3 for locations). The filters are collected and analyzed weekly for gross alpha and beta activity. Particulate filter analytical results for gross alpha and beta activity in 2009 are reported in Table 4-2. The average gross alpha and beta airborne activity

Table 4-2. Gross Activity in Facility Air Particulate Filters.

| Facility Monitor | | Gross Alpha | Gross Beta |
|------------------|------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | | (pCi/m ³) | |
| BLIP | N | 35 | 35 |
| | Max. | 0.4400 ± 0.1800 | 3.2700 ± 0.3480 |
| | Avg. | 0.1275 ± 0.1185 | 1.2422 ± 0.2285 |
| | MDL | 0.1722* | 0.2241* |
| TPL-Bldg. 801 | N | 50 | 50 |
| | Max. | 0.0289 ± 0.0056 | 0.3870 ± 0.0237 |
| | Avg. | 0.0043 ± 0.0032 | 0.0514 ± 0.0065 |
| | MDL | 0.0044* | 0.0053* |

Notes:

See Figure 4-3 for sample station locations.

All values shown with a 95% confidence interval.

BLIP = Brookhaven Linac Isotope Producer

MDL = Minimum Detection Limit

N = Number of validated samples collected

TPL = Target Processing Laboratory

*Average MDL for all validated samples taken at this location

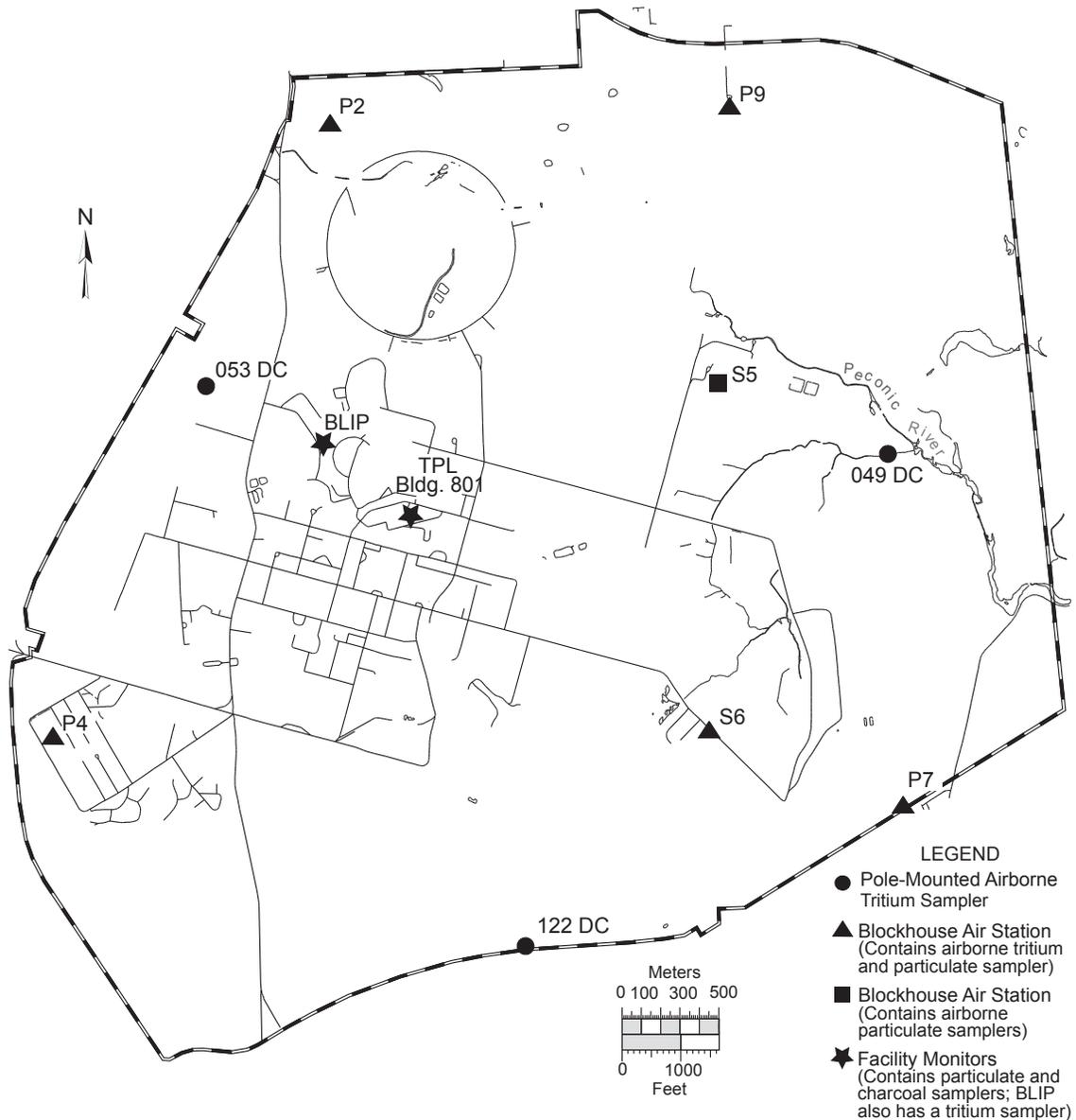


Figure 4-3. BNL On-Site Ambient Air Monitoring Stations.

levels for samples collected from the BLIP exhaust stack were 0.1275 and 1.2422 pCi/m³, respectively. Annual average gross alpha and beta airborne activity levels for samples collected from the TPL were 0.0043 and 0.0514 pCi/m³, respectively.

4.3 AMBIENT AIR MONITORING

As part of the Environmental Monitoring Program, air monitoring stations are in place around the perimeter of the BNL site (see Figure 4-3 for locations). Samples are collected using equipment at six blockhouse stations and

three pole-mounted, battery-powered silica-gel samplers. The blockhouses are fenced to control access and protect costly sampling equipment. In 2003, the number of pole-mounted samplers used for airborne tritium monitoring was reduced from 16 to 3 because historical air surveillance data revealed that tritium concentrations at most sampling stations were below minimum detection limits (MDLs).

At each blockhouse, vacuum pumps draw air through columns where particulate matter is captured on a glass-fiber filter. Particulate filters are collected weekly and are analyzed for

gross alpha and beta activity using a gas-flow proportional counter. Also, water vapor for tritium analysis is collected on silica-gel absorbent material for processing by liquid scintillation analysis. In 2009, silica-gel samples were collected every two weeks.

4.3.1 Gross Alpha and Beta Airborne Activity

Particulate filter analytical results for gross alpha and beta airborne activity are reported in Table 4-3. Validated samples are those not rejected due to equipment malfunction or other factors (e.g., sample air volumes were not acceptable). The annual average gross alpha and beta airborne activity levels for the six monitoring stations were 0.0017 and 0.0142 pCi/m³, respectively. Annual gross beta activity trends recorded at Station P7 are plotted in Figure 4-4. The results for this location are typical for the site. The trend shows seasonal variation in activity within a range that is representative of natural background levels. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) received duplicate filter samples that were collected at Station P7 using a sampler they provided. These samples were collected weekly and analyzed by the NYSDOH laboratory for gross beta activity only. The analytical results found were comparable to the Station P7 samples analyzed by General Engineering Lab, an analytical laboratory contracted by BNL. New York State's analytical results for gross beta activity at the Laboratory were between 0.0024 and 0.0152 pCi/m³, with an average concentration of 0.0083 pCi/m³. BNL results ranged from 0.0041 to 0.0153 pCi/m³, with an average concentration of 0.0043 pCi/m³. As part of a statewide monitoring program, NYSDOH also collects air samples in Albany, New York, a control location with no potential to be influenced by nuclear facility emissions. In 2009, NYSDOH reported that airborne gross beta activity at that location varied between 0.0010 and 0.0230 pCi/m³, and the average concentration was 0.0118 pCi/m³. Sample results measured at the Laboratory fell within this range, demonstrating that on-site radiological air quality was consistent with that observed at locations in New York State not located near radiological facilities.

Table 4-3. Gross Activity Detected in Ambient Air Monitoring Particulate Filters.

| Sample Station | | Gross Alpha | Gross Beta |
|----------------------|------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | (pCi/m ³) | |
| P2 | N | 39 | 39 |
| | Max | 0.0034 ± 0.0010 | 0.0254 ± 0.0017 |
| | Avg. | 0.0020 ± 0.0007 | 0.0155 ± 0.0014 |
| | MDL | 0.0006* | 0.0008* |
| P4 | N | 50 | 50 |
| | Max | 0.0030 ± 0.0011 | 0.0295 ± 0.0024 |
| | Avg. | 0.0015 ± 0.0006 | 0.0141 ± 0.0012 |
| | MDL | 0.0005* | 0.0007* |
| P7 | N | 49 | 49 |
| | Max | 0.0018 ± 0.0005 | 0.0153 ± 0.0013 |
| | Avg. | 0.0010 ± 0.0004 | 0.0084 ± 0.0008 |
| | MDL | 0.0004* | 0.0005* |
| P9 | N | 49 | 49 |
| | Max | 0.0035 ± 0.0011 | 0.0280 ± 0.0022 |
| | Avg. | 0.0019 ± 0.0007 | 0.0159 ± 0.0014 |
| | MDL | 0.0006* | 0.0008* |
| S5 | N | 24 | 24 |
| | Max | 0.0042 ± 0.0010 | 0.0290 ± 0.0023 |
| | Avg. | 0.0019 ± 0.0007 | 0.0173 ± 0.0015 |
| | MDL | 0.0006* | 0.0009* |
| S6 | N | 47 | 47 |
| | Max | 0.0056 ± 0.0014 | 0.0304 ± 0.0023 |
| | Avg. | 0.0019 ± 0.0008 | 0.0159 ± 0.0015 |
| | MDL | 0.0007* | 0.0009* |
| Grand Average | | 0.0017 ± 0.0007 | 0.0142 ± 0.0013 |

Notes:

See Figure 4-3 for sample station locations.

All values shown with a 95% confidence interval.

MDL = Minimum Detection Limit

N = Number of validated samples collected

*Average MDL for all validated samples taken at this location

4.3.2 Airborne Tritium

Airborne tritium in the form of HTO is monitored throughout the BNL site. In addition to the five blockhouses containing tritium samplers, three pole-mounted monitors used for tritium sampling are located at or near the Laboratory's property boundary (see Figure 4-3 for sample locations). On average, observed concentrations of tritium at the sampling stations in 2009 were lower than concentrations observed in 2008.

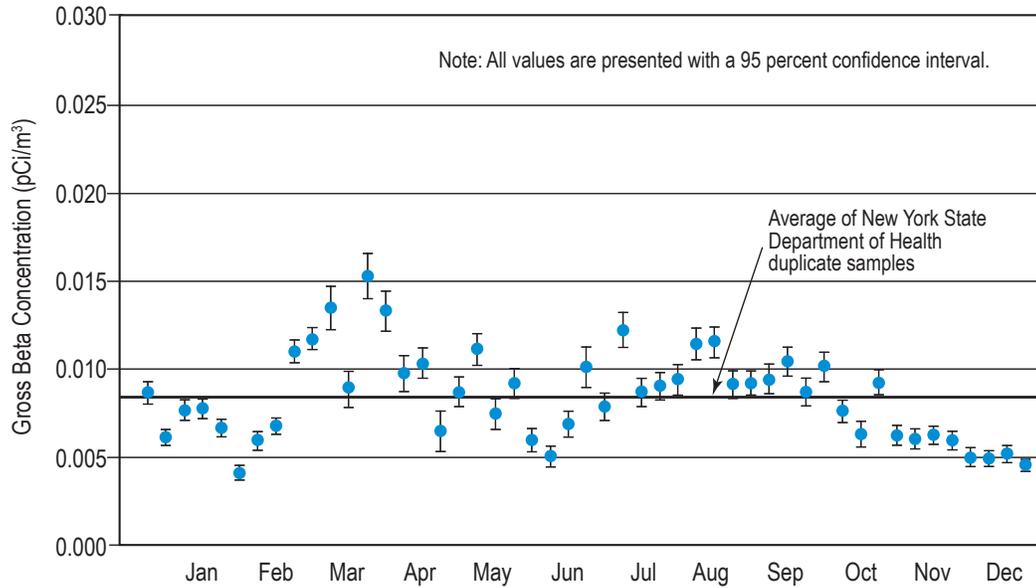


Figure 4-4. Airborne Gross Beta Concentration Trend Recorded at Station P7.

Table 4-4 lists the number of validated samples collected at each location, the maximum value observed, and the annual average concentration. Validated samples are those not rejected due to equipment malfunction or other factors (e.g., a battery failure in the sampler, frozen or supersaturated silica gel, insufficient sample volumes, or the loss of sample during preparation at the contract analytical laboratory). Airborne tritium samples were collected every two weeks from each sampling station during 2009; however, the contract laboratory rejected numerous samples because moisture captured on silica gel was insufficient for analysis. The average tritium concentrations at all of the sampling locations were less than the typical MDL, which ranged from 2.0 to 13.0 pCi/m³.

4.4 NONRADIOLOGICAL AIRBORNE EMISSIONS

Various state and federal regulations governing nonradiological releases require facilities to conduct periodic or continuous emission monitoring to demonstrate compliance with emission limits. The Central Steam Facility (CSF) is the only BNL facility that requires monitoring for nonradiological emissions. The Laboratory has several other emission sources subject to state and federal regulatory requirements that do not require emission monitoring (see Chapter 3 for

more details). The CSF supplies steam for heating and cooling to major BNL facilities through an underground steam distribution and condensate grid. The location of the CSF is shown in Figure 4-1. The combustion units at the CSF are designated as Boilers 1A, 5, 6, and 7. Boiler 1A, which was installed in 1962, has a heat input

Table 4-4. Ambient Airborne Tritium Measurements in 2009.

| Sample Station | Wind Sector | Validated Samples | Maximum _____ (pCi/m ³) _____ | Average |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|--|------------------|
| 049 | E | 20 | 9.0 ± 3.4 | 1.0 ± 4.0 |
| 053 | NW | 17 | 3.6 ± 1.9 | -0.2 ± 3.5 |
| 122 | SSE | 18 | 3.9 ± 2.1 | -1.7 ± 5.4 |
| P2 | NNW | 13 | 19.6 ± 19.8 | 2.0 ± 11.4 |
| P4 | WSW | 7 | 3.3 ± 5.6 | 0.8 ± 2.2 |
| P7 | ESE | 13 | 1.8 ± 1.6 | 0.2 ± 1.2 |
| P9 | NE | 24 | 27.0 ± 4.3 | 1.8 ± 2.2 |
| S6 | SE | 24 | 8.2 ± 1.3 | 0.3 ± 4.1 |
| Grand Average | | | | 0.5 ± 0.8 |

Notes:
 See Figure 4-3 for station locations.
 Wind sector is the downwind direction of the sample station from the HFBR stack.
 All values reported with a 95% confidence interval.
 Typical minimum detection limit for tritium is between 2.0 and 13.0 pCi/m³.
 DOE Order 5400.5 Air Derived Concentration Guide is 100,000 pCi/m³.

of 16.4 MW (56.7 million British thermal units [MMBtu] per hour). Boiler 5, installed in 1965, has a heat input of 65.3 MW (225 MMBtu/hr). The newest units, Boilers 6 and 7, were installed in 1984 and 1996, and each has a heat input of 42.6 MW (147 MMBtu/hr). For perspective, National Grid's Northport, New York, power station has four utility-sized turbine/generator boilers, each with a maximum rated heat input of 1,082 MW (3,695 MMBtu/hr).

Because of their design, heat inputs, and dates of installation, Boilers 6 and 7 are subject to Title 6 of the New York Code, Rules, and Regulations (NYCRR) Part 227-2, and the Federal New Source Performance Standard (40 CFR 60 Subpart Db: Standards of Performance for Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Boilers). These boilers are equipped with continuous emission monitors to measure nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and Boiler 7 is equipped with a continuous opacity monitor to comply with Subpart Db opacity monitoring requirements. After a new continuous opacity monitor for Boiler 6 was voluntarily brought online in 2004, emissions on both boilers are now continuously monitored for opacity. To measure combustion efficiency, the boilers are also monitored for carbon dioxide (CO_2). Continuous emission monitoring results from the two boilers are reported quarterly to EPA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

From May 1 to September 15 (the peak ozone period), compliance with the 0.30 lbs/MMBtu (129 ng/J) NO_x emission standard for No. 6 oil and the 0.20 lbs/MMBtu (86 ng/J) NO_x emission standard for No. 2 oil and natural gas is demonstrated by calculating the 24-hour average emission rate from continuous emission monitoring system readings and comparing the value to the emission standard. During the remainder of the year, the calculated 30-day rolling average emission rate is used to establish compliance. Boiler 6 and 7 opacity levels are recorded as 6-minute averages. Measured opacity levels cannot exceed 20 percent opacity, except for one 6-minute period per hour of not more than 27 percent opacity. In 2009, there were no measured exceedances of the NO_x emission standards for either boiler.

In 2009, there were 16 periods during the second quarter and 5 periods during the fourth quarter when opacity measurements for Boiler 6 exceeded the opacity limit. The first 12 second quarter excess opacity readings occurred during the initial soot blowing cycle after the boiler was brought on line while combusting natural gas. Since opacity readings began to rise immediately after the boiler was fired with natural gas, it appears that the natural cleansing affect of natural gas caused these opacity excursions. The other four excess opacity readings recorded during the second quarter were the result of dust build-up on the optical head assembly. Subsequent cleaning of the assembly returned opacity readings back to normal. There was no apparent cause for the five excess opacity readings recorded during the fourth quarter. Two excess opacity readings for Boiler 7 recorded in February during a soot blowing cycle appear to have been an isolated incident. Changes in the sequence of the soot blowing cycle for Boiler 6 that were made in August 2005 have proven effective in eliminating most opacity exceedances due to soot blowing. Similar changes made to the soot blowing cycle on Boiler 7 after the installation of a new soot blowing controller in March 2006 have also been successful in eliminating most soot blowing opacity exceedances from this boiler. While there are no regulatory requirements to continuously monitor opacity for Boilers 1A and 5, surveillance monitoring of visible stack emissions is a condition of BNL's Title V operating permit. Daily observations of stack gases recorded by CSF personnel throughout the year showed no visible emissions, with opacity levels lower than the regulatory limits established for these boilers.

To satisfy quality assurance requirements for the continuous emissions monitoring system of the Laboratory's Title V operating permit, a relative accuracy test audit (RATA) of the Boilers 6 and 7 continuous emissions monitoring systems for NO_x and CO_2 was conducted in December 2009. The results of the RATA demonstrated that the Boiler 6 and 7 NO_x and CO_2 continuous emissions monitoring systems met RATA acceptance criteria, which are defined in 40 CFR 60, Appendix B, Specifications 2 and 3.

Table 4-5. Central Steam Facility Fuel Use and Emissions (2000 – 2009).

| Annual Fuel Use and Fuel Heating Values | | | | | | | Emissions | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Year | No. 6 Oil (10 ³ gals) | Heating Value (MMBtu) | No. 2 Oil (10 ³ gals) | Heating Value (MMBtu) | Natural Gas (10 ⁶ ft ³) | Heating Value (MMBtu) | TSP (tons) | NO _x (tons) | SO ₂ (tons) | VOCs (tons) |
| 2000 | 2,097.32 | 309,317 | 0.82 | 115 | 342.40 | 349,248 | 9.5 | 81.6 | 45.0 | 1.2 |
| 2001 | 3,645.10 | 538,847 | 3.40 | 476 | 103.96 | 106,039 | 17.5 | 80.4 | 77.8 | 0.8 |
| 2002 | 2,785.04 | 407,518 | 0.29 | 41 | 220.62 | 225,030 | 15.4 | 62.4 | 53.8 | 1.0 |
| 2003 | 4,290.95 | 628,765 | 402.06 | 56,288 | 0.98 | 1,000 | 22.8 | 75.3 | 107.1 | 0.6 |
| 2004 | 4,288.76 | 628,063 | 2.45 | 343 | 0.11 | 109 | 16.4 | 81.9 | 104.7 | 2.4 |
| 2005 | 4,206.12 | 618,590 | 0.87 | 122 | 0.00 | 0 | 15.2 | 80.4 | 93.1 | 2.4 |
| 2006 | 2,933.00 | 432,430 | 0.22 | 30 | 191.35 | 195,177 | 11.8 | 66.9 | 66.3 | 2.2 |
| 2007 | 2,542.85 | 374,432 | 0.00 | 0 | 263.04 | 268,301 | 9.7 | 77.3 | 59.3 | 2.2 |
| 2008 | 1,007.49 | 148,939 | 0.10 | 736 | 496.48 | 506,406 | 5.7 | 46.7 | 23.0 | 1.9 |
| 2009 | 1,904.32 | 283,734 | 0.00 | 0 | 375.03 | 382,529 | 9.0 | 53.4 | 44.9 | 2.1 |
| Permit Limit (in tons) | | | | | | | 113.3 | 159.0 | 445.0 | 39.7 |

Notes:
 NO_x = Oxides of Nitrogen
 SO₂ = Sulfur Dioxide
 TSP = Total Suspended Particulates
 VOCs = Volatile Organic Compounds

In 2009, residual fuel prices from May through December exceeded those of natural gas. As a result, natural gas was used to supply more than 98 percent of the heating and cooling needs of BNL’s major facilities during these months. Natural gas supplied approximately 57 percent of major facility heating and cooling needs for the year. By comparison, in 2005, residual fuel satisfied more than 99.9 percent of the major facility heating and cooling needs. Consequently, 2009 emissions of particulates, NO_x, and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) were 6.2, 27.0, and 48.2 tons less than the respective totals for 2005. All emissions were well below the respective permit limits of 113.3, 159, and 445 tons. Table 4-5 shows fuel use and emissions since 2000.

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