

Chernobyl Wildfire Project Report on Model Methodology

Author

Andrew Niccolai, Ph.D.

Project Members

Chad Oliver, Ph.D.

Sergiv Zibtsev, Ph.D.

Johann Goldammer, Ph.D.

John Wargo, Ph.D.

George Chopivsky, Jr.

Draft copy

March 2009

Table of Contents

Model Scope 1

Model Assumptions 2

Model Data 3

Model Mechanics..... 4

 Radionuclide Discharge..... 5

 Radionuclide Pathways 7

 Inhalation: 7

 Immersion: 8

 Ground Deposition:..... 9

 Ingestion of Foodstuffs: 10

 Total Dose: 12

Model Results 13

References 16

Figures and Tables 17

1 **Model Scope**

2 On April 26, 1986, a chain reaction occurred in the Chernobyl nuclear power plant facility that resulted
3 in a series of explosions in reactor No. 4 which released approximately 1.85×10^{18} Becquerel (Bq) of
4 radioactive material into the surrounding environment (Othman 1990). At present, the main hazards to
5 environmental health are considered to be Cesium 137 (^{137}Cs) and Strontium 90 (^{90}Sr) as these
6 radioactive materials have relatively long half-lives and were widely deposited across Europe (Othman
7 1990). The model described in this report was designed to assess the potential impact of discharges of
8 ^{137}Cs and ^{90}Sr to the environment. Specifically, this report offers an objective assessment of the
9 implications to the population surrounding the Chernobyl nuclear facility under a scenario in which the
10 30 km Exclusion Zone around Chernobyl were to burn because of a catastrophic wildfire.

11 The implications to the population are reported as the average *dose* of radioactive materials
12 that is absorbed by a *critical population* during a catastrophic wildfire event in the Chernobyl Exclusion
13 Zone (CEZ). Dose is considered a measure of energy deposited by radiation within a human target and
14 is reported here as the average Sieverts per event (Sv/e). The critical population consists of the
15 members of the public which share a relatively homogenous set of exposure pathways and typically are
16 considered to receive the highest levels of effective dose from a given source of radiation. Reporting
17 the average dose exposure using a critical population constraint forces the model to err on the
18 conservative side as the majority of individuals within a given population will not receive the highest
19 levels of exposure for all possible existing exposure pathways.

20 The model chosen for this assessment was based on the generic model for use in assessing the
21 impact of discharges of radioactive substances to the environment described in the International Atomic
22 Energy Agency (IAEA) 2001 Safety Report Series (SRS) Number 19. This generic model was selected
23 because it offered a simplified and conservative assessment of the likely magnitude of a radioactive

24 impact on a population. The model as described in the SRS No. 19 manual was intended for use in
25 determining population dose impacts from prolonged or continuous releases into the environment
26 when it is reasonable to assume quasi-equilibrium has been established between released radionuclides
27 and relevant environmental components. This model has been modified for the application of short
28 period release simulations, as would be expected in a catastrophic wildfire, and all modifications to the
29 original IAEA model will be highlighted in the discussion below.

30 **Model Assumptions**

31 In order to assess the potential implications of radioactive material dispersion to the environment
32 surrounding the Chernobyl nuclear facility in the event of a catastrophic wildfire, assumptions must be
33 made for the model selected. The spatial model used in this report and described in detail in *Model*
34 *Mechanics* was purposefully designed to represent a parsimonious abstraction of radioactive movement
35 throughout an isotropic environment. The reduction in the number of model parameters was intended
36 to provide more transparent understanding behind the mechanics of radiation dispersion and
37 subsequent exposure.

38 In order to maintain a parsimonious model, several assumptions were incorporated into the
39 design of the model.

- 40 • The foliar biomass and forest floor for the area impacted by the catastrophic wildfire event were
41 assumed to be completely eviscerated and therefore any stored radioactive ^{137}Cs and ^{90}Sr were
42 considered available for dispersion to the environment. This assumption is supported as
43 complete removals of duff and foliar biomass in catastrophic wildfires have been noted in
44 studies by Miyanishi and Johnson (2002) and Laughlin *et al.* 2004.
- 45 • ^{137}Cs and ^{90}Sr were the only two radioactive materials utilized in this model.

- 46 • A five day time horizon was considered for the catastrophic wildfire event in which the 30 km
47 zone surrounding the Chernobyl nuclear facility was simulated to burn.
- 48 • Over the five day time period for the wildfire event, the wind was assumed to blow for an equal
49 speed and duration in all geographic quadrants resulting in an isotropic spatial coverage of ¹³⁷Cs
50 and ⁹⁰Sr transportation originating from the CEZ and moving out in concentric rings (**Fig. 1**).
- 51 • The model further assumes that the critical population remains exposed for the duration of the
52 radioactive release period and therefore individuals that leave the exposed areas will not
53 accumulate as much external and internal exposure as the population for the same period.
- 54 • Finally, the individual parameters such as radioactive half life or effective dose from cloud
55 immersion for the radioactive ¹³⁷Cs and ⁹⁰Sr elements were taken from the tables of values
56 provided by the peer reviewed IAEA SRS No. 19 manual freely available to the public.

57 **Model Data**

58 Estimates on the amount of ¹³⁷Cs and ⁹⁰Sr available in the CEZ were needed to populate the model.
59 McGee *et al.* (2000) reported that 87% of the detected ¹³⁷Cs in the forests of Sweden were found in the
60 soils while 13% were found in the aboveground biomass. This approximate proportion of ¹³⁷Cs found in
61 soil to ¹³⁷Cs found in vegetation was utilized in the estimation process for ¹³⁷Cs and ⁹⁰Sr found in the CEZ.
62 The estimates of ¹³⁷Cs and ⁹⁰Sr found in the soils of the 30 km zone around Chernobyl were derived from
63 data presented by Kashparov *et al.* (2001). The Kashparov article reported that approximately 8.1×10^{14}
64 Bq of ⁹⁰Sr was determined to be in the CEZ based on an extensive grid of soil samples taken in 1997. A
65 relationship for ¹³⁷Cs to ⁹⁰Sr in the CEZ soils was given as ¹³⁷Cs was found to be 1.87 times more
66 abundant in the soils than ⁹⁰Sr with an r^2 of 0.43. Adjusting the soil estimates from the year of the soil
67 survey to the year 2010 using the anticipated decay rate for ⁹⁰Sr with a half life of 28.8 years resulted in

68 an estimated amount of ^{90}Sr found in the CEZ soils to be 6.1×10^{14} Bq. The amount of ^{137}Cs estimated for
69 the CEZ soils in 2010 was then calculated as 1.1×10^{15} Bq.

70 A forest biomass inventory provided by the National University of Life and Environmental
71 Sciences of Ukraine for the CEZ was utilized to estimate the percentage of land cover considered to
72 contain forested vegetation. Approximately 40% of the CEZ was considered to contain a substantial
73 above ground biomass component similar in structure to that reported in McGee *et al.* (2000).
74 Therefore, assuming a quasi-equal distribution of radioactive material in the soils as compared with the
75 area of forest cover, approximately 3.7×10^{13} Bq of ^{90}Sr and 6.8×10^{13} Bq of ^{137}Cs were estimated to
76 reside in the vegetative component of the forests within the CEZ. The final estimation of total
77 radioactive material available for transport in the event of a catastrophic wildfire was estimated as
78 6.4×10^{14} Bq of ^{90}Sr and 1.2×10^{15} Bq of ^{137}Cs in the year 2010.

79 **Model Mechanics**

80 The spatial model utilized in this study provides a systems-based simple screening approach for
81 assessing the average dose potential to those members of a population likely to be most exposed to
82 radioactive materials. In this regard, the assessment is intended to be comprehensive in describing all
83 possible major pathways of radiation exposure and purposefully conservative, reporting risk for cases
84 that involve maximum exposure potential. Transport of the discharged materials is considered through
85 the atmosphere and surface water and exposure pathways for external and internal mechanisms are
86 systematically traced for population level risk assessments. The modified model used in this report is
87 intended to assess the maximum periodic dose received due to combinations of inhalation, immersion,
88 ingestion of food and water and exposure to ground and sediment concentrations. A conservative
89 approach to account for exposures from multiple pathways is to sum up the individual pathway
90 contributions but in reality it is unlikely that any one individual would receive maximum exposure to all

91 possible exposure pathways. An overview of the systems-based modeling approach and the parameters
92 used to assess the impact of a wildfire in the CEZ are given in **Fig. 2**.

93 Radionuclide Discharge

94 The first step in modeling the potential impact of a catastrophic wildfire on the transport of radioactive
95 material to the environment is to consider the discharge mechanisms after the ¹³⁷Cs and ⁹⁰Sr is
96 volatilized. There are two primary means of transporting radioactive material through the environment,
97 atmospheric and surface water discharge. The rate of atmospheric discharge (Q_i), measured in Bq/s,
98 was calculated as the total amount of ¹³⁷Cs (and then later ⁹⁰Sr¹) for the year 2010 divided by the time
99 period of the wildfire event (sec). The dispersion of atmospheric discharge, or the average air
100 concentration during the event (C_A) measured in Bq/m³, was calculated as follows:

$$101 \quad C_A = \frac{P_p F Q_i}{u_a} \quad [1]$$

102 where

103 C_A is the ground level air concentration at downwind distance x in sector p (Bq/m³),

104 P_p is the fraction of time per event that the wind blows toward the target population in sector p ,

105 F is the Gaussian diffusion factor² appropriate for a given release height and downwind distance x
106 (m⁻²),

107 Q_i is the average discharge rate per event for radionuclide i (Bq/s),

¹ The spatial modeling reported in this study analyzed the impacts of ¹³⁷Cs and ⁹⁰Sr separately and then combined the results of the total dose exposure for each radioactive material at the end. Unless specifically noted, the mechanism of the model will be described for ¹³⁷Cs and only parameter for ⁹⁰Sr that are different than ¹³⁷Cs will be explicitly reported.

² The Gaussian diffusion factor formula is given on page 18 of the IAEA SRS No. 19.

108 u_a is the geometric wind speed average at the area of release representative of the duration of
109 event (m/s).

110 The second means of transporting radioactive material through the environment includes
111 dispersion through surface water discharge. The periodic average water concentration (C_w) for ^{137}Cs in
112 the event of a catastrophic wildfire was calculated assuming that the Kiev Reservoir was exposed to
113 atmospheric deposition of radioactive material. The nature of the catastrophic wildfire eliminated any
114 need to calculate direct discharge of either ^{137}Cs or ^{90}Sr into the surface water. The water concentration
115 based on only atmospheric deposition of radioactive materials was calculated as follows:

$$116 \quad C_w = \frac{Q'_i}{q_r + L_i V} \quad [2]$$

117 where

118 C_w is the total radionuclide concentration in water (Bq/m^3),

119 q_r is the average rate of inflow in the lake (m^3/s),

120 L_i is the radioactive decay constant (s^{-1}),

121 V is the estimated volume of the water body (m^3),

122 Q'_i is the average discharge rate for radionuclide i (Bq/s) that assumes no direct discharge into

123 water, calculated as: $Q'_i = \frac{3A_i d_i}{86400}$ [3]

124 where

125 A_i is the surface area of the lake (m^2),

126 d_i is the daily deposition rate of a radionuclide i from the atmosphere on the water surface
127 (Bq/m²/d).

128 Radionuclide Pathways

129 Once the discharge and consequent dispersion mechanisms are adequately modeled, the potential
130 pathways for critical population exposure can be mapped. The exposure pathways chosen for this
131 model included: inhalation, plume immersion, exposure to ground deposits and ingestion of foodstuffs.
132 Note that the model used in this report does not consider exposure to water borne sediments because
133 the effects of sedimentation are typically limited to the banks containing surface water. It should be
134 noted that the dose estimations in this report might underestimate critical population dosage for
135 personnel that live and work on the banks of the Kiev Reservoir.

136

137 *Inhalation:*

138 The internal dose from an intake of radioactive material into the body following inhalation depends in
139 part on the age and metabolism of the individual as well as the physicochemical behavior of the
140 radionuclide under consideration. This study differentiates only between infants and adults in terms of
141 significant differences in dose coefficients and inhalation rates. Assessments of more detailed
142 population demographics would ideally utilize intakes and effective dose coefficients appropriate to the
143 ages and physiological profile of the constituent groups under consideration. The effective dose from
144 inhalation for both adults and infants after exposure to radionuclide transportation from a catastrophic
145 wildfire in the CEZ were calculated as follows:

$$146 \quad E_{inh} = C_A R_{inh} D F_{inh} \quad [4]$$

147 where

148 E_{inh} is the periodic effective dose (Sv/e),

149 C_A is the radionuclide concentration in the air obtained from Equation [1] (Bq/m³),

150 R_{inh} is the inhalation rate (m³/e),

151 DF_{inh} is the inhalation dose coefficient (Sv/Bq).

152

153 *Immersion:*

154 Calculations of the effective dose from immersion in the atmospheric discharge plume are based on the

155 semi-infinite cloud model which assumes that radiation from the plume cloud is in a state of radiative

156 equilibrium, inferring that the energy absorbed by a given volume within the cloud is the equivalent of

157 that energy emitted by the same cloud volume. This model has been widely used and includes

158 provisions for partial shielding of the plume cloud by impervious surfaces such as the side of a building.

159 This model did not incorporate the effect of buildings to ensure that the critical population represents

160 the highest risk group possible. In practice, most individuals will not remain exposed to a plume cloud

161 for the duration of the wildfire event but given the potential of certain groups to act in the capacity of

162 fire fighting and emergency first response personnel, it is a reasonable assumption for generic purposes.

163 The effective dose from immersion in the atmospheric plume is calculated as follows:

164
$$E_{im} = C_A DF_{im} O_f \quad [5]$$

165 where

166 E_{im} is the effective dose from immersion (Sv/e),

167 C_A is the radionuclide concentration in the air obtained from Equation [1] (Bq/m³),

168 DF_{im} is the effective dose coefficient for immersion (Sv/e per Bq/m),

169 O_f is the fraction of the event for which the critical population is exposed to this plume.

170

171 *Ground Deposition:*

172 In order to calculate the effective dose from ground deposition during the period of a catastrophic
173 wildfire event, the total daily deposition rate on the ground from both dry and wet processes for a given
174 radionuclide i must first be determined along with the estimated concentrations of radionuclides on the
175 ground surface area. For this model, it was assumed that the ground surface was represented by an
176 infinite plane source upon which all radionuclide deposition activity was uniformly distributed. For
177 extremely long lived radionuclides or for terrain that is highly variable, a method to track migration
178 down through a soil column should be considered. A number of models exist that attempt to predict
179 this downward movement but there is very little experimental data available on limited radionuclides
180 and soil types to validate these predictions. For this study, the infinite plane model for estimating the
181 dose from ground deposition was chosen because of the limited duration of the wildfire event for
182 downward migration of radionuclides and the lack of experimental data on ^{137}Cs and ^{90}Sr on the soils
183 surrounding Chernobyl. The effective dose from ground deposition was calculated as follows:

184
$$E_{gr} = C_{gr}DF_{gr}O_f \quad [6]$$

185 where

186 E_{gr} is the effective dose from ground deposition (Sv/e),

187 DF_{gr} is the dose coefficient for exposure to ground deposits (Sv/e per Bq/m²),

188 O_f is the fraction of the event for which the critical population is exposed to this pathway,

189 C_{gr} is the deposition density of radionuclide i (Bq/m^2), calculated as:

$$190 \quad C_{gr} = \frac{d_i [1 - e^{-L_{E_i^s} t_b}]}{L_{E_i^s}} \quad [7]$$

191 where

192 t_b is the duration of the discharge of radioactive material (d),

193 $L_{E_i^s}$ is the effective rate constant for reduction of the activity in the top layer of the soil (d^{-1}),

194 calculated by adding the radioactive decay constant for radionuclide i with the rate constant for

195 reduction of soil activity owing to processes other than radioactive decay,

196 d_i is the total ground deposition rate ($\text{Bq}/\text{m}^2/\text{d}$), calculated as:

$$197 \quad d_i = (V_d + V_w) C_A \quad [8]$$

198 where

199 V_d is the dry deposition coefficient for a given radionuclide i (m/d),

200 V_w is the wet deposition coefficient for a given radionuclide i (m/d),

201 C_A is the radionuclide concentration in the air obtained from Equation [1] (Bq/m^3).

202

203 *Ingestion of Foodstuffs:*

204 The food chain models assume that the critical population is exposed to radionuclides through ingestion

205 of vegetation, meat, milk, and fish products that have been part of the transfer process of either the

206 atmospheric or surface water discharges. Radionuclides intercepted and preserved by vegetation may

207 result from deposition from atmospheric fallout, precipitation rainout or irrigation with contaminated

208 water. A percentage of these external deposits become internalized to the vegetation through foliar
209 absorption or root uptake. Radioactive decay, growth dilution, non-contaminated water wash off and
210 soil fixation are all processes that can eventually lead to reductions in the radionuclide concentration
211 within vegetation. These processes require longer time horizons than the wildfire event scenario
212 described in this paper and therefore will not be included in the model for dose from plant ingestion.
213 The intake of radionuclides by animals depends on the size, species, age, feed material and milk yield.
214 For this study, it was assumed that the meat from animals originated as cattle byproducts and that the
215 cattle grazed only on fresh pasture during the grazing season. The concentration of radionuclides in the
216 milk was depended upon the radioactivity concentration in the feed consumed by the milk producing
217 animals. This study used the values recommended by the IAEA SRS No. 19 specific to dairy cows;
218 however, they are also applicable to other lactating animals without significantly underestimating the
219 radioactive concentration in those milk products. The concentration of radionuclides in fish depends on
220 the bioaccumulation through various trophic levels of aquatic life in contaminated water. While the
221 trophic level of the organism is the most critical component of the bioaccumulation of radionuclides,
222 other contributing factors include the amount of suspended sediment, the chemical composition of the
223 water, the characteristics of the radionuclide and the characteristics of the aquatic organism under
224 consideration. This study uses bioaccumulation values that ensure a conservative estimate of the
225 transfer of dissolved radionuclides from water to edible aquatic organisms. Much like the rates of
226 atmospheric inhalation, the ingestion of vegetation, meat, milk, and fish is highly variable within
227 population demographics. This study differentiated between adult food consumption and infant
228 consumption.

229 The general calculation of the periodic effective dose from consumption of radionuclide i in
230 foodstuff p is as follows:

231 $E_{ing,p} = C_{p,i}H_pDF_{ing}$ [9]

232 where

233 $E_{ing,p}$ is the effective dose from consumption of radionuclide i in foodstuff p (Sv/e),

234 H_p is the consumption rate³ of an individual foodstuff p (kg/e),

235 DF_{ing} is the dose coefficient for ingestion of radionuclide i (Sv/Bq),

236 $C_{p,i}$ is the concentration of radionuclide i in foodstuff p at the moment of consumption (Bq/kg).

237

238 The calculation for $C_{p,i}$ is a function of not only the two discharge methods, atmospheric and
 239 surface water, but also is dependent on the radionuclide characteristics as well as the methods of
 240 irrigation, uptake from soil, foraging, grazing and bioaccumulation. As such, a separate model for
 241 calculating radionuclide concentration is needed for vegetation, meat, milk and fish. The concentration
 242 values will be reported in the results section of this report but details of the individual $C_{p,i}$ models can be
 243 found in *Section 5* of the IAEA SRS No. 19 manual.

244

245 *Total Dose:*

246 The total dose of the critical population (Sv/e) for a given radionuclide i is finally calculated as the sum of
 247 the potential dose pathways given in Equations [4,5,6, and 9]:

248 $E_{tot,i} = E_{inh} + E_{im} + E_{gr} + E_{ing,p}$ [10]

249 Then the total dose for all radionuclides considered (only ¹³⁷Cs and ⁹⁰Sr for this study) is calculated as
 250 follows:

251 $\sum E_{tot,i}$ for all i radionuclides [11]

³ These rates are differentiated by adult rates and infant consumption rates for vegetation, meat, milk, and fish.

252

253 **Model Results**

254 A simulated scenario of a catastrophic wildfire event in the Exclusion Zone surrounding Chernobyl would
255 release radioactive materials, including ^{137}Cs and ^{90}Sr , into the population living in the vicinity of the CEZ.

256 **Table 1** shows the estimated quantities of radioactive ^{137}Cs and ^{90}Sr materials in the forest floor and
257 vegetation within the CEZ for the year 2010. The total amount of radioactive material that could
258 potentially be mobilized to an ionized state in the event of a catastrophic wildfire is estimated to be
259 1.7×10^{15} Bq residing in the forest floor and 1.1×10^{14} Bq in the vegetation. Assuming that a catastrophic
260 wildfire event would completely burn the upper duff layer of the forest floor and the vegetation within a
261 period of five days (4.32×10^5 s), the average rate of atmospheric discharge of ionized radioactive
262 material was determined to be 4.0×10^9 Bq/s from the forest floor and 2.5×10^8 Bq/s from the vegetation.
263 A wildfire scenario would not be responsible for discharging radioactive material directly into
264 surrounding water bodies such as the Kiev Reservoir but the surface water would receive radioactive
265 depositions as the ^{137}Cs and ^{90}Sr settled from the atmospheric plume as either dry or wet deposits.
266 Using Equation 3 for the average discharge rate for a radionuclide assuming no direct discharge into
267 water and data on the surface area of the Kiev Reservoir (9.22×10^5 m²), the total surface water
268 discharge for the Kiev Reservoir associated with a catastrophic wildfire from the CEZ was estimated to
269 be approximately 1.8×10^6 Bq/s for the duration of the fire.

270 In the event of a catastrophic wildfire the population surrounding the CEZ would be exposed to
271 ionizing radiation by a number of pathways including:

- 272 i. Internal exposure from radioactive materials absorbed into the body through inhalation.
- 273 ii. Internal exposure from radioactive materials absorbed into the body through immersion
274 during the passage of the radioactive plume.

- 275 iii. External exposure to radioactive materials from ground depositions.
- 276 iv. Internal exposure from the ingestion of radioactive materials in the form of contaminated
- 277 vegetation, meat, milk, and fish products.

278

279 Before estimates of the effective dose equivalent to the critical population for each pathway

280 could be determined, estimates of the concentrations of ^{137}Cs and ^{90}Sr in the air, water, ground and food

281 products were needed. These concentrations, with the exception of water which was assumed to mix

282 thoroughly for the Kiev Reservoir water body, are a function of distance from the discharge source. As

283 would be expected, when one moves further from the CEZ, the concentrations of radioactive materials

284 in the air, ground and food products decrease. This report considered 10 km rings radiating out from

285 the CEZ starting at 20 km from the source and continuing out to 150 km from the Exclusion Zone (**Figure**

286 **1**). The capital of the Ukraine, Kiev, is located approximately 100 km from the CEZ. The estimated

287 concentrations of ^{137}Cs and ^{90}Sr in the air, water, ground and food for distances of 50, 100, and 150 km

288 encircling the CEZ are given in **Table 2**. These values were calculated using Equations 1, 2, & 7 for the

289 air, water and ground concentrations. The equations for calculating food concentrations can be found in

290 *Section 5* of the IAEA SRS No. 19 manual. The highest potential source of radioactive material

291 concentrations at all spatial distances comes from ground concentrations. For example, at the 100 km

292 distance from the CEZ, approximately $4.8 \times 10^7 \text{ Bq/m}^2$ of ^{137}Cs and $2.5 \times 10^7 \text{ Bq/m}^2$ of ^{90}Sr can be found

293 settling on the ground from wet and dry depositions compared to 10.9 Bq/m^2 of ^{137}Cs and 5.8 Bq/m^2 of

294 ^{90}Sr estimated to be in the atmosphere at 100 km from the CEZ.

295 Finally, the doses estimated for each pathway of exposure are given in **Table 3**. Again, exposure

296 rates for distances of 50, 100, and 150 km from the CEZ are reported independently for both ^{137}Cs and

297 ^{90}Sr and then total exposures assuming an additive effect for both radionuclides are provided.

298 Inhalation rates and food consumption patterns are markedly different for adults and infants in the
299 critical population and therefore are estimated separately for this analysis. The exposure from
300 inhalation for adults were based on inhalation rates of 8400 h/a while infant inhalation rates were
301 assumed to be on the order of 1400 h/a (IAEA SRS No. 19 2001). Similarly, the exposure from
302 contaminated foods were based on consumption rates per adults of 410 kg/a for vegetables, 100 kg/a
303 for meat, 250 L/a for milk, and 30 kg/a for fish while infant rates were based on 150 kg/a for vegetables,
304 40 kg/a for meat, 300 L/a for milk, and 15 kg/a for fish. At a distance of 100 km from the CEZ, the total
305 dose exposure for adults of ^{137}Cs was estimated to be approximately 2.7×10^{-2} Sv/e while the estimate of
306 adult exposure to ^{90}Sr was approximately 5.4×10^{-3} Sv/e.

307 In summary, the estimated potential effective dose equivalent from radioactive materials
308 volatilized by a catastrophic wildfire in the Exclusion Zone surrounding Chernobyl and transported
309 through the environment to distances equal to and beyond the distance of the capital city Kiev from the
310 source is only two orders of magnitude less than the reported lethal limit of ^{137}Cs and ^{90}Sr in Sieverts per
311 annum according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

312

313

314

315

316

317

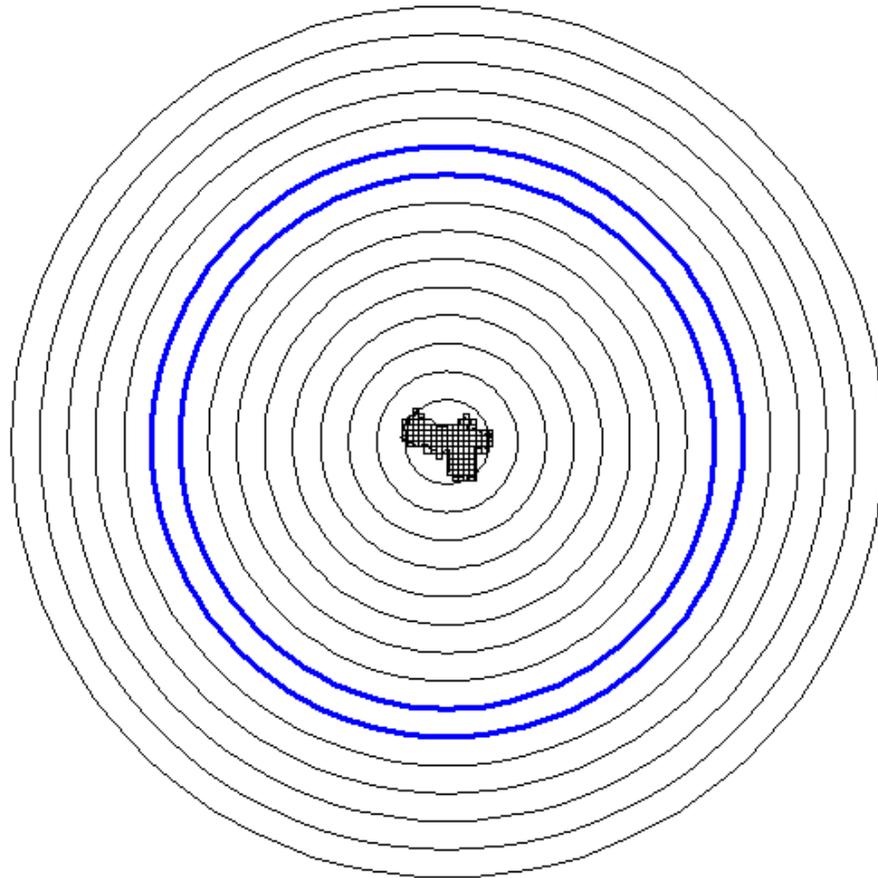
318 **References**

- 319 IAEA (2001). Generic models for use in assessing the impact of discharges of radioactive substances to
320 the environment. In, Safety Report Series, Number 19 (p. 216). Vienna: International Atomic
321 Energy Agency.
- 322 Kashparov, V.A., Lundin, S.M., Khomutinin, Y.V., Kaminsky, S.P., Levchuk, S.E., Protsak, V.P., Kadygrib,
323 A.M., Zvarich, S.I., Yoschenko, V.I., & Tschiersch, J. (2001). Soil contamination with Sr-90 in the
324 near zone of the Chernobyl accident. *Journal of Environmental Radioactivity*, 56, 285-298.
- 325 Laughlin, D.C., Bakker, J.D., Stoddard, M.T., Daniels, M.L., Springer, J.D., Gildar, C.N., Green, A.M., &
326 Covington, W.W. (2004). Toward reference conditions: wildfire effects on flora in an old-growth
327 ponderosa pine forest. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 199, 137-152.
- 328 McGee, E.J., Synnott, H.J., Johanson, K.J., Fawaris, B.H., Nielsen, S.P., Horrill, A.D., Kennedy, V.H.,
329 Barbayiannis, N., Veresoglou, D.S., Dawson, D.E., Colgan, P.A., & McGarry, A.T. (2000).
330 Chernobyl fallout in a Swedish spruce forest ecosystem. *Journal of Environmental Radioactivity*,
331 48, 59-78.
- 332 Miyanishi, K., & Johnson, E.A. (2002). Process and patterns of duff consumption in the mixedwood
333 boreal forest. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research-Revue Canadienne De Recherche Forestiere*,
334 32, 1285-1295.
- 335 Othman, I. (1990). The impact of the Chernobyl accident on Syria. *Journal of Radiological Protection*, 10,
336 103-108.
- 337
- 338

339 **Figures and Tables**

340 **Figure 1: Concentric rings around CEZ**

CEZ with Kiev in Blue Ring



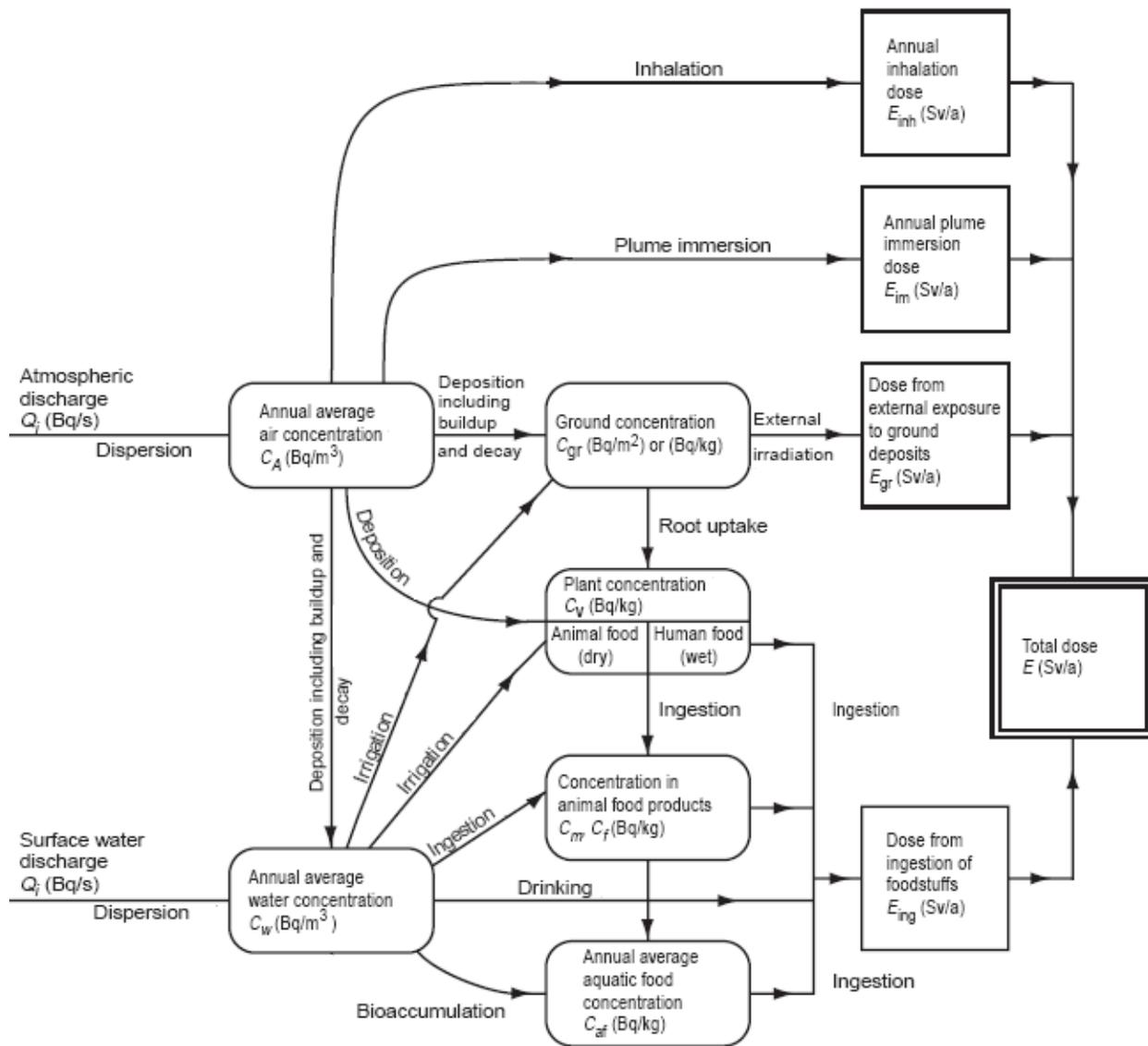
Each Ring is 10 km

341

342

343

344 Figure 2: Overview of systems-based approach to modeling the impact of discharges of radioactive substances to the
 345 environment (Modified from Figure 2, page 8, IAEA SRS No. 19).



346

347

348

349 **Table 1. Estimated quantities of radioactive materials within the CEZ.**

Radionuclides	Estimated Amount (Bq)		Atmospheric Discharge, Q_i (Bq/s)		Surface Water Discharge, Q'_i (Bq/s)
	Forest floor	Vegetation	Forest Floor	Vegetation	
^{137}Cs	1.1×10^{15}	6.8×10^{13}	2.6×10^9	1.6×10^8	1.2×10^6
^{90}Sr	6.1×10^{14}	3.7×10^{13}	1.4×10^9	8.5×10^7	6.3×10^5
Total	1.7×10^{15}	1.1×10^{14}	4.0×10^9	2.5×10^8	1.8×10^6

350

351

352

353 **Table 2. Estimated concentrations of radioactive materials in the environment after a simulated catastrophic wildfire.**

Distance (km)	Radionuclide	Air Concentration	Water Concentration	Ground Concentration	Food Concentration (Bq/kg)			
		C_A (Bq/m ³)	C_W (Bq/m ³)†	C_{gr} (Bq/m ²)	Vegetation	Meat	Milk	Fish†
50	¹³⁷ Cs	30.9	676.6	1.4×10^8	1.7×10^5	9.6×10^5	3.1×10^5	4.1×10^3
	⁹⁰ Sr	16.5	359.5	7.2×10^7	6.3×10^4	1.6×10^5	9.1×10^4	16.2
100	¹³⁷ Cs	10.9	-	4.8×10^7	5.9×10^4	3.4×10^5	1.1×10^5	-
	⁹⁰ Sr	5.8	-	2.5×10^7	2.2×10^4	5.7×10^4	3.2×10^4	-
150	¹³⁷ Cs	5.9	-	2.6×10^7	3.2×10^4	1.8×10^5	6.0×10^4	-
	⁹⁰ Sr	3.2	-	1.4×10^7	1.2×10^4	3.1×10^4	1.7×10^4	-

354 †: These concentration values are reported for the Kiev Reservoir and are therefore not directly associated with distances from the center of the CEZ

355

356

357 **Table 3. Estimated effective dose equivalent rates for the critical population.**

Distance (km)	Radionuclide	Inhalation E_{inh} (Sv/e)		Immersion E_{im} (Sv/e)	Ground Exposure E_{gr} (Sv/e)	Ingestion† E_{ing} (Sv/e)		Total E (Sv/e)	
		Adults	Infants			Adults	Infants	Adults	Infants
50	^{137}Cs	1.6×10^{-5}	3.2×10^{-6}	3.7×10^{-7}	3.3×10^{-2}	4.3×10^{-2}	2.6×10^{-2}	7.7×10^{-2}	5.9×10^{-2}
	^{90}Sr	3.0×10^{-5}	1.3×10^{-4}	7.0×10^{-10}	3.5×10^{-3}	1.2×10^{-2}	7.1×10^{-3}	1.5×10^{-2}	1.1×10^{-2}
100	^{137}Cs	5.8×10^{-6}	1.1×10^{-6}	1.3×10^{-7}	1.1×10^{-2}	1.5×10^{-2}	9.1×10^{-3}	2.7×10^{-2}	2.1×10^{-2}
	^{90}Sr	1.1×10^{-5}	4.5×10^{-5}	2.5×10^{-10}	1.2×10^{-3}	4.1×10^{-3}	2.5×10^{-3}	5.4×10^{-3}	3.8×10^{-3}
150	^{137}Cs	3.1×10^{-6}	6.1×10^{-7}	7.0×10^{-8}	6.4×10^{-3}	8.3×10^{-3}	5.0×10^{-3}	1.5×10^{-2}	1.1×10^{-2}
	^{90}Sr	5.8×10^{-5}	2.4×10^{-5}	1.3×10^{-10}	6.6×10^{-4}	2.2×10^{-3}	1.4×10^{-3}	2.9×10^{-3}	2.0×10^{-3}

358 †: These concentration values are reported for the Kiev Reservoir and are therefore not directly associated with distances from the center of the CEZ

359

360