Question:

“I had a question for Dr. Higley, The work schedule is 58 hours per week not 40 hours per week. How much does the exposure risk go up?”

Answer:

Occupational standards for exposure to hazardous or cancer-causing compounds are developed based on consideration of a number of factors. These include, for example, estimates of exposure period, how hazardous or carcinogenic the compound is, and its chemical and physical form. In the calculation of occupational exposure to airborne radionuclides, exposure is described in terms of DAC-hours (derived air concentration – hours). The DAC is stated in terms of radioactivity per volume (for example, pCi/m3) of a specific radionuclide and its specific chemical characteristics. The value calculated for the DAC is based on an assumption that a worker doing ‘typical physical labor’ could breathe in that concentration for a full year (assumed to be 2000 hours) and not receive a dose that is above the regulatory limit. When PORTS describes how it sets DAC-hour limits for its workers, it is actually setting a dose limit. So it doesn’t matter if the worker is onsite for 40 or 60 hours a week, they are controlling their weekly dose and hereby limiting their risk to an approved level.

In addition, PORTS sets its worker dose limits below the regulatory standards. This is very common in the industry. It allows operators to manage exposure and not worry about exceeding any legal limits. The action levels are meant to trigger a review of exposure conditions before anyone can exceed any regulatory limit.

Question:

“Are the air monitor results provided or available to the public?”

Air monitoring results at the Portsmouth Site are provided on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual basis.

For information on weekly, monthly, and quarterly data, please visit: <https://portsdemo.com/#dashboard>

For information on annual data reports, please visit: <https://portsdemo.com/pegasis/>

For data from co-located Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Health monitors, please visit:

Ohio EPA – <https://epa.ohio.gov/dapc/ams/amsmain/AMSSpecSam-DOE>

ODH – <https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/doe-portsmouth-facility_-radiological-air-sampling-results>