

Estimation of radiation doses for transition from emergency to existing exposure situation

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Abstract. The transition from emergency to existing exposure situation is an important stage in the nuclear or radiological emergency plan. It requires arrangements to be put in place and to be implemented so as to ensure that the transition is made in a coordinated and orderly manner of guidelines for adjusting the undertaken protective actions and other response actions. The delivering radiation doses to public and environmental pollution are monitoring that measurements should be implemented according to certain plan of intervention and protective actions in the different stages of the N/R accident. In this study, a computer model (RASCAL) is used to calculate the effect of severe accident could have detected on an operating nuclear power reactor PWR and the possible impact on the public. Features for the decision to implement the transition from emergency to existing exposure situation are proposed depending on the estimation of the collection of deliver exposure doses to the public and environment due to monitoring the different radiation sources resulting from the N/R accident.

Key words: nuclear emergency • emergency computer code • severe accident

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Received: 19 August 2013 Accepted: 24 October 2014

Introduction

Till date, there have been five serious nuclear accidents (core damage) in the world since 1970 (one at Three Mile Island in 1979; one at Chernobyl in 1986; and three at Fukushima-Daiichi in 2011), corresponding to the beginning of the operation of generation II reactors [1]. This leads to on average one serious accident happening every 8 years worldwide. The overall emergency management can be divided into three phases, i.e. preparedness, response and recovery; however the response phase can be subdivided into early and intermediate responses, in which the response and recovery phases are corresponding to the concepts of emergency and existing exposure situations, respectively, as provided by the ICRP 2007 Recommendations [2]. The change from an emergency exposure situation to an existing exposure situation will be based on a decision by the authority responsible for the overall response. The transfer should be undertaken in a coordinated and fully transparent manner, and should be understood by all parties involved [3]. In general, offsite protective measures should be prepared when dose consequences are estimated above a low level of emergency protective guidelines, 10 mSv for whole body and 50 mSv for thyroid at the site boundary after any accident. The output data from a computerized program shall provide to decision-makers, for on-site and off-site, the necessary technical elements for determining the appropriate countermeasures, by anticipating, as far as possible, the occurrence of releases into the environment. Radiological Assessment System for Consequence Analysis (RASCAL) is the software program developed and used by Emergency Operations Center, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), to estimate projected doses from radiological emergencies [4]. In the next sections (input and output data), there is an explanation how RASCAL model estimate and analyse the accident consequences in detail. Also, this program is used to reliably predict source term in case of an accident in a light-water reactor (LWR), taking into account the information available on the plant. An accident occurs in nuclear reactor when the cooling water systems of the plant are no longer removing heat from the reactor fuel (the 'core' of the reactor). Extensive core damage could melt reactor fuel, which would settle at the bottom of the reactor vessel that is designed to hold the fuel. The reactor vessel is surrounded by the containment building. If cooling water is not restored, however, and the accident progresses further, the melted fuel could rupture the bottom of the reactor vessel, with flowing of the melted fuel onto the containment floor. Radioactive material would be released from the fuel into the containment atmosphere and could potentially escape from the containment if there were any available leakage paths [5]. The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) has indicated that its basic framework for radiological protection is intended to prevent the occurrence of deterministic effects, by keeping doses below the relevant thresholds, and to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to reduce the induction of stochastic effects [6]. According to the ICRP, the protection of the public in existing exposure situations should follow the system of protection for interventions. Within the system of protection, an intervention is defined as, any action intended to reduce or avert exposure or the likelihood of exposure to sources, which are not part of a controlled practice or which are out of control as a consequence of an accident. The term intervention refers to those situations where the sources, pathways and exposed individuals are already in place when decisions about control measures are being considered.

Simulation of the emergency action procedures

A postulated nuclear power plant pressurized water reactor (PWR) 1000 MW had been operating at full power. The reactor tripped due to a major rupture in the primary coolant system (loss-of-coolant accident – LOCA). The accident is classified as general emergency accident. The meteorological data is needed to predict the behavior of the radioactive plume in the atmosphere. The simulation goal is to provide the best representation of the weather conditions for running the model in both time and space. That is, capture how the conditions change with time over the period of the release, plume transport and the plume moves away from the release point.

Input data

Atmospheric conditions

The software program requires the initial weather data be entered within a period of 2 h (window) before the start of the release. For nuclear power plants, weather observations of the site itself would be obtained via the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS) or by telephone from the licensee. The weather data is measured on a multilevel tower. It consists of wind speed and direction, air temperature and atmospheric stability. The reporting interval may vary but is usually 15 min, averaging interval. Note that precipitation of released radioisotopes is not measured or reported. Normally you will enter the data measured at the lowest tower level (typically 10 m or 30 ft). You can use elevated measurements, but it will need to change the height measurement in the program. For the purposes of this study, we assume that ERDS and the plant operators have provided that the wind speed 6 m/h and wind direction 10°.

Source term

Operators believe that the core may become uncovered and they are concerned that they may not be able to provide enough makeup water to recover the core. Plant operators report that they are unable to activate the containment spray system. However, they expect the containment to remain intact and any release to the atmosphere will be at the design leak rate. Leak rate before intervention was 10%/h and reduces to 0.1%/h after 3 h from beginning of the accident. The total amount of radiation released to atmosphere before intervention is 3.2×10^{18} Bq, where 9.2×10^{17} Bq after intervention.

Output data

Cloudshine dose calculations

First, the model calculates the composite characteristics (photon energies, photons per disintegration, etc.) of the gamma radiation emitted from the released radionuclides products mix in a puff. Next, the model calculates the dose rate vs. distance from a point source having the composite characteristics using the following Eqs. (1) and (2):

(1)
$$D'_{p}(\rho) = \frac{2.13X10^{6}}{4\pi\rho^{2}} \sum_{\gamma} \left[f_{\gamma} B_{\gamma}(\mu_{\gamma},\rho) e^{-\mu a \gamma \rho} E_{\gamma} T_{\gamma} W_{\gamma} \right]$$

where: $D'_{\rho}(\rho)$ is the dose rate in (rem/h)/Ci; ρ is the distance from point source; f_{γ} is the fraction of disintegrations producing γ s of energy, E_{γ} ; $B_{\gamma}(\mu_{\gamma},\rho)$ is the buildup factor for air; $\mu_{a\gamma}$ is the linear attenuation factor for air; E_{γ} is the gamma energy; T_{γ} is the mass energy absorption coefficient for tissue ($\mu t_{\gamma}/\rho t$); W_{γ} is the ratio of whole-body dose to surface dose.

(2)
$$D'_{p}(r) = \sum_{i} \sum_{j} \sum_{k} D'_{p}(\rho_{ijk}) M_{ijk}$$

where: D'(r) is the dose rate at distance r; r is the distance from the receptor to the projection of the puff center on the ground; ijk is the indices associated with the volume elements; $D'_p(\rho_{ijk})$ is the dose rate at distance ρ from a point source in volume element ijk; ρ_{ijk} is the distance from the center of the volume element ijk to the receptor; M_{ijk} is the fraction of the total puff activity in volume element ijk.

Organ committed dose equivalents due to inhalation

Organ committed dose equivalents and committed effective dose equivalents are calculated for 15-min periods. These dose equivalents are the sum of integration doses due to exposure over all the released radionuclides products from the accident during the 15-min period interval, a radionuclide n and organ specific dose conversion factor, and the breathing rate. The general expression for the organ-committed dose equivalents is:

(3)
$$D_{15} = V_b \sum_{n} \left[\text{DCF}_n \int_t^{t+15} \chi_n(t) dt \right]$$

where: D_{15} is the organ-committed dose equivalent due to inhalation during a period 15 min; V_b is the breathing rate; DCF_n is the radionuclide *n* and organ specific dose conversion factor; χ_n is the radionuclide *n* concentration; *t* is the time.

Total effective dose equivalent (TEDE) that the code calculates is the sum of the external gamma dose (cloudshine) from the plume, the committed effective dose equivalent (CEDE) and the integrated external dose over a 4-day-period interval from radionuclides n deposited on the ground (4-day-groundshine dose).

Groundshine doses

RASCAL model calculates the groundshine dose equivalents as the sum of integration over all the surface contamination due to the released radionuclides products from the accident and a radionuclide--specific dose conversion factor. The general expression for the groundshine dose equivalent is:

(4)
$$D_{gs} = \operatorname{SRF} X \sum_{n} \left[\operatorname{DCF}_{n} \int_{t}^{t+15} C_{gn}(t) dt \right]$$

where: D_{gs} is the dose equivalent during the period; SRF is the a surface roughness factor (0.82); DCF_n is the radionuclide *n* specific groundshine dose conversion factor; C_{gn} is the radionuclide *n* surface concentration; *t* is the time.

Because of the different nature of deterministic and stochastic effects, two types of dose quantity are needed to be able to decide, which protective actions should be implemented, namely projected dose and avertable dose. The relevant quantity for expressing the risk of deterministic effects is the projected dose, i.e. the total dose received via all pathways over a period of time from the beginning of the accident. The projected dose is the total dose to be expected if no protective or remedial action is taken. The avertable dose is thus defined as the individual dose to be averted by the countermeasure, and it can be assessed as the difference between the dose to be expected without the countermeasure and that to be expected, if the countermeasure is implemented. The avertable dose can be expressed in units of Sieverts [Sv]. Since the post-intervention total annual dose will be lower than that before intervention, the difference is being the averted dose, $|-\Delta E|$. The system of protection for interventions is concerned only with the averted doses $|-\Delta E|$, by evaluating the intervention total annual dose [7] (residual) and not post-intervention annual dose. An intervention will usually be justified when the avertable dose, $|-\Delta E|$, is greater than an optimized intervention level, IL, i.e:

If $|-\Delta E| > IL \Rightarrow$ introduce the specified

Intervention level is the level of avertable dose, at which a specific protective action or remedial action is taken in an emergency exposure situation or a chronic exposure situation [9]. An intervention level (IL) relates to the specific countermeasure, which required mitigating the consequences from an accidental release of radionuclides (sheltering, evacuation and relocation etc.).

The obtained results of using RASCAL model are used for supporting the decision maker to put in place the necessary protective planning actions.

Results and discussion

Gamma exposure rate from the time since release to atmosphere started was measured for the distances 4.8, 8, 16 and 24.3 km, respectively by the authors using RASCAL model as shown in Fig. 1, as evacuation and sheltering zones. It is obvious that the plume for the distance 4.8, 8 and 16 km arrived quickly and the release rate started with the beginning of the accident. Also the release rate reduced at the third hour due to intervention action is taken to reduce the leak rate from 10%/h to 0.1%/h concerning that the value of reduction dose represents the avertable dose. The release rate started at the distance 24.3 km after 2 h from the beginning of the accident and also affected by the intervention action after 2 h and 15 min. Consequently, the avertable doses decrease with the increase of distance far away from the release point.

Emergency exposure situation

Early phase dose calculations may be made from either an average air concentration measured during plume passage or a ground concentration measurement made immediately after plume passage. These dose calculations assume that the measurement represents the radiological conditions during plume passage and that an individual is exposed to the plume during its passage and to radiation from the surface for the period of plume passage plus the remainder of a 96-h period. The plume is assumed to be present at the measurement location for the duration of















Fig. 1. External gamma exposure rate (in mSv/h) since release for 12 h.

the release, and the concentration in the plume is assumed to be constant during plume passage.

When air concentration measurements are used to estimate early phase doses, the dose estimates for the period of plume passage have three components – a submersion dose, an inhalation dose and a groundshine dose. The early phase doses for the period following plume passage also have three components – a groundshine dose from surface contamination and inhalation and submersion doses from resuspended activity. The submersion dose from resuspended activity is generally negligible.

Early phase dose data represented in Table 1.

Surface concentration for iodine-131 and cesium-137 was calculated and represented in Table 2 at distance close to the plant up to distance 16 km (PAZ and UPZ, respectively). It is clear that in distances 16 km, the surface concentration activities of iodine-131 and Cs-137 are greater than 10 kBq/m² and 2 kBq/m², respectively. Immediately restriction for food and milk are implemented.

BSS recommends iodine prophylaxis uses if avertable dose to thyroid is 100 mSv and WHO recommends use for children, if avertable dose is 10 mSv, but does not recommend for adults over 40 years. 130 mg KI tablet daily for 1–2 days to adults and potassium perchlorate 400 mg for people with iodine sensitivity [10].

The TEDE is calculated assuming that no protective actions, such as evacuation or sheltering are taken. Also, the calculations assume that people are outdoors during plume passage and will remain

Tal	ole	1.	Earl	y r	phase	dose	data ((in	Sv))
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	Plume	Post		
Components	Passage	Plume	Total	
	(1 h)	(95 h)	(96 h)	
Total effective dose				
pathway	6.63E-03	6.88E-04	7.32E-03	
groundshine	3.87E-06	6.35E-04	6.39E-04	
submersion	3.88E-05	3.18E-07	3.92E-05	
effective inhalation	6.59E-03	5.28E-05	6.64E-03	
Thyroid inhalation	2.06E-01	1.58E-03	<u>2.08E-01</u>	

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Table 2. Surface concentration for ¹³¹I and ¹³⁷Cs for PAZ and UPZ zones

	Distance [km]	Surface concentration of ¹³¹ I [KBq/m ²]	Surface concentration of ¹³⁷ Cs [KBq/m ²]	Protective action
0.8		6.62×10^{-5}	5.62×10^{4}	
1.6		1.81×10^{-5}	1.54×10^{4}	
2.4		8.00×10^{-4}	6.96×10^{3}	Restrict immediate consumption
3.2		4.77×10^{-4}	4.03×10^{3}	of potentially contaminated food
4.8		2.15×10^{-4}	1.83×10^{3}	and milk in area until samples are
8.0		9.44×10^{-3}	8.07×10^{2}	evaluated (IAEA-TECDOC-955)
11.0		7.25×10^{-3}	6.22×10^{2}	
16.0		6.30×10^{-3}	5.48×10^{2}	

 Table 3. The code calculation results of radiological consequences for PWR accident

Distance	Projecto [S	ed dose v]	Avertable dose [Sv]	Ambient dose	Intervention	
[km]	Before intervention	After intervention	ΔE	[mSv/h]	action	
0.8	6.50	1.30	5.20	13.0	Evacuation*	
1.6	1.80	0.35	1.45	2.8	Evacuation	
2.4	0.79	0.15	0.64	1.25	Evacuation	
3.2	0.46	0.089	0.371	0.72	Evacuation	
4.8	0.21	0.048	0.262	0.32	Evacuation	
8.0	0.09	0.017	0.073	0.14	Sheltering	
11.0	0.07	13×10^{-3}	57×10^{-3}	0.10	Sheltering	
16.0	61×10^{-3}	12×10^{-3}	49×10^{-3}	0.086	Sheltering-take thyroid blocking agent	
24.0	45×10^{-3}	9.5×10^{-3}	35.5×10^{-3}	0.078	Sheltering-take thyroid blocking agent	
32.0	34×10^{-3}	7.3×10^{-3}	2.6×10^{-3}	0.056	Sheltering-take thyroid blocking agent	
48.3	23×10^{-3}	5.7×10^{-3}	17.3×10^{-3}	0.049	_	
64.4	14×10^{-3}	4.4×10^{-3}	9.6×10^{-3}	0.0386	-	

*Until evacuated people should be instructed to stay inside with their windows closed.

outdoors for 4 days after the radionuclides have been deposited. Consequently, they will expose to ground shine from the deposited radionuclides. Thus, the early phase TEDE that code calculates is larger than the TEDE that would be expected for people, who took protective actions or who continued their normal activities (spending much time indoors).

To determine if doses without any protective actions would exceed the environmental protective action (EPA) guides, the code calculates dose assuming that no intervention actions are taken to reduce doses. The required intervention for protective actions is based on the calculated TEDE that would be received if no protective actions of any type were taken, even actions such as simply spending some time indoors.

Figure 2 represents the distribution of the projected dose (TEDE) from release point to distance



Fig. 2. Projected dose before and after intervention action with distance.

closed to 80 km far away. The total dose received via all pathways over a period of time (12 h) from the beginning of the accident before and after intervention countermeasures was represented. It is illustrating quite change of the doses slightly with the distance taking in to consideration the known conservatism in weather category. It is clear that the projected dose is greater than 0.5 Sv in the beginning of the accident for zone 3 km and 4.8 km, which is precautionary protective action zone (PAZ), so evacuation should be immediately implemented and iodine tablets distributed for blocking against absorption of the released radionuclides. For the zone at distance 6 km up to 23 km the projected dose is greater than 10 mSv, so the planning of urgent protective action zone (UPZ) is implemented by sheltering at large buildings and effectiveness monitoring with distribution of iodine tablets [11].

At distances, the measured doses do not exceed upper bounds of intervention level intervals the countermeasures are not needed to be introduced, i.e. at distances where the dose is lower than 50 mSv for zone of sheltering and is lower than 500 Sv for evacuation zone.

From RASCAL results in this our simulation study, one can conclude the avertable dose, gamma exposure rate and the intervention action which should be taken according to ICRP recommendation criteria as shown in Table 3. Although the PAG is expressed as a range of 10–50 mSv, it is emphasized that, under normal conditions, evacuation of members of the general population should be initiated for most incidents at a projected dose of 10 mSv. Sheltering (not evacuation) may be preferable in some situations as a protective action for certain public groups. In addition, under unusually hazardous environmental conditions, use of sheltering at projected doses up to 50 mSv to the general population (and up to 100 mSv to special groups) may become justified. From Table 3, it is obvious that these values will not be exceeded at the distance greater than 25 km from the plant.

Existing exposure situation

Intermediate phase dose calculations is the major countermeasures in the later phases of an accident for implementing relocation/resettlement, foodstuff restrictions and cleanup of contaminated land. Relocation refers to the removal of people from the area affected by an accident for a longer period of time (weeks, months or years) to avert exposures from radioactive material deposited on the ground. In a situation where people have been evacuated from affected areas, the authorities would have to consider the following possibilities to be implemented as existing exposure situation: (a) allow people to return to the area without restrictions; (b) allow people to return to the area under controlled conditions and (c) prohibit people to return to the area due to high levels of contamination on ground and building surfaces.

After an accident, the levels of contamination in foods will vary markedly according to many factors, e.g. the type of food, the pattern of deposition, the

Pathway	1st year	2nd year	50 years
Groundshine	3.00E-02	1.98E-02	3.83E-01
Submersion	2.61E-06	4.83E-09	2.66E-06
Effective inhalation	3.22E-04	4.18E-07	3.26E-04
Total	3.03E-02	1.98E-02	3.83E-01

Table 4. TEDE (in Sv) at long term phase

 Table 5. TEDE remainder intermediate phase

TEDE remainder [Sv] (168 h/wk in area with 0% in building)

Delay before	TEDE remainder [Sv] (168 h/wk in area with 0% in building)				
return	1st year	2nd year	50 years		
0 d	3.03E-02	1.98E-02	3.83E-01		
1 d	2.96E-02	1.98E-02	3.83E-01		
2 d	2.90E-02	1.98E-02	3.82E-01		
4 d	2.80E-02	1.98E-02	3.81E-01		
7 d	2.67E-02	1.98E-02	3.80E-01		
10 d	2.56E-02	1.98E-02	3.79E-01		
14 d	2.45E-02	1.98E-02	3.78E-01		
30 d	2.19E-02	1.98E-02	3.75E-01		
60 d	1.94E-02	1.98E-02	3.72E-01		
90 d	1.73E-02	1.98E-02	3.70E-01		
180 d	1.14E-02	1.98E-02	3.64E-01		
270 d	5.71E-03	1.98E-02	3.59E-01		
1 y	0.00E+00	1.98E-02	3.53E-01		

physical and biological half-lives of the radionuclides, soil types, and agricultural practices [5].

The results of field measurement of dose model would normally be used after releases had been stopped to determine whether the area is habitable or long-term relocation is needed for residents. The model estimates doses based upon measurements of ground contamination depending on the "Environment Protective Action (EPA) Guide".

Two EPA pathways are considered: groundshine and inhalation due to re-suspension. Both pathways are affected by weathering. The material becomes less accessible through time as natural processes work. The EPA (EPA, 1992) determines the following limits for long term relocation: 1st year PAG =20 mSv, 2nd year or any subsequent year objective = 5 mSv.

RASCAL results are far below the EPA PAGs, which refer to the intermediate phase to be existing exposure situation. Based on those results, people can immediately return to their homes in the area. For a typical 'reactor mix' of radionuclides, if the first-year dose is below the PAGs then the second and 50 years doses will be below PAGs as well. Also, the groundshine dose will usually dominate. From Tables 4, 5 and 6, it is obvious that the dose after accident (at long term), still higher than relocation limits so countermeasures must be taken into account.

Conclusion

It is essential to have clear control and command arrangements for preparedness and response organizations, government and international organizations. The international guidance is needed an operational criteria (e.g. OIL) to aid decision making during

Delay before	Gamma exp e	osure rate [mSv, equal to EPA PAC	/h] at return G	Surface concentration of Cs-137* [kBq/m ²] equal to EPA PAG		
Tetum -	1st year	2nd year	50 years	1st year	2nd year	50 years
0 d	2.45E-02	9.31E-03	4.82E-03	1.21E+03	3.81E+02	2.39E+02
1 d	2.31E-02	8.62E-03	4.47E-03	1.24E + 03	3.80E+02	2.39E+02
2 d	2.19E-02	8.00E-03	4.15E-03	1.26E + 03	3.80E+02	2.39E+02
4 d	1.96E-02	6.89E-03	3.59E-03	1.31E + 03	3.80E+02	2.40E+02
7 d	1.66E-02	5.55E-03	2.90E-03	1.37E + 03	3.79E+02	2.40E+02
10 d	1.40E-02	4.52E-03	2.37E-03	1.42E+03	3.79E+02	2.40E+02
14 d	1.14E-02	3.51E-03	1.84E-03	1.48E + 03	3.78E+02	2.40E+02
30 d	6.01E-03	1.66E-03	8.78E-04	1.64E + 03	3.75E+02	2.40E+02
60 d	4.41E-03	1.08E-03	5.74E-04	1.82E+03	3.70E+02	2.37E+02
90 d	4.67E-03	1.02E-03	5.45E-04	2.01E+03	3.65E+02	2.35E+02
180 d	6.74E-03	9.66E-04	5.26E-04	2.91E+03	3.52E+02	2.27E+02
270 d	1.28E-02	9.22E-04	5.10E-04	5.54E+03	3.39E+02	2.20E+02
1 y		8.81E-04	4.95E-04		3.27E+02	2.14E+02
1.25 y		1.15E-03	4.82E-04		4.31E+02	2.08E+02
1.5 y		1.69E-03	4.71E-04		6.37E+02	2.03E+02
1.75 y		3.33E-03	4.60E-04		1.27E+03	1.99E+02
2 y			4.51E-04			1.95E + 02
3 y			4.23E-04			1.83E+02
4 y			4.06E-04			1.75E + 02
5 y			3.96E-04			1.71E+02
10 y			3.93E-04			1.70E+02
20 y			4.50E-04			1.94E + 02
30 y			5.77E-04			2.49E+02
40 y			9.76E-04			4.21E+02

IL

Table 6. Gamma exposure rate and Cs-137* surface concentration intermediate phase. (Cs-137*: nuclide with implicit daughter)

emergencies. From studying results, it is noted that thyroid received the highest dose value than other organ, it was about 0.21 Sv during early phase much higher than a low level of emergency protective guidelines recommendation so iodine prophylaxis used. During early phase calculations assume that people will remain outdoors up to 4 days, where the radionuclides have been deposited. Transition from emergency exposure situation to existing exposure situation may happen at any time during an emergency exposure situation, and may take place at different geographical locations at different times. At the existing emergency situation the dose, still higher than relocation limits by 50% in the 1st year so countermeasures must be taken into account. During periods of transition, public opinion and media response shall be closely followed in order to ensure that any concerns be addressed promptly. The exposure level in the long-term after the emergency will necessarily be higher than the background level existing before the accident, which would usually be taken as a reference for comparison.

Nomenclature

- BSS Basic Safety Series
- CEDE committed effective dose equivalent
- DRLs derived response levels
- EPA environmental protective action
- ERDS Emergency Response Data System
- ICRP International Commission on Radiological Protection

– intervention level

LOCA – loss-of-coolant accident

N/R – nuclear and radiological

- NRC Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- OIL operation intervention level
- PAG Protective Action Guide
- PAZ precautionary protective action zone
- RASCAL Radiological Assessment System for Consequence Analysis
- TEDE total effective dose equivalent
- UPZ urgent protective action zone
- WHO World Health Organization

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