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National Physical Laboratory

Welcome to ARMUG 2007

Steven Judge

Julian Dean

Topics for today

- The feasibility of a Workplace Air Monitoring Good Practice Guide
- Environment Agency requirements for monitoring radioactivity in air
- Tritium Good Practice Guide
- A Transfer Instrument for the Calibration of Positron-in-Air Monitors
- Workshop on Instrument and Measurement Problems

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Housekeeping

- The fire alarm is a voice alarm system. In the event of an alarm, the assembly point is the lawn opposite the main entrance.
- Lunch will be served downstairs at 12:30
- The meeting should end around 15:00. Tea/coffee available if you would like to stay on.
- Please switch off mobile phones

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Minutes

- Any corrections / comments on minutes of the previous meeting?

Actions arising (1)

- 6.1: Adsorption factors: David Ryden, John Simpson and Pete Burgess to meet to draft guidance.
- 6.2: ARMUG questionnaire – open but no replies.
- 6.3: Topics for discussion at ARMUG: AWE have expressed an interest in giving a presentation on air monitoring procedures at the 2008 meeting.
- 6.4: FAQs – draft is available for comment on the ARMUG webpage. Please send comments to Julian Dean by 30th November. Further input may be taken from the workshop this afternoon.

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Airborne Radioactivity Monitoring Users' Group (ARMUG)
DRAFT version of Frequently Asked Questions on Radioactivity-in-Air Monitoring
Draft FAQS document on the measurement of radioactivity in air (PDF, TBC KB)
NPL, in conjunction with ARMUG members, has compiled a list of questions and answers on the measurement of radioactivity in air which we hope users will find useful. At present, the list is in draft form and is to be finalised in December 2007. We would be grateful for members' feedback on the content of this draft, including any suggestions for additional points.
Please send any contributions to the ARMUG Secretary, Julian Dean (julian.dean@npl.co.uk), not later than Friday, 30th November 2007. Thank you.
ANNOUNCEMENT: Measurement Good Practice Guide No. 82 is now available!
The Examination and Testing of Equipment for Monitoring Airborne Radioactive Particulate in the Workplace
GPG 82 ABSTRACT: This guide was written by the UK Airborne Radioactivity Monitoring Users' Group in collaboration with the radiation user community. It describes recommended procedures for the examination, testing and calibration of air monitoring equipment used for the purpose of radiation protection.
Assist ARMUG to gather important information about our members and their needs. Please download and complete the following ARMUG Questionnaire (PDF, 122 KB)
The NMS Airborne Radioactivity Monitoring Users' Group provides a forum for discussion of all aspects of air monitoring for radioactivity, including monitoring for particulate or gaseous radioactivity at environmental, workplace and process control levels. It is also hoped that the group may provide the necessary pool of expertise to enable the preparation of advisory documents such as good practice guides. It is recognised that this group will cover a very diverse range of topics, and it is likely that there may be a need to establish smaller special interest sub-groups.
Consultation for the Formulation of the NMS IR Programme 2007-10 (PDF, 259 KB)
A more detailed description of the group's aims and activities can be found in the Terms of Reference.
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Questions

- ***Q1. What factors should be considered when selecting a monitor?***
- ***Q2. What are the pros and cons of different detector types?***
- ***Q3. Where should a safe alarm limit be set to avoid false alarms?***
- ***Q4. When should monitoring be carried out?***
- ***Q5. Where should the sampling head be positioned?***
- ***Q6. When should alarms be set, and when should retrospective measurements be done?***
- ***Q7. What sampling times should be adopted ?***

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- ***Q8. Why are particular flow rates used?***
- ***Q9. What are the effects of long-term deposition on filter paper, and how should the filters be maintained?***
- ***Q10. What are the influences of pipe fittings between the sampling point and detector?***
- ***Q11. What methods are available for radon compensation?***
- ***Q12. Which reference sources should be used for instrument calibration?***
- ***Q13. What are the main sources of measurement uncertainty?***
- ***Q14. Where can Type Test data be found?***
- ***Q15. Which standards and specifications must be complied with?***
- ***Q16. What are other possible sources of information?***
- ***Q17. Is there a glossary of terms (e.g. DAC, DAC.h) available?***

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Actions arising (2)

- 6.5: Tritium monitoring GPG. Convened by Trevor Birkett, making good progress. John Simpson will present a summary.
- 6.6: Guidance on positioning of air monitors – presentation later today
- 6.7: Provision of low-activity air filters for comparison exercises – some supplies found, project in the 2007-10 NPL programme.

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Agenda (am)

- Feasibility of a workplace air monitoring GPG *(Stuart Fannin, UKAEA & Pete Burgess, NPL)*
- Environmental Agency requirements for monitoring radioactivity in air *(Granville Roberts, EA)*
- Tritium Good Practice Guide *(John Simpson, Nukem)*
- Transfer instrument for the calibration of positron-in-air monitors *(Pete Burgess, NPL)*

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Workshop

- This forum exists to help you assay airborne radioactivity accurately
- This workshop aims to identify your current issues and find a solution (or identify a way forward)

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- Please divide into groups of 7 or 8 people
- Choose a spokesperson for the group
- Brainstorm (using post-it notes) for 10 minutes any instrument or measurement issues
- Collate the notes and identify common issues
- Select 2 or 3 of the main issues for discussion: what exactly is needed, how could it be addressed, by whom? (10 minutes)
- Feedback to the Forum

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Thank you and have a safe journey home