
7. GLOSSARY

absorbed dose — For ionizing radiation, the energy imparted to matter by ionizing radiation per unit mass of the irradiated material (e.g., biological tissue). The units of absorbed dose are the rad and the gray. (See *rad* and *gray*.)

accident sequence — In regard to nuclear facilities, an initiating event followed by system failures or operator errors, which can result in significant core damage, confinement system failure, and/or radionuclide releases.

actinide — Any member of the group of elements with atomic numbers from 89 (actinium) to 103 (lawrencium) including uranium and plutonium. All members of this group are radioactive.

activation products — Nuclei, usually radioactive, formed by bombardment and absorption in material with neutrons, protons, or other nuclear particles.

active fault — A fault that is likely to have another earthquake sometime in the future. Faults are commonly considered to be active if they have moved one or more times in the last 10,000 years (i.e., during the Quaternary Period).

acute exposure — The exposure incurred during and shortly after a radiological release. Generally, the period of acute exposure ends when long-term interdiction is established, as necessary. For convenience, the period of acute exposure is normally assumed to end one week after the inception of a radiological accident.

administrative control level — A dose level that is established well below the regulatory limit to administratively control and help reduce individual and collective radiation doses. Facility management should establish an annual facility administrative control level that should, to the extent feasible, be more restrictive than the more general administrative control level.

air pollutant — Generally, an airborne substance that could, in high-enough concentrations, harm living things or cause damage to materials. From a regulatory perspective, an air pollutant is a substance for which emissions or atmospheric concentrations are regulated or for which maximum guideline levels have been established due to potential harmful effects on human health and welfare.

air quality control region — Geographic subdivisions of the United States, designed to deal with pollution on a regional or local level. Some regions span more than one state.

alluvium (alluvial) — Unconsolidated, poorly sorted detrital sediments ranging from clay to gravel sizes deposited by streams.

alpha activity — The emission of alpha particles by radioactive materials.

alpha particle — A positively charged particle ejected spontaneously from the nuclei of some radioactive elements. It is identical to a helium nucleus and has a mass number of 4 and an electrostatic charge of +2. It has low penetrating power and a short range (a few centimeters in air). (See *alpha radiation*.)

alpha radiation — A strongly ionizing, but weakly penetrating, form of radiation consisting of positively charged alpha particles emitted spontaneously from the nuclei of certain elements during radioactive decay. Alpha radiation is the least penetrating of the three common types of ionizing radiation (alpha, beta, and gamma). Even the most energetic alpha particle generally fails to penetrate the dead layers of cells covering the skin and can be easily stopped by a sheet of paper. Alpha radiation is most hazardous when an alpha-emitting source resides inside an organism. (See *alpha particle*.)

ambient — Surrounding.

ambient air — The surrounding atmosphere as it exists around people, plants, and structures.

ambient air quality standards — The level of pollutants in the air prescribed by regulations that may not be exceeded during a specified time in a defined area. Air quality standards are used to provide a measure of the health-related and visual characteristics of the air.

analytical chemistry — The branch of chemistry that deals with the separation, identification, and determination of the components of a sample.

aquatic — Living or growing in, on, or near water.

aquifer — An underground geologic formation, group of formations, or part of a formation capable of yielding a significant amount of water to wells or springs.

aquitard — A less-permeable geologic unit that inhibits the flow of water.

archaeological sites (resources) — Any location where humans have altered the terrain or discarded artifacts during either prehistoric or historic times.

artifact — An object produced or shaped by human workmanship of archaeological or historical interest.

as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA) — An approach to radiation protection to manage and control worker and public exposures (both individual and collective) and releases of radioactive material to the environment to as far below applicable limits as social, technical, economic, practical, and public policy considerations permit. ALARA is not a dose limit but a process for minimizing doses to as far below limits as is practicable.

atmospheric dispersion — The process of air pollutants being dispersed in the atmosphere. This occurs by wind that carries the pollutants away from their source, by turbulent air motion that results from solar heating of the Earth's surface, and by air movement over rough terrain and surfaces.

Atomic Energy Commission — A five-member commission, established by the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, to supervise nuclear weapons design, development, manufacturing, maintenance, modification, and dismantlement. In 1974, the Atomic Energy Commission was abolished, and all functions were transferred to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Administrator of the Energy Research and Development Administration. The Energy Research and Development Administration was later terminated, and functions vested by law in the Administrator were transferred to the Secretary of Energy.

atomic number — The number of positively charged protons in the nucleus of an atom or the number of electrons on an electrically neutral atom.

attainment area — An area that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated as being in compliance with one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and particulate matter. An area may be in attainment for some pollutants but not for others. (See *National Ambient Air Quality Standards*, *nonattainment area*, and *particulate matter*.)

attractiveness level — A categorization of nuclear material types and compositions that reflects the relative ease of processing and handling required to convert that material to a nuclear explosive device.

background radiation — Radiation from (1) cosmic sources; (2) naturally occurring radioactive materials, including radon (except as a decay product of source or special nuclear material); (3) global fallout as it exists in the environment (e.g., from the testing of nuclear explosive devices); (4) air travel; (5) consumer and industrial products; and (6) diagnostic x-rays and nuclear medicine.

badged worker — A worker equipped with an individual dosimeter who has the potential to be exposed to radiation.

barrier — Any material or structure that prevents or substantially delays movement of radionuclides toward the accessible environment.

basalt — The most common volcanic rock, dark gray to black in color, high in iron and magnesium, and low in silica. It is typically found in lava flows.

baseline — The existing environmental conditions against which impacts of the proposed action and its alternatives can be compared. For this EIS, the environmental baseline is the site environmental conditions as they exist or are estimated to exist in the absence of the proposed action.

becquerel — A unit of radioactivity equal to one disintegration per second. Thirty-seven billion becquerels equal 1 curie.

BEIR V — Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation; referring to the fifth in a series of committee reports from the National Research Council.

beryllium — An extremely lightweight element with the atomic number 4. It is metallic and is used in reactors as a neutron reflector.

best available control technology (BACT) — A term used in the Federal Clean Air Act that means the most stringent level of air pollutant control considering economics for a specific type of source based on demonstrated technology.

beta emitter — A radioactive substance that decays by releasing a beta particle.

beta particle — A particle emitted in the radioactive decay of many radionuclides. A beta particle is identical to an electron. It has a short range in air and a small ability to penetrate other materials.

beyond-design-basis accident — An accident postulated for the purpose of generating large consequences by exceeding the functional and performance requirements for safety structures, systems, and components. (See *design-basis accident*.)

beyond-design-basis events — Postulated disturbances in process variables due to external events or multiple component or system failures that can potentially lead to beyond-design-basis accidents. (See *design-basis events*.)

block — U.S. Bureau of the Census term describing small areas bounded on all sides by visible features or political boundaries; used in tabulation of census data.

bound — To use simplifying assumptions and analytical methods in an analysis of impacts or risks such that the result overestimates or describes an upper limit on (i.e., “bounds”) potential impacts or risks.

burial ground — In regard to radioactive waste, a place for burying unwanted radioactive materials in which the earth acts as a receptacle to prevent the escape of radiation and the dispersion of waste into the environment.

Cambrian — The earliest geologic time period of the Paleozoic era, spanning between about 570 and 505 million years ago.

cancer — The name given to a group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled cellular growth, with cells having invasive characteristics such that the disease can transfer from one organ to another.

canister — A general term for a container, usually cylindrical, used in handling, storage, transportation, or disposal of waste.

capable fault — A fault that has exhibited one or more of the following characteristics: (1) movement at or near the ground surface at least once within the past 35,000 years, or movement of a recurring nature within the past 500,000 years; (2) macroseismicity instrumentally determined with records of sufficient precision to demonstrate a direct relationship with the fault; (3) a structural relationship to a capable fault according to characteristic (1) or (2) above, such that movement on one could reasonably be expected to be accompanied by movement on the other.

capacity factor — The ratio of the annual average power production of a power plant to its rated capacity.

carbon dioxide — A colorless, odorless gas that is a normal component of ambient air; it results from fossil fuel combustion and is an expiration product.

carbon monoxide — A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete fossil fuel combustion.

carcinogen — An agent that may cause cancer. Ionizing radiations are physical carcinogens; there are also chemical and biological carcinogens and biological carcinogens may be external (e.g., viruses) or internal (genetic defects).

cask — A heavily shielded container used to store or ship radioactive materials.

categories of special nuclear material (Categories I, II, III, and IV) — A designation determined by the quantity and type of special nuclear material or a designation of a special nuclear material location based on the type and form of the material and the amount of nuclear material present. A designation of the significance of special nuclear material based upon the material type, form of the material, and amount of material present in an item, grouping of items, or in a location.

cation — A positively charged ion.

cell — See *hot cell*.

chain reaction — A reaction that initiates its own repetition. In nuclear fission, a chain reaction occurs when a neutron induces a nucleus to fission and the fissioning nucleus releases one or more neutrons, which induce other nuclei to fission.

cladding — The outer metal jacket of a nuclear fuel element or target. It prevents fuel corrosion and retains fission products during reactor operation and subsequent storage, as well as providing structural support. Zirconium alloys, stainless steel, and aluminum are common cladding materials. In general, a metal coating bonded onto another metal.

Class I areas — A specifically designated area where the degradation of air quality is stringently restricted (e.g., many national parks and wilderness areas). (See *Prevention of Significant Deterioration*.)

Class II areas — Most of the country not designated as Class I is designated as Class II. Class II areas are generally cleaner than air quality standards require, and moderate increases in new pollution are allowed after a regulatory-mandated impacts review.

classified information — (1) information that has been determined pursuant to Executive Order 12958, any successor order, or the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011) to require protection against unauthorized disclosure; (2) certain information requiring protection against unauthorized disclosure in the interest of national defense and security or foreign relations of the United States pursuant to Federal statute or Executive Order.

clastic — Refers to rock or sediment made up primarily of broken fragments of preexisting rocks or minerals.

collective dose — The sum of the individual doses received in a given period of time by a specified population from exposure to a specified source of radiation. Collective dose is expressed in units of person-rem or person-sieverts.

colluvium (colluvial) — A loose deposit of rock debris accumulated at the base of a cliff or slope.

committed dose equivalent — The dose equivalent to organs or tissues that will be received by an individual during the 50-year period following the intake of radioactive material. It does not include contributions from external radiation sources. Committed dose equivalent is expressed in units of rem or sieverts.

committed effective dose equivalent — The dose value obtained by (1) multiplying the committed dose equivalents for the organs or tissues that are irradiated and the weighting factors applicable to those organs or tissues, and (2) summing all the resulting products. Committed effective dose equivalent is expressed in units of rem or sieverts. (See *committed dose equivalent* and *weighting factor*.)

committed equivalent dose — The committed dose in a particular organ or tissue accumulated in a specific period after intake of a radionuclide.

community (biotic) — All plants and animals occupying a specific area under relatively similar conditions.

community (environmental justice) — A group of people or a site within a spatial scope exposed to risks that potentially threaten health, ecology, or land values or are exposed to industry that stimulates unwanted noise, smell, industrial traffic, particulate matter, or other nonaesthetic impacts.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) — A proposed treaty prohibiting nuclear tests of all magnitudes.

computational modeling — Use of a computer to develop a mathematical model of a complex system or process and to provide conditions for testing it.

conformity — Conformity is defined in the Clean Air Act as the action's compliance with an implementation plan's purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, expeditious attainment of such standards, and that such activities will not: (1) cause or contribute to any new violation of any standard in any area; (2) increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any standard in any area; or (3) delay timely attainment of any standard, required interim emission reduction, or other milestones in any area.

contact-handled waste — Radioactive waste or waste packages whose external dose rate is low enough to permit contact handling by humans during normal waste management activities (e.g., waste with a surface dose rate not greater than 200 millirem per hour). (See *remote-handled waste*.)

container — In regard to radioactive waste, the metal envelope in the waste package that provides the primary containment function of the waste package, which is designed to meet the containment requirements of 10 CFR 60.

contamination — The deposition of undesirable radioactive material on the surfaces of structures, areas, objects, or personnel.

cooperating agency — Any Federal agency other than a lead agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

credible accident — An accident that has a probability of occurrence greater than or equal to once in a one-million-year time period.

Cretaceous — The final geologic time period of the Mesozoic era, spanning between about 144 and 66 million years ago. The end of this period also marks the end of dinosaur life on Earth.

criteria pollutants — Six air pollutants for which the National Ambient Air Quality Standards are established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Title I of the Federal Clean Air Act: sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and two size classes of particulate matter, less than or equal to 10 micrometers (0.0004 inch) in diameter, and less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers (0.0001 inch) in diameter. New pollutants may be added to, or removed from, the list of criteria pollutants as more information becomes available.

critical assembly — A critical assembly is a system of fissile material (uranium-233, uranium-235, plutonium-239, or plutonium-241) with or without a moderator in a specific proportion and shape. The critical assembly can be gradually built up by adding additional fissile material and/or moderator until this system achieves the dimensions necessary for a criticality condition. A continuous neutron source is placed at the center of this assembly to measure the fission rate of the critical assembly as it approaches and reaches criticality.

critical habitat — Defined in the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as “specific areas within the geographical area occupied by [an endangered or threatened] species..., essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection; and specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species...that are essential for the conservation of the species.”

critical mass — The smallest mass of fissionable material that will support a self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction.

criticality — The condition in which a system is capable of sustaining a nuclear fission chain reaction.

cultural resources — Archaeological sites, historical sites, architectural features, traditional use areas, and Native American sacred sites.

cumulative impacts — The impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impacts of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of the agency or person who undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

curie — A unit of radioactivity equal to 37 billion disintegrations per second (i.e., 37 billion becquerels); also a quantity of any radionuclide or mixture of radionuclides having 1 curie of radioactivity.

day-night average sound level — The 24-hour, A-weighted equivalent sound level expressed in decibels. A 10-decibel penalty is added to sound levels between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. to account for increased annoyance due to noise during night hours.

decay (radioactive) — The decrease in the amount of any radioactive material with the passage of time, due to spontaneous nuclear disintegration (i.e., emission from atomic nuclei of charged particles, photons, or both).

decibel (dB) — A unit for expressing the relative intensity of sounds on a logarithmic scale where 0 is below human perception and 130 is above the threshold of pain to humans. For traffic and industrial noise measurements, the A-weighted decibel, a frequency-weighted noise unit, is widely used. The A-weighted decibel scale corresponds approximately to the frequency response of the human ear and thus correlates well with loudness.

decibel, A-weighted (dBA) — A unit of frequency-weighted sound pressure level, measured by the use of a metering characteristic and the “A” weighting specified by the American National Standards Institution (ANSI S1.4-1983 [R1594]) that accounts for the frequency response of the human ear.

decommissioning — Retirement of a facility, including any necessary decontamination and/or dismantlement.

decontamination — The actions taken to reduce or remove substances that pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment, such as radioactive or chemical contamination from facilities, equipment, or soils by washing, heating, chemical or electrochemical action, mechanical cleaning, or other techniques.

defense-in-depth — The use of multiple, independent protection elements combined in a layered manner so that the system capabilities do not depend on a single component to maintain effective protection against defined threats.

degrees C (degrees Celsius) — A unit for measuring temperature using the centigrade scale in which the freezing point of water is 0 degrees and the boiling point is 100 degrees.

degrees F (degrees Fahrenheit) — A unit for measuring temperature using the Fahrenheit scale in which the freezing point of water is 32 degrees and the boiling point is 212 degrees.

delayed critical devices — A critical assembly designed to reach the condition of delayed supercriticality. Delayed criticality is the nuclear physics supercriticality condition, where the neutron multiplication factor of the assembly is between 1 (critical) and 1 plus the delayed neutron fraction. (See *multiplication factor* and *delayed neutrons*.)

delayed neutrons — Neutrons emitted from fission products by beta decay following fission by intervals of seconds to minutes. Delayed neutrons account for approximately 0.2 to 0.7 percent of all fission neutrons. For uranium-235, the delayed neutron fraction is about 0.007; for plutonium-239, it is about 0.002.

depleted uranium — Uranium whose content of the fissile isotope uranium-235 is less than the 0.7 percent (by weight) found in natural uranium, so that it contains more uranium-238 than natural uranium.

deposition — In geology, the laying down of potential rock-forming materials; sedimentation. In atmospheric transport, the settling out on ground and building surfaces of atmospheric aerosols and particles (“dry deposition”), or their removal from the air to the ground by precipitation (“wet deposition” or “rainout”).

design basis — For nuclear facilities, information that identifies the specific functions to be performed by a structure, system, or component, and the specific values (or ranges of values) chosen for controlling parameters for reference bounds for design. These values may be: (1) restraints derived from generally accepted state-of-the-art practices for achieving functional goals; (2) requirements derived from analysis (based on calculation and/or experiments) of the effects of a postulated accident for which a structure, system, or component must meet its functional goals; or (3) requirements derived from Federal safety objectives, principles, goals, or requirements.

design-basis accident — An accident postulated for the purpose of establishing functional and performance requirements for safety structures, systems, and components.

design-basis events — Postulated disturbances in process variables that can potentially lead to design-basis accidents.

design-basis threat — The elements of a threat postulated for the purpose of establishing requirements for safeguards and security programs, systems, components, equipment, and information. (See *threat*.)

dewatering — The removal of water. Saturated soils are “dewatered” to make construction of building foundations easier.

direct economic effects — The initial increases in output from different sectors of the economy resulting from some new activity within a predefined geographic region.

direct jobs — The number of workers required at a site to implement an alternative.

diversion — The unauthorized removal of nuclear material from its approved use or authorized location.

dolostone — A carbonate rock made up predominately of the mineral dolomite, $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$.

dose (radiological) — A generic term meaning absorbed dose, dose equivalent, effective dose equivalent, committed dose equivalent, committed effective dose equivalent, or committed equivalent dose, as defined elsewhere in this glossary. It is a measure of the energy imparted to matter by ionizing radiation. The unit of dose is the rem or rad.

dose equivalent — A measure of radiological dose that correlates with biological effect on a common scale for all types of ionizing radiation. Defined as a quantity equal to the absorbed dose in tissue multiplied by a quality factor (the biological effectiveness of a given type of radiation) and all other necessary modifying factors at the location of interest. The units of dose equivalent are the rem and sievert.

dose rate — The radiation dose delivered per unit of time (e.g., rem per year).

dosimeter — A small device (instrument) carried by a radiation worker that measures cumulative radiation dose (e.g., a film badge or ionization chamber).

drinking water standards — The level of constituents or characteristics in a drinking water supply specified in regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act as the maximum permissible.

ecology — A branch of science dealing with the interrelationships of living organisms with one another and with their nonliving environment.

ecosystem — A community of organisms and their physical environment interacting as an ecological unit.

effective dose equivalent — The dose value obtained by multiplying the dose equivalents received by specified tissues or organs of the body by the appropriate weighting factors applicable to the tissues or organs irradiated, and then summing all of the resulting products. It includes the dose from internal and external radiation sources. The effective dose equivalent is expressed in units of rem or sieverts. (See *committed dose equivalent* and *committed effective dose equivalent*.)

effluent — A waste stream flowing into the atmosphere, surface water, ground water, or soil. Most frequently the term applies to wastes discharged to surface waters.

electron — An elementary particle with a mass of 9.107×10^{-28} gram (or 1/1,837 of a proton) and a negative charge. Electrons surround the positively charged nucleus and determine the chemical properties of the atom.

emission — A material discharged into the atmosphere from a source operation or activity.

emission standards — Legally enforceable limits on the quantities and/or kinds of air contaminants that can be emitted into the atmosphere.

endangered species — Plants or animals that are in danger of extinction through all or a significant portion of their ranges and that have been listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service following the procedures outlined in the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 424).

engineered safety features — For a nuclear facility, features that prevent, limit, or mitigate the release of radioactive material from its primary containment.

enriched uranium — Uranium whose content of the fissile isotope uranium-235 is greater than the 0.7 percent (by weight) found in natural uranium. (See *uranium*, *natural uranium*, and *highly enriched uranium*.)

Environment, Safety, and Health Program — In the context of DOE, encompasses those requirements, activities, and functions in the conduct of all DOE and DOE-controlled operations that are concerned with: impacts on the biosphere; compliance with environmental laws, regulations, and standards controlling air, water, and soil pollution; limiting the risks to the well-being of both the operating personnel and the general public; and protecting property against accidental loss and damage. Typical activities and functions related to this program include, but are not limited to, environmental protection, occupational safety, fire protection, industrial hygiene, health physics, occupational medicine, process and facility safety, nuclear safety, emergency preparedness, quality assurance, and radioactive and hazardous waste management.

environmental impact statement (EIS) — The detailed written statement required by Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act for a proposed major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. A DOE EIS is prepared in accordance with applicable requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality National Environmental Policy Act regulations in 40 CFR 1500–1508 and the DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations in 10 CFR 1021. The statement includes, among other information, discussions of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and all reasonable alternatives; adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented; the relationship between short-term uses of the human environment and enhancement of long-term productivity; and any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.

environmental justice — The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of Federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies. Executive Order 12898 directs Federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects of agency programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

ephemeral stream — A stream that flows only after a period of heavy precipitation.

epidemiology — Study of the occurrence, causes, and distribution of disease or other health-related states and events in human populations, often as related to age, sex, occupation, ethnicity, and economic status, to identify and alleviate health problems and promote better health.

exposure limit — The level of exposure to a hazardous chemical (set by law or a standard) at which or below which adverse human health effects are not expected to occur.

Reference dose is the chronic-exposure dose (milligrams or kilograms per day) for a given hazardous chemical at which or below which adverse human noncancer health effects are not expected to occur.

Reference concentration is the chronic exposure concentration (milligrams per cubic meter) for a given hazardous chemical at which or below which adverse human noncancer health effects are not expected to occur.

fault — A fracture or a zone of fractures within a rock formation along which vertical, horizontal, or transverse slippage has occurred. A normal fault occurs when the hanging wall has been depressed in relation to the footwall. A reverse fault occurs when the hanging wall has been raised in relation to the footwall.

fissile materials — An isotope that readily fissions after absorbing a neutron of any energy. Fissile materials are uranium-233, uranium-235, plutonium-239, and plutonium-241. Uranium-235 is the only naturally occurring fissile isotope.

fission — The splitting of the nucleus of a heavy atom into two lighter nuclei. It is accompanied by the release of neutrons, gamma rays, and kinetic energy of fission products.

fission products — Nuclei (fission fragments) formed by the fission of heavy elements, plus the nuclides formed by the fission fragments' radioactive decay.

floodplain — The lowlands and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters and the flood-prone areas of offshore islands. Floodplains include, at a minimum, that area with at least a 1.0 percent chance of being inundated by a flood in any given year.

The *base floodplain* is defined as the area that has a 1.0 percent or greater chance of being flooded in any given year. Such a flood is known as a 100-year flood.

The *critical action floodplain* is defined as the area that has at least a 0.2 percent chance of being flooded in any given year. Such a flood is known as a 500-year flood. Any activity for which even a slight chance of flooding would be too great (e.g., the storage of highly volatile, toxic, or water-reactive materials) should not occur in the critical action floodplain.

The *probable maximum flood* is the hypothetical flood considered to be the most severe reasonably possible flood, based on the comprehensive hydrometeorological application of maximum precipitation and other hydrological factors favorable for maximum flood runoff (e.g., sequential storms and snowmelts). It is usually several times larger than the maximum recorded flood.

formation — In geology, the primary unit of formal stratigraphic mapping or description. Most formations possess certain distinctive features.

fugitive emissions — (1) Emissions that do not pass through a stack, vent, chimney, or similar opening where they could be captured by a control device, or (2) any air pollutant emitted to the atmosphere other than from a stack. Sources of fugitive emissions include pumps; valves; flanges; seals; area sources such as ponds, lagoons, landfills, piles of stored material (e.g., coal); and road construction areas or other areas where earthwork is occurring.

gamma radiation — High-energy, short wavelength, electromagnetic radiation emitted from the nucleus of an atom during radioactive decay. Gamma radiation frequently accompanies alpha and beta emissions and always accompanies fission. Gamma rays are very penetrating and are best stopped or shielded by dense materials, such as lead or depleted uranium. Gamma rays are similar to, but are usually more energetic than, x-rays.

genetic effects — Inheritable changes (chiefly mutations) produced by exposure of the parts of cells that control biological reproduction and inheritance to ionizing radiation or other chemical or physical agents.

GENII — A computer code used to predict the radiological impacts on individuals and populations associated with the release of radioactive material into the environment during normal operations and postulated accidents.

geology — The science that deals with the Earth: the materials, processes, environments, and history of the planet, including rocks and their formation and structure.

gigaelectron volts — 1,000 million electron volts (MeV). (See *MeV*.)

glovebox — A large enclosure that separates workers from equipment used to process hazardous material while allowing the workers to be in physical contact with the equipment; normally constructed of stainless steel, with large acrylic/lead glass windows. Workers have access to equipment through the use of heavy-duty, lead-impregnated rubber gloves, the cuffs of which are sealed in portholes in the glovebox windows.

gray — The International System of Units (SI) unit of absorbed dose. One gray is equal to an absorbed dose of 1 joule per kilogram (1 gray is equal to 100 rad). (The joule is the SI unit of energy.) (See *absorbed dose*.)

ground shine — The radiation dose received from an area on the ground where radioactivity has been deposited by a radioactive plume or cloud.

groundwater — Water below the ground surface in a zone of saturation.

habitat — The environment occupied by individuals of a particular species, population, or community.

half-life — The time in which one-half of the atoms of a particular radioactive isotope disintegrate to another nuclear form. Half-lives vary from millionths of a second to billions of years.

Hazard Index — A summation of the Hazard Quotients for all chemicals being used at a site and those proposed to be added to yield cumulative levels for a site. A Hazard Index value of 1.0 or less means that no adverse human health effects (noncancer) are expected to occur.

Hazard Quotient — The value used as an assessment of non-cancer-associated toxic effects of chemicals, e.g., kidney or liver dysfunction. It is a ratio of the estimated exposure to that exposure at which it would be expected that adverse health effects would begin to be produced. It is independent of cancer risk, which is calculated only for those chemicals identified as carcinogens.

hazards classification — The process of identifying the potential threat to human health of a chemical substance.

hazardous air pollutants — Air pollutants not covered by National Ambient Air Quality Standards but which may present a threat of adverse human health or environmental effects. Those specifically listed in 40 CFR 61.01 are asbestos, benzene, beryllium, coke oven emissions, inorganic arsenic, mercury, radionuclides, and vinyl chloride. More broadly, hazardous air pollutants are any of the 188 pollutants to be regulated or renewed under Section 112(b) of the Clean Air Act. Very generally, hazardous air pollutants are any air pollutants that may realistically be expected to pose a threat to human health or welfare.

hazardous chemical — Under 29 CFR 1910, Subpart Z, hazardous chemicals are defined as “any chemical which is a physical hazard or a health hazard.” Physical hazards include combustible liquids, compressed gases, explosives, flammables, organic peroxides, oxidizers, pyrophorics, and reactives. A health hazard is any chemical for which there is good evidence that acute or chronic health effects occur in exposed individuals. Hazardous chemicals include carcinogens, toxic or highly toxic agents, reproductive toxins, irritants, corrosives, sensitizers, hepatotoxins, nephrotoxins, agents that act on the hematopoietic system, and agents that damage the lungs, skin, eyes, or mucous membranes.

hazardous material — A material, including a hazardous substance, as defined by 49 CFR 171.8, which poses a risk to health, safety, and property when transported or handled.

hazardous substance — Any substance subject to the reporting and possible response provisions of the Clean Water Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

hazardous waste — A category of waste regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. To be considered hazardous, a waste must be a solid waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and must exhibit at least one of four characteristics described in 40 CFR 261.20 through 261.24 (i.e., ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity) or be specifically listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 40 CFR 261.31 through 261.33.

high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter — An air filter capable of removing at least 99.97 percent of particles 0.3 micrometers (about 0.00001 inches) in diameter. These filters include a pleated fibrous medium, typically fiberglass, capable of capturing very small particles.

high-level radioactive waste — High-level waste is the highly radioactive waste material resulting from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, including liquid waste produced directly in reprocessing and any solid material derived from such liquid waste that contains fission products in sufficient concentrations, and other highly radioactive material that is determined, consistent with existing law, to require permanent isolation.

high-multiplication devices — A critical assembly for producing nondestructive superprompt critical nuclear excursions. These types of devices are sometimes called prompt burst devices.

highly enriched uranium — Uranium whose content of the fissile isotope uranium-235 has been increased through enrichment to 20 percent or more (by weight). (See *natural uranium*, *enriched uranium*, and *depleted uranium*.)

historic resources — Physical remains that postdate the emergence of written records; in the United States, they are architectural structures or districts, archaeological objects, and archaeological features dating from 1492 and later.

hot cell — A shielded facility that requires the use of remote manipulators for handling radioactive materials.

hydrology — The science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of natural water systems.

indirect jobs — Within a regional economic area, jobs generated or lost in related industries as a result of a change in direct employment.

ion — An atom that has too many or too few electrons, causing it to be electrically charged.

ionizing radiation — Alpha particles, beta particles, gamma rays, high-speed electrons, high-speed protons, and other particles or electromagnetic radiation that can displace electrons from atoms or molecules, thereby producing ions.

irradiated — Exposure to ionizing radiation. The condition of reactor fuel elements and other materials in which atoms bombarded with nuclear particles have undergone nuclear changes.

isotope — Any of two or more variations of an element in which the nuclei have the same number of protons (i.e., the same atomic number) but different numbers of neutrons so that their atomic masses differ. Isotopes of a single element possess almost identical chemical properties, but often different physical properties.

joule — A metric unit of energy, work, or heat, equivalent to 1 watt-second, 0.737 foot-pounds, or 0.239 calories.

latent cancer fatalities — Deaths from cancer occurring some time after, and postulated to be due to, exposure to ionizing radiation or other carcinogens.

limestone — A sedimentary rock composed mostly of the mineral calcite, CaCO_3 .

long-lived radionuclides — Radioactive isotopes with half-lives greater than 30 years.

low-income population — Low-income populations, defined in terms of U.S. Bureau of the Census annual statistical poverty levels (*Current Population Reports*, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty), may consist of groups or individuals who live in geographic proximity to one another or who are geographically dispersed or transient (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect. (See *environmental justice* and *minority population*.)

low-level radioactive waste — Radioactive waste that is not high-level waste, transuranic waste, spent nuclear fuel, or by-product tailings from processing of uranium or thorium ore. Low-level waste is generated in many physical and chemical forms and levels of contamination.

Magnitude — A number that reflects the relative strength or size of an earthquake. Magnitude is based on the logarithmic measurement of the maximum motion recorded by a seismograph. An increase of one unit of magnitude (for example, from 4.6 to 5.6) represents a 10-fold increase in wave amplitude on a seismograph recording or approximately a 30-fold increase in the energy released. Several scales have been defined, but the most commonly used are (1) local magnitude (ML), commonly referred to as "Richter magnitude," (2) surface-wave magnitude (Ms), (3) body-wave magnitude (Mb), and (4) moment magnitude (Mw). Each is valid for a particular type of seismic signal varying by such factors as frequency and distance. These magnitude scales will yield approximately the same value for any given earthquake within each scale's respective range of validity.

material access area — A type of security area that is authorized to contain a security Category I quantity of special nuclear material and which has specifically defined physical barriers, is located within a Protected Area, and is subject to specific access controls.

material characterization — The measurement of basic material properties, and the change in those properties as a function of temperature, pressure, or other factors.

material control and accountability — The part of safeguards that detects or deters theft or diversion of nuclear materials and provides assurance that all nuclear materials are accounted for appropriately.

maximally exposed individual (transportation analysis) — A hypothetical individual receiving radiation doses from transporting radioactive materials on the road. For the incident-free transport operation, the maximally exposed individual would be an individual stuck in traffic next to the shipment for 30 minutes. For accident conditions, the maximally exposed individual is assumed to be an individual located approximately 33 meters (100 feet) directly downwind from the accident.

maximally exposed offsite individual — A hypothetical individual whose location and habits result in the highest total radiological or chemical exposure (and thus dose) from a particular source for all exposure routes (e.g., inhalation, ingestion, direct exposure).

maximum contaminant level — The designation for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards for drinking water quality under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The maximum contaminant level for a given substance is the maximum permissible concentration of that substance in water delivered by a public water system. The primary maximum contaminant levels (40 CFR 141) are intended to protect public health and are federally enforceable. They are based on health factors, but are also required by law to reflect the technological and economic feasibility of removing the contaminant from the water supply. Secondary maximum contaminant levels (40 CFR 143) are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect the public welfare. The secondary drinking water regulations control substances in drinking

water that primarily affect aesthetic qualities (such as taste, odor, and color) relating to the public acceptance of water. These regulations are not federally enforceable, but are intended as guidelines for the states.

megawatt — A unit of power equal to 1 million watts. Megawatt-thermal is commonly used to define heat produced, while megawatt-electric defines electricity produced.

meteorology — The science dealing with the atmosphere and its phenomena, especially as relating to weather.

MeV (million electron volts) — A unit used to quantify energy. In this EIS, it describes a particle's kinetic energy, which is an indicator of particle speed.

micron — One-millionth of 1 meter.

migration — The natural movement of a material through the air, soil, or groundwater; also, seasonal movement of animals from one area to another.

millirem — One-thousandth of 1 rem.

minority population — Minority populations exist where either: (a) the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent, or (b) the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis (such as a governing body's jurisdiction, a neighborhood, census tract, or other similar unit). "Minority" refers to individuals who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black, not of Hispanic origin; or Hispanic. "Minority populations" include either a single minority group or the total of all minority persons in the affected area. They may consist of groups of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another or a geographically dispersed/transient set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect. (See *environmental justice* and *low-income population*.)

Miocene — An epoch of the upper Tertiary period, spanning between about 24 and 5 million years ago.

mitigate — Mitigation includes: (1) avoiding an impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (2) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of an action and its implementation; (3) rectifying an impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (4) reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of an action; or (5) compensating for an impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

mixed waste — Waste that contains both nonradioactive hazardous waste and radioactive waste, as defined in this glossary.

Modified Mercalli Intensity — A level on the modified Mercalli scale. A measure of the perceived intensity of earthquake ground shaking with 12 divisions, from I (not felt by people) to XII (nearly total damage). It is a unitless expression of observed effects.

multiplication factor (k_{eff}) — For a chain-reacting system, the mean number of fission neutrons produced by a neutron during its life within the system. For the critical system, the multiplication factor is equal to 1. If the multiplication factor is less than 1, the system is called “subcritical.” Conversely, if the multiplication factor is greater than 1, the system is called “supercritical.”

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants — Standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for air pollutants that are not covered by National Ambient Air Quality Standards and that may, at sufficiently high levels, cause increased fatalities, irreversible health effects, or incapacitating illness. These standards are given in 40 CFR 61 and 63. National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants are given for many specific categories of sources (e.g., equipment leaks, industrial process cooling towers, dry-cleaning facilities, petroleum refineries). (See *hazardous air pollutants*.)

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System — A provision of the Clean Water Act that prohibits discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States unless a special permit is issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a state, or, where delegated, a tribal government. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit lists either permissible discharges, the level of cleanup technology required for wastewater, or both.

National Register of Historic Places — The official list of the Nation’s cultural resources that are worthy of preservation. The National Park Service maintains the list under direction of the Secretary of the Interior. Buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts are included in the National Register for their importance in American history, architecture, archaeology, culture, or engineering. Properties included on the National Register range from large-scale, monumentally proportioned buildings to smaller-scale, regionally distinctive buildings. The listed properties are not just of nationwide importance; most are significant primarily at the state or local level. Procedures for listing properties on the National Register are found in 36 CFR 60.

natural uranium — Uranium with the naturally occurring distribution of uranium isotopes (approximately 0.7-weight percent uranium-235 with the remainder essentially uranium-238). (See *uranium*, *depleted uranium*, *enriched uranium*, *highly enriched uranium*, and *low-enriched uranium*.)

neutron — An uncharged elementary particle with a mass slightly greater than that of the proton. Neutrons are found in the nucleus of every atom heavier than hydrogen-1.

nitrogen — A natural element with the atomic number 7. It is diatomic in nature and is a colorless and odorless gas that constitutes about four-fifths of the volume of the atmosphere.

nitrogen oxides — Refers to the oxides of nitrogen, primarily nitrogen oxide and nitrogen dioxide. These are produced in the combustion of fossil fuels and can constitute an air pollution problem. Nitrogen dioxide emissions contribute to acid deposition and the formation of atmospheric ozone.

noise — Undesirable sound that interferes or interacts negatively with the human or natural environment. Noise may disrupt normal activities (e.g., hearing, sleep), damage hearing, or diminish the quality of the environment.

nonattainment area — An area that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated as not meeting (i.e., not being in attainment of) one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and particulate matter. An area may be in attainment for some pollutants, but not for others.

nonproliferation — Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, nuclear weapon materials, and nuclear weapon technology.

normal operations — All normal (incident-free) conditions and those abnormal conditions that frequency estimation techniques indicate occur with a frequency greater than 0.1 events per year.

Notice of Intent — The notice that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered. The notice is intended to briefly: (1) describe the proposed action and possible alternatives; (2) describe the agency's proposed scoping process including whether, when, and where any scoping meeting will be held; and (3) state the name and address of a person within the agency who can answer questions about the proposed action and the environmental impact statement.

nuclear component — A part of a nuclear weapon that contains fissionable or fusionable material.

nuclear criticality — See *criticality*.

nuclear explosive — Any assembly containing fissionable and/or fusionable materials and main-charge high-explosive parts or propellants capable of producing a nuclear detonation.

nuclear facility — A facility subject to requirements intended to control potential nuclear hazards. Defined in DOE directives as any nuclear reactor or any other facility whose operations involve radioactive materials in such form and quantity that a significant nuclear hazard potentially exists to the employees or the general public.

nuclear grade — Material of a quality adequate for use in a nuclear application.

nuclear material — Composite term applied to: (1) special nuclear material; (2) source material such as uranium, thorium, or ores containing uranium or thorium; and (3) byproduct material, which is any radioactive material that is made radioactive by exposure to the radiation incident or to the process of producing or using special nuclear material.

nuclear radiation — Particles (alpha, beta, neutrons) or photons (gamma) emitted from the nucleus of unstable radioactive atoms as a result of radioactive decay.

nuclear weapon — The general name given to any weapon in which the explosion results from the energy released by reactions involving atomic nuclei, either fission, fusion, or both.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission — The Federal agency that regulates the civilian nuclear power industry in the United States.

nuclear weapons complex — The sites supporting the research, development, design, manufacture, testing, assessment, certification, and maintenance of the Nation's nuclear weapons and the subsequent dismantlement of retired weapons.

nuclide — A species of atom characterized by the constitution of its nucleus and hence by the number of protons, the number of neutrons, and the energy content.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration — The U.S. Federal Government agency that oversees and regulates workplace health and safety; created by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

offsite — The term denotes a location, facility, or activity occurring outside of the boundary of a DOE complex site.

onsite — The term denotes a location or activity occurring within the boundary of a DOE complex site.

outfall — The discharge point of a drain, sewer, or pipe as it empties into a body of water.

ozone — The triatomic form of oxygen; in the stratosphere, ozone protects Earth from the Sun's ultraviolet rays, but in lower levels of the atmosphere, ozone is considered an air pollutant.

package — For radioactive materials, the packaging, together with its radioactive contents, as presented for transport (the packaging plus the radioactive contents equals the package).

packaging — The assembly of components necessary to ensure compliance with Federal regulations. It may consist of one or more receptacles, absorbent materials, spacing structures, thermal insulation, radiation shielding, and devices for cooling or absorbing mechanical shocks. The vehicle tie-down system and auxiliary equipment may be designated as part of the packaging.

paleontological resources — The physical remains, impressions, or traces of plants or animals from a former geologic age; may be sources of information on ancient environments and the evolutionary development of plants and animals.

particulate matter (PM) — Any finely divided solid or liquid material, other than uncombined (i.e., pure) water. A subscript denotes the upper limit of the diameter of particles included. Thus, PM₁₀ includes only those particles equal to or less than 10 micrometers (0.0004 inches) in diameter; PM_{2.5} includes only those particles equal to or less than 2.5 micrometers (0.0001 inches) in diameter.

peak ground acceleration — A measure of the maximum horizontal acceleration (as a percentage of the acceleration due to the Earth's gravity) experienced by a particle on the surface of the earth during the course of earthquake motion.

Pennsylvanian — A geologic time period of the Paleozoic era, spanning between about 320 and 286 million years ago.

perched aquifer/groundwater — A body of groundwater of small lateral dimensions separated from an underlying body of groundwater by an unsaturated zone.

Permian — The final geologic time period of the Paleozoic era, spanning between about 286 and 245 million years ago.

permeability — In geology, the ability of rock or soil to transmit a fluid.

perennial stream — A stream that flows throughout the year.

person-rem — A unit of collective radiation dose applied to populations or groups of individuals (see collective dose); that is, a unit for expressing the dose when summed across all persons in a specified population or group. One person-rem equals 0.01 person-sieverts (Sv).

PIDAS (Perimeter Intrusion Detection and Assessment System) — A mutually supporting combination of barriers, clear zones, lighting, and electronic intrusion detection, assessment, and access control systems constituting the perimeter of the Protected Area and designed to detect, impede, control, or deny access to the Protected Area.

pit — The central core of a primary assembly in a nuclear weapon typically composed of plutonium-239 and/or highly-enriched uranium and other materials.

placer — A surficial mineral deposit formed by mechanical concentration of valuable minerals from weathered debris, usually through the action of stream currents or waves.

playa — A dry lake bed in a desert basin or a closed depression that contains water on a seasonal basis.

Pleistocene — The geologic time period of the earliest epoch of the Quaternary period, spanning between about 1.6 million years ago and the beginning of the Holocene epoch at 10,000 years ago. It is characterized by the succession of northern glaciations and also called the "Ice Age."

plume — The elongated pattern of contaminated air or water originating at a source, such as a smokestack or a hazardous waste disposal site.

plutonium — A heavy, radioactive, metallic element with the atomic number 94. It is produced artificially by neutron bombardment of uranium. Plutonium has 15 isotopes with atomic masses ranging from 232 to 246 and half-lives from 20 minutes to 76 million years.

plutonium-239 — An isotope of plutonium with a half-life of 24,110 years that is the primary radionuclide in weapons-grade plutonium. When plutonium-239 decays, it emits alpha particles.

population dose — See *collective dose*.

Precambrian — All geologic time before the beginning of the Paleozoic era. This includes about 90 percent of all geologic time and spans the time from the beginning of the Earth, about 4.5 billion years ago, to about 570 million years ago.

prehistoric resources — The physical remains of human activities that predate written records; they generally consist of artifacts that may alone or collectively yield otherwise inaccessible information about the past.

Prevention of Significant Deterioration — Regulations required by the 1977 Clean Air Act amendments to limit increases in criteria air pollutant concentrations above baseline in areas that already meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Cumulative increases in pollutant levels after specified baseline dates must not exceed specified maximum allowable amounts. These allowable increases, also known as increments, are especially stringent in areas designated as Class I areas (e.g., national parks, wilderness areas) where the preservation of clean air is particularly important. All areas not designated as Class I are currently designated as Class II. Maximum increments in pollutant levels are also given in 40 CFR 51.166 for Class III areas, if any such areas should be so designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Class III increments are less stringent than those for Class I or Class II areas. (See *National Ambient Air Quality Standards*.)

probabilistic risk assessment — A comprehensive, logical, and structured methodology that accounts for population dynamics and human activity patterns at various levels of sophistication, considering time-space distributions and sensitive subpopulations. The probabilistic method results in a more complete characterization of the exposure information available, which is defined by probability distribution functions. This approach offers the possibility of an associated quantitative measure of the uncertainty around the value of interest.

process — Any method or technique designed to change the physical or chemical character of the product.

Protected Area — A type of security area defined by physical barriers (i.e., walls or fences), to which access is controlled, used for protection of security Category II special nuclear materials and classified matter and/or to provide a concentric security zone surrounding a Material Access Area (security Category I nuclear materials) or a Vital Area.

proton — An elementary nuclear particle with a positive charge equal in magnitude to the negative charge of the electron; it is a constituent of all atomic nuclei, and the atomic number of an element indicates the number of protons in the nucleus of each atom of that element.

pulsed assemblies — A critical assembly designed to produce a brief emission of neutrons and gamma radiation associated with a critical condition that lasts a fraction of a second.

Quaternary — The second geologic time period of the Cenozoic era, dating from about 1.6 million years ago to the present. It contains two epochs: the Pleistocene and the Holocene. It is characterized by the first appearance of human beings on Earth.

rad — See *radiation absorbed dose*.

radiation (ionizing) — See *ionizing radiation*.

radiation absorbed dose (rad) — The basic unit of absorbed dose equal to the absorption of 0.01 joules per kilogram (100 ergs per gram) of absorbing material.

radioactive waste — In general, waste that is managed for its radioactive content. Waste material that contains source, special nuclear, or byproduct material is subject to regulation as radioactive waste under the Atomic Energy Act. Also, waste material that contains accelerator-produced radioactive material or a high concentration of naturally occurring radioactive material may be considered radioactive waste.

radioactivity —

Defined as a process: The spontaneous transformation of unstable atomic nuclei, usually accompanied by the emission of ionizing radiation.

Defined as a property: The property of unstable nuclei in certain atoms to spontaneously emit ionizing radiation during nuclear transformations.

radioisotope or radionuclide — An unstable isotope that undergoes spontaneous transformation, emitting radiation. (See *isotopes*.)

radon — A gaseous, radioactive element with the atomic number 86, resulting from the radioactive decay of radium. Radon occurs naturally in the environment and can collect in unventilated enclosed areas, such as basements. Large concentrations of radon can cause lung cancer in humans.

Record of Decision — A document prepared in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 1505.2 and 10 CFR 1021.315 that provides a concise public record of DOE's decision on a proposed action for which an EIS was prepared. A Record of Decision identifies the alternatives considered in reaching the decision; the environmentally preferable alternative; factors balanced by DOE in making the decision; and whether all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been adopted, and, if not, the reasons they were not.

reference concentration — An estimate of a toxic chemical daily inhalation of the human population (including sensitive subgroups) likely to be without an appreciable risk of harmful effects during a lifetime. Those effects are both to the respiratory system (portal-of-entry) and the peripheral to the respiratory system (extra-respiratory effects). It is expressed in units of micrograms per cubic meter.

region of influence — A site-specific geographic area in which the principal direct and indirect effects of actions are likely to occur and are expected to be of consequence for local jurisdictions.

regulated substances — A general term used to refer to materials other than radionuclides that may be regulated by other applicable Federal, state, or local requirements.

rem (roentgen equivalent man) — A unit of dose equivalent. The dose equivalent in rem equals the absorbed dose in rad in tissue multiplied by the appropriate quality factor and possibly other modifying factors. Derived from “roentgen equivalent man,” referring to the dosage of ionizing radiation that will cause the same biological effect as 1 roentgen of x-ray or gamma-ray exposure. One rem equals 0.01 sievert. (See *absorbed dose* and *dose equivalent*.)

remediation — The process, or a phase in the process, of rendering radioactive, hazardous, or mixed waste environmentally safe, whether through processing, entombment, or other methods.

remote-handled waste — In general, refers to radioactive waste that must be handled at a distance to protect workers from unnecessary exposure (e.g., waste with a dose rate of 200 millirem per hour or more at the surface of the waste package). (See *contact-handled waste*.)

rhyolite — A fine-grained silica-rich igneous rock, the extrusive equivalent of granite.

rightsizing — Facility modification, rearrangement, and refurbishment necessary to size future weapon manufacturing facilities appropriately for the workload to be accomplished. In general, rightsizing involves reduction in the size of facilities, but not in their capabilities. Rightsizing is not driven by assumptions about future DOE budget levels, but rather by the need to size facilities at the level necessary for long-term workload accomplishment.

riparian — Of, on, or relating to the banks of a natural course of water.

risk — The probability of a detrimental effect from exposure to a hazard. To describe impacts, risk is often expressed quantitatively as the probability of an adverse event occurring multiplied by the consequence of that event (i.e., the product of these two factors). However, a separate presentation of probability and consequence to describe impacts is often more informative.

risk assessment (chemical or radiological) — The qualitative and quantitative evaluation performed in an effort to define the risk posed to human health and/or the environment by the presence or potential presence and/or use of specific chemical or radiological materials.

roentgen — A unit of exposure to ionizing x-ray or gamma radiation equal to or producing one electrostatic unit of charge per cubic centimeter of air. It is approximately equal to 1 rad.

runoff — The portion of rainfall, melted snow, or irrigation water that flows across the ground surface and eventually enters streams.

safe, secure trailer — A specially modified semitrailer, pulled by an armored tractor truck, that DOE uses to transport nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons components, or special nuclear material over public highways.

safeguards — An integrated system of physical protection, material accounting, and material control measures designed to deter, prevent, detect, and respond to unauthorized access, possession, use, or sabotage of nuclear materials.

safety analysis report — A report that systematically identifies potential hazards within a nuclear facility, describes and analyzes the adequacy of measures to eliminate or control identified hazards, and analyzes potential accidents and their associated risks. Safety analysis reports are used to ensure that a nuclear facility can be constructed, operated, maintained, shut down, and decommissioned safely and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Safety analysis reports are required for DOE nuclear facilities and as a part of applications for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission licenses. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations or DOE orders and technical standards that apply to the facility type provide specific requirements for the content of safety analysis reports. (See *nuclear facility*.)

sandstone — A sedimentary rock composed mostly of sand-size particles cemented usually by calcite, silica, or iron oxide.

sanitary waste — Waste generated by normal housekeeping activities, liquid or solid (includes sludge), which are not hazardous or radioactive.

scope — In a document prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered.

scoping — An early and open process for determining the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in an EIS and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. The scoping period begins after publication in the *Federal Register* of a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS. The public scoping process is that portion of the process where the public is invited to participate, and includes holding at least one public meeting and requesting written comments on issues and environmental concerns that an EIS should address. DOE also conducts an early internal scoping process for environmental assessments or EISs. For EISs, this internal scoping process precedes the public scoping process. DOE's scoping procedures are found in 10 CFR 1021.311.

security — An integrated system of activities, systems, programs, facilities, and policies for the protection of restricted data and other classified information or matter, nuclear materials, nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons components, and/or DOE contractor facilities, property, and equipment.

seismic — Earth vibration caused by an earthquake or an explosion.

seismicity — The relative frequency and distribution of earthquakes.

severe accident — An accident with a frequency of less than 10^{-6} per year that would have more severe consequences than a design-basis accident in terms of damage to the facility, offsite consequences, or both.

shielding — In regard to radiation, any material of obstruction (e.g., bulkheads, walls, or other construction) that absorbs radiation to protect personnel or equipment.

short-lived activation products — An element formed from neutron interaction that has a relatively short half-life that is not produced from the fission reaction (e.g., a cobalt isotope formed from impurities in the metal of the reactor piping).

short-lived nuclides — Radioactive isotopes with half-lives no greater than about 30 years (e.g., cesium-137 and strontium-90).

shutdown — For a DOE reactor, the condition in which a reactor has ceased operations, and DOE has officially declared that it does not intend to operate it further.

sievert — The International System of Units (SI) unit of radiation dose equivalent. The dose equivalent in sieverts equals the absorbed dose in grays multiplied by the appropriate quality factor (1 sievert is equal to 100 rem). (See *gray*.)

silica gel — An amorphous, highly adsorbent form of silicon dioxide.

soils — All unconsolidated materials above bedrock. Natural earthy materials on the earth's surface, in places modified or even made by human activity, containing living matter, and supporting or capable of supporting plants out of doors.

somatic effect — Any effect that may manifest in the body of the exposed individual over his or her lifetime.

source material — Depleted uranium, normal uranium, thorium, or any other nuclear material determined, pursuant to Section 61 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to be source material, or ores containing one or more of the foregoing materials in such concentration as may be determined by regulation.

source term — The amount of a specific pollutant (e.g., chemical, radionuclide) emitted or discharged to a particular environmental medium (e.g., air, water) from a source or group of sources. It is usually expressed as a rate (i.e., amount per unit time).

special nuclear materials — A category of material subject to regulation under the Atomic Energy Act, consisting primarily of fissile materials. It is defined to mean plutonium, uranium-233, uranium enriched in the isotopes of uranium-233 or -235, and any other material that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission determines to be special nuclear material, but it does not include source material.

spectral (response) acceleration — An approximate measure of the acceleration (as a percentage of the acceleration due to Earth's gravity) experienced by a building, as modeled by a particle on a massless vertical rod having the same natural period of vibration as the building.

spectral characteristics — The natural property of a structure as it relates to the multidimensional temporal accelerations.

staging — The process of using several layers to achieve a combined effect greater than that of one layer.

START I and II — Terms that refer to negotiations between the United States and Russia (formerly the Soviet Union) during Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) I negotiations aimed at limiting and reducing nuclear arms. START I discussions began in 1982 and eventually led to a ratified treaty in 1988. START II protocol, which has not been fully ratified, will attempt to further reduce the acceptable levels of nuclear weapons ratified in START I.

stockpile — The inventory of active nuclear weapons for the strategic defense of the United States.

stockpile stewardship program — A program that ensures the operational readiness (i.e., safety and reliability) of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile by the appropriate balance of surveillance, experiments, and simulations.

sulfur oxides — Common air pollutants, primarily sulfur dioxide, a heavy, pungent, colorless gas (formed in the combustion of fossil fuels, considered a major air pollutant), and sulfur trioxide. Sulfur dioxide is involved in the formation of acid rain. It can also irritate the upper respiratory tract and cause lung damage.

surface water — All bodies of water on the surface of the earth and open to the atmosphere, such as rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, seas, and estuaries.

Tertiary — The first geologic time period of the Cenozoic era (after the Mesozoic era and before the Quaternary period), spanning between about 66 and 1.6 million years ago. During this period, mammals became the dominant life form on Earth.

threat-1 — (1) A person, group, or movement with intentions to use extant or attainable capabilities to undertake malevolent actions against DOE interests; (2) the capability of an adversary coupled with his intentions to undertake any actions detrimental to the success of program activities or operation.

threatened species — Any plants or animals likely to become endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges and which have been listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service following the procedures set in the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 424). (See *endangered species*.)

threshold limit values — The recommended highest concentrations of contaminants to which workers may be exposed according to the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.

total effective dose equivalent — The sum of the effective dose equivalent from external exposures and the committed effective dose equivalent from internal exposures.

transuranic — Refers to any element whose atomic number is higher than that of uranium (atomic number 92), including neptunium, plutonium, americium, and curium. All transuranic elements are produced artificially and are radioactive.

transuranic waste — Radioactive waste not classified as high-level radioactive waste and that contains more than 100 nanocuries (3,700 becquerels) per gram of alpha-emitting transuranic isotopes with half-lives greater than 20 years.

tuff — A fine-grained rock composed of ash or other material formed by volcanic explosion or aerial expulsion from a volcanic vent.

Type B packaging — A regulatory category of packaging for transportation of radioactive material. The U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission require Type B packaging for shipping highly radioactive material. Type B packages must be designed and demonstrated to retain their containment and shielding integrity under severe accident conditions, as well as under the normal conditions of transport. The current U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission testing criteria for Type B package designs (10 CFR 71) are intended to simulate severe accident conditions, including impact, puncture, fire, and immersion in water. The most widely recognized Type B packages are the massive casks used for transporting spent nuclear fuel. Large-capacity cranes and mechanical lifting equipment are usually needed to handle Type B packages.

uranium — A radioactive, metallic element with the atomic number 92; one of the heaviest naturally occurring elements. Uranium has 14 known isotopes, of which uranium-238 is the most abundant in nature. Uranium-235 is commonly used as a fuel for nuclear fission. (See *natural uranium, enriched uranium, highly enriched uranium, and depleted uranium*.)

vault (special nuclear material) — A penetration-resistant, windowless enclosure having an intrusion alarm system activated by opening the door and which also has: (1) walls, floor, and ceiling substantially constructed of materials that afford forced-penetration resistance at least equivalent to that of 20-centimeter- (8-inch-) thick reinforced concrete; and (2) a built-in combination-locked steel door, which for existing structures is at least 2.54-centimeters (1-inch)

thick exclusive of bolt work and locking devices, and which for new structures meets standards set forth in Federal specifications and standards.

viewshed — The extent of an area that may be viewed from a particular location. Viewsheds are generally bounded by topographic features such as hills or mountains.

vital area — A type of DOE security area that is located within the Protected Area and that has a separate perimeter and access controls to afford layered protection, including intrusion detection, for vital equipment.

Visual Resource Management class — Any of the classifications of visual resources established through application of the Visual Resources Management process of the Bureau of Land Management. Four classifications are employed to describe different degrees of modification to landscape elements: Class I areas where the natural landscape is preserved, including national wilderness areas and the wild sections of national wild and scenic rivers; Class II areas with very limited land development activity, resulting in visual contrasts that are seen but do not attract attention; Class III areas in which development may attract attention, but the natural landscape still dominates; and Class IV areas in which development activities may dominate the view and may be the major focus in the landscape.

volatile organic compounds — A broad range of organic compounds, often halogenated, that vaporize at ambient or relatively low temperatures, such as benzene, chloroform, and methyl alcohol. In regard to air and water pollution, any organic compound that participates in atmospheric photochemical reaction, except for those designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator as having negligible photochemical reactivity.

waste classification — Waste is classified according to DOE Order 435.1, *Radioactive Waste Management* and includes high-level radioactive, transuranic, and low-level radioactive waste.

waste management — The planning, coordination, and direction of those functions related to the generation, handling, treatment, storage, transport, and disposal of waste, as well as associated surveillance and maintenance activities.

waste minimization and pollution prevention — An action that economically avoids or reduces the generation of waste and pollution by source reduction, reducing the toxicity of hazardous waste and pollution, improving energy use, or recycling. These actions will be consistent with the general goal of minimizing present and future threats to human health, safety, and the environment.

watt — A unit of power equal to 1 joule per second. (See *joule*.)

weapons grade — Fissionable material in which the abundance of fissionable isotopes is high enough that the material is suitable for use in thermonuclear weapons.

weighting factor — Generally, a method of attaching different importance values to different items or characteristics. In the context of radiation protection, the proportion of the risk of effects resulting from irradiation of a particular organ or tissue to the total risk of effects when the whole body is irradiated uniformly (e.g., the organ dose weighting factor for the lung is 0.12, compared to 1.0 for the whole body). Weighting factors are used for calculating the effective dose equivalent.

wetland — Wetlands are “... those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas” (33 CFR 328.3).

whole-body dose — In regard to radiation, dose resulting from the uniform exposure of all organs and tissues in a human body. (See *effective dose equivalent*.)

wind rose — A circular diagram showing, for a specific location, the percentage of the time the wind is from each compass direction. A wind rose for use in assessing consequences of airborne releases also shows the frequency of different wind speeds for each compass direction.

X/Q (Chi/Q) — The relative calculated air concentration due to a specific air release; units are seconds per cubic meter (sec/m³).

yield — The force in tons of TNT of a nuclear or thermonuclear explosion.