CHAPTER 4
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter describes the impacts that would result from implementing the waste management alternatives described in Chapter 2. As an aid to the reader, this chapter begins with a guide to understanding the human health and transportation analyses (Section 4.1), followed by a summary of the impacts of the alternatives (Section 4.2).

The three alternatives and the sections in which they are fully discussed are:

- No Action Alternative – Continuation of Ongoing Waste Management Activities (Section 4.3);
- Alternative A – Offsite Shipment of HLW, LLW, Mixed LLW, and TRU Waste to Disposal – Preferred Alternative (Section 4.4); and
- Alternative B – Offsite Shipment of LLW and Mixed LLW to Disposal and Shipment of HLW and TRU Waste to Interim Storage (Section 4.5).

The potential for minority and low-income populations to bear a disproportionate share of high and adverse impacts from the proposed activities is discussed in Section 4.6.

The analyses in this chapter are limited to human health and transportation impacts. None of the proposed alternatives would require changes in the workforce or additional facilities at the WVDP premises; therefore, they would not affect the surrounding natural and cultural environments.

Additional information regarding the methodology used to conduct the analyses is contained in Appendices C and D.

As characterized in Chapter 2, the waste management activities assessed in this EIS would occur in the following facilities at the WVDP site: the Process Building; the Tank Farm; the LSB; LSAs 1, 3, and 4; the Chemical Process Cell Waste Storage Area; and the Radwaste Treatment System Drum Cell. This EIS evaluates proposed activities necessary to (1) store or prepare wastes for shipping, including loading containerized wastes onto transportation vehicles; (2) ship wastes to offsite disposal or interim storage; and (3) manage the emptied waste storage tanks until final decommissioning or long-term stewardship decisions can be made in the future.

The waste management actions proposed under all alternatives would be conducted in existing facilities (or in the case of waste transportation, on existing road and rail lines) by the existing work force and would not involve new construction or building demolition. Ongoing facility operations would continue, unaffected by the proposed actions assessed in this EIS. As a result, the scope of potential impacts that could result from the proposed actions is limited. Specifically, because there would be no mechanism for new land disturbance under any alternative, there would be no potential to directly or indirectly impact current land use; biotic communities;[1] cultural, historical, or archaeological resources; visual resources;

[1] In comments submitted on the draft version of this EIS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred in DOE's determination that no federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species are known to exist in the project impact area and that no habitat in the project impact area is currently designated or proposed critical habitat in accordance with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. However, DOE would contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's New York Field Office for updated information on the presence of listed species or their habitat within 1 year prior to implementing the Record of Decision.

ambient noise levels; threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats; wetlands; or floodplains. Additionally, because the work force requirements would be the same under all alternatives (for example, there would be no increases or decreases from current employment levels), there would be no potential for socioeconomic impacts. Therefore, these elements of the affected environment would not be impacted by any actions proposed under the three alternatives and will not be discussed further in this chapter.

None of the onsite management activities under any of the alternatives would result in any new criteria air pollutant emissions (nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter). As shown in Section 3.3.2, the ambient air quality in the region of the Center complies with federal and state ambient air quality standards. Impacts of criteria air pollutant emissions resulting from transportation activities are incorporated in the transportation analysis. Radioactive emissions that could result from ongoing management are addressed under the human health analysis. Therefore, this chapter includes no further discussion of air quality impacts.

Consistent with DOE and Council on Environmental Quality NEPA guidance, the analysis of impacts in the following sections focuses on those limited areas in which impacts may occur from any action proposed by the three alternatives assessed in this EIS. Because of the limited scope of the proposed actions, there would be potential for impacts to only the workers and the public from the proposed onsite waste management actions, ongoing operations, and the offsite shipping of wastes.

4.1 UNDERSTANDING THE ANALYSIS

This section describes how impacts to worker and public human health from onsite waste management and offsite shipping were analyzed. This discussion is intended to help the reader understand the impacts described for each alternative in subsequent sections.

4.1.1 Human Health Impacts

4.1.1.1 Routine Operations

The waste management activities that would be undertaken under each of the three alternatives analyzed would result in the exposure of workers to radiation and exposure of the public to very small quantities of radioactive materials from controlled releases to the environment. Radiation can cause a variety of ill-health effects in people, including cancer.

To determine whether health effects could occur as a result of radiation exposure from a particular activity and the extent of such effects, the radiation dose must be calculated. An individual may be exposed to radiation externally, through a radiation source outside of the body, and/or internally from ingesting or inhaling radioactive material. The dose is a function of the exposure pathway (for example, external exposure, inhalation, or ingestion) and the type and quantity of radionuclides involved.

The unit of radiation dose for an individual is the rem. A millirem (mrem) is 1/1,000 of a rem. The unit of dose for a population is person-rem and is determined by summing the individual doses of an exposed population. Dividing the

Exposure Standards

The following radiation protection standards were established by the EPA and DOE.

- *EPA:* 10-mrem radiation dose per year to the maximally exposed individual member of the public from airborne releases (40 CFR Part 61, Subpart H, *National Emission Standards for Emissions of Radionuclides Other Than Radon from Department of Energy Facilities*)
- *DOE:* 100-mrem dose per year to the maximally exposed individual member of the public through all exposure pathways (DOE Order 5400.5, *Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment*)
- *DOE*: 5-rem dose per year for workers (10 CFR 835, *Occupational Radiation Protection*)

person-rem estimate by the number of people in the population indicates the average dose that a single individual could receive. The impacts from a small dose to a large number of people can be approximated by the use of population (collective) dose estimates.

After the dose is estimated, the health impact is calculated from current internationally recognized risk factors. The potential health impact is stated in terms of the probability of a latent cancer fatality (a fatality resulting from a cancer that was originally induced by radiation but which may occur years after the exposure) to an individual or the number of latent cancer fatalities expected in a population.

To estimate the human health impact from radiation dose, a dose-to-risk factor that indicates the potential for a latent cancer fatality is used. The dose-to-risk factor for low (less than 20 rem) annual doses is 6×10^{-4} of a latent cancer fatality per person-rem for the general public, which includes the very young and the very old, and 5×10^{-4} for the worker population. For example, a population dose of 1,700 person-rem is estimated to result in 1 additional cancer fatality (0.0006 × 1,700 = 1) in the general public.

Calculations of the number of latent cancer fatalities associated with radiation doses often do not yield whole numbers, and the number may be less than 1. For example, if a population of 1,000,000 people each received a radiation dose of 1 mrem (1×10^{-3} rem) per person, the population dose would be 1,000 person-rem. The number of latent cancer fatalities would be 0.6 (1,000,000 persons × 0.001 rem × 0.0006 latent cancer fatalities per person-rem = 0.6 latent cancer fatalities). The value of 0.6 is the average number of latent cancer fatalities that would occur if the same radiation dose were applied to many different groups of 1,000,000 people. Some groups would experience 1 latent cancer fatality from the radiation dose, some groups would experience no latent cancer fatalities from the radiation dose, and the average would be 0.6. In this context, the value of 0.6 is often referred to as the probability of a latent cancer fatality in the exposed population of 1,000,000 people.

For perspective, it is estimated that the average individual in the United States receives a dose of about 300 mrem (0.3 rem) each year from natural sources of radiation. The probability of a latent cancer fatality corresponding to a single individual's exposure over an assumed 72-year lifetime to 300 mrem annually is about 0.013 or about 1 in 80 (1 person × 300 mrem per year × 1 rem per 1,000 mrem × 72 years × 0.0006 latent cancer fatalities per person-rem = 0.013 latent cancer fatality). If 1,000,000 people were exposed to 300 mrem per year over a 72-year lifetime, about 13,000 latent cancer fatalities would be estimated to occur (1,000,000 people × 300 mrem/year × 72 years × 6E-7 latent cancer fatalities/mrem = 13,000 latent cancer fatalities).

Under all alternatives, people near the WVDP site would be exposed to radionuclides (radioactive atoms) that are released to the atmosphere and to surface water during normal ongoing operations at the site. For this EIS, DOE estimated the radiation doses from those releases using the GENII computer model (Napier et al. 1988). People were assumed to inhale radioactive material and to be exposed to external radiation from the radioactive material released during normal ongoing operations. People were also assumed to ingest radioactive material through foodstuffs such as leafy vegetables, produce, meat, and milk and to be

Ongoing Operations

Under all alternatives, it is assumed that current levels of maintenance, surveillance, heating, ventilation, and other routine operations would continue to be required while the actions proposed under each alternative were performed. For this EIS, these actions are called *ongoing operations*. Although the impacts of these ongoing actions have been assessed in several previous NEPA documents and are characterized in the Annual Site Environmental Reports, the impacts on worker and public health of these ongoing operations have been included in this EIS using actual operational data from 1995 through 1999. Because ongoing operations would not vary among the proposed alternatives, the impacts from these actions would be the same across all alternatives.

exposed through activities such as swimming and boating; inadvertent soil ingestion; inhaling resuspended radioactive material; drinking water; and consuming fish from Lake Erie.

DOE analyzed the exposure of members of the public and workers to radiation or radioactive releases as a result of the alternatives. For workers, DOE analyzed the exposure of both involved and noninvolved workers at the site. Involved workers are those who would be undertaking the proposed waste management activities analyzed in this EIS. They would be exposed to radioactive releases from both the waste management activities and the ongoing operations of the site. Noninvolved workers are those workers who would be present on the site but who would not be conducting the proposed waste management activities. These workers would be conducting activities related to the ongoing operations of the WVDP site. Doses to the worker populations and to individual workers were estimated.

Human Health Impacts

DOE estimated radiation doses to:
- Involved workers
  - Worker population
  - Individual workers
- Noninvolved workers
  - Worker population
  - Individual workers
- Members of the public
  - Collective population
  - Maximally exposed individual

Using accepted dose-to-risk conversion factors, DOE calculated the probability that an individual would suffer a latent cancer fatality or that a latent cancer fatality would occur within the exposed population.

For the public, dose estimates were derived for both the maximally exposed individual (a member of the public located nearest to the site) and the collective U.S. population within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the site. Dose estimates for the affected Canadian population were not included but would be very small because of the distance of this population from the WVDP site and the prevailing southwesterly wind direction.

For both the public and workers, DOE then calculated the probability that the maximally exposed individual would suffer a latent cancer fatality if exposed to that radiation dose and the probability that a latent cancer fatality would occur within the exposed U.S. population.

Additional information regarding the analysis of human health impacts under routine operations can be found in Appendix C.

4.1.1.2 Accident Conditions

For this EIS, DOE evaluated a wide range of potential facility accidents at the WVDP site that could result from handling mishaps, fires, or spills, or from external events such as high winds or earthquakes. Although a great many accidents could occur at WVDP facilities, only a few accidents could potentially result in an uncontrolled release of radioactive material to the environment.

Of the accidents that were evaluated, DOE selected 12 accidents for further evaluation using the GENII computer model (Napier et al. 1988). These accidents were selected because they could result from operations and activities that were determined to present the greatest risk, based on their accident consequence and probability.

The chance that an accident might occur during the conduct of an activity is called the probability of occurrence. An event that is certain to occur has a probability of 1 (as in 100 percent certainty). The probability of occurrence of an accident is less than 1 because accidents, by definition, are not certain to occur. However, in its accident analysis, when calculating the probability of a latent cancer fatality occurring as a result of exposure to radiation in particular accident situations, DOE did not take into account the probability of occurrence of the accident.

In an accident, radioactive material could be released from ground level or from a stack. Atmospheric conditions at the time of an accident would affect the dose received by workers, the maximally exposed individual, and the public. For that reason, DOE used two types of atmospheric conditions to estimate radiation doses: (1) atmospheric conditions that are not exceeded 50 percent of the time and provide a realistic estimate of the likely atmospheric conditions that would exist during an accident (50-percent atmospheric conditions), and (2) atmospheric conditions that are not exceeded 95 percent of the time and provide an upper bound on the atmospheric conditions that would exist during an accident (95-percent atmospheric conditions). Site-specific meteorological data from 1994 through 1998 (WVNS 2000a) were used to determine 50-percent and 95-percent atmospheric conditions.

After estimating the radiation that could be released as a result of specific postulated accidents at the WVDP site (the dose to workers or the public), DOE estimated the probability of latent cancer fatalities if those accidents were to occur. As with routine operations, DOE provides the probability of latent cancer fatalities under accident conditions for workers and members of the public (the maximally exposed individual and the collective population within 80 kilometers [50 miles] of the site). Estimates of latent cancer fatalities for Canadian populations were not included but would be very small because of the distance of this population from the WVDP site and the prevailing southwesterly wind direction.

Additional information regarding the analysis of human health impacts under accident conditions can be found in Appendix C.

4.1.2 Transportation Impacts

DOE analyzed the potential impacts of shipping radioactive waste from the WVDP site to a storage or disposal site under both incident-free and accident conditions. Representative highway and rail routes from the WVDP site to specific destinations were determined using the WebTRAGIS routing computer code (Johnson and Michelhaugh 2000). The routes conform to current routing practices and applicable routing regulations and guidelines. The populations that might be exposed along these routes were determined using data from the 2000 census.

The total impacts of transportation are the sums of the radiological and nonradiological incident-free and accident impacts (transportation impacts on Canadian populations would not be expected because the transportation routes would move generally in the opposite direction from the Canadian border). For incident-free transportation, the potential human health impacts were estimated for transportation workers and populations along the route, people sharing the route (in traffic), and people at stops along the route. The impacts from incident-free transportation are the radiological impacts from exposure to low levels of radiation from the radioactive waste containers and the nonradiological impacts from truck or train exhaust. The RADTRAN 5 computer code (Neuhauser et al. 2000) was used to estimate the impacts for transportation workers and populations. Impacts were also estimated for the maximally exposed individual, who may be a worker or a member of the public, using the RISKIND computer code (Yuan et al. 1995). The impacts for the maximally exposed individual are presented separately from the other incident-free transportation impacts.

Human health impacts could result from transportation accidents in which radioactive material could be released from a waste container and from traffic accidents in which no radioactive material would be released. For transportation accidents involving a release of radioactive material, DOE estimated radiological accident risks (probability of occurrence × consequence) expressed as the number of latent cancer fatalities summed over a complete spectrum of accidents. Impacts were evaluated for the population within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the road or railway using the RADTRAN 5 computer code. DOE assumed that people would be exposed through inhalation, direct external dose from radioactive material that has deposited on the ground after being dispersed from the accident site (referred to as groundshine), and direct external dose from the passing cloud of dispersed radioactive material (referred to as cloudshine). In rural areas, DOE assumed that exposure could also occur through ingestion of agricultural products grown in contaminated soil. Consequences were also estimated for a severe transportation accident, known as the maximum reasonably foreseeable accident. These consequences were estimated using the RISKIND computer code and are presented separately from the other transportation accident impacts.

Additional information regarding the analysis of transportation impacts under both incident-free and accident conditions can be found in Appendix D.

4.2 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

The actions proposed by the alternatives analyzed in this EIS would have an almost imperceptible impact on the health of the workers and the public, even when combined with the minimal impacts of ongoing operations. Health impacts for all alternatives under normal onsite operating conditions and offsite transportation would result in less than 1 cancer fatality among workers or the public.

4.2.1 Human Health Impacts

Waste management activities under each alternative would result in the exposure of workers to radiation and contaminated material and exposure of the public to very small quantities of radioactive materials. Because the proposed waste management actions would involve only the storage, packaging, loading, and shipping of wastes and management options for the waste storage tanks, the proposed activities would result in a statistically insignificant contribution to the historically low impacts of ongoing WVDP operations. As a result, the human health impacts to involved and noninvolved workers and the public are dominated by ongoing WVDP site operations that would continue under all alternatives; therefore, there would be little discernible difference in the impacts that could occur among the three alternatives. The potential human health impacts for onsite waste management actions are summarized below and demonstrate that the impacts of each alternative would result in less than 1 cancer fatality among workers or the public under normal operating conditions.

- Total Involved and Noninvolved Worker Population Dose (in person-rem)
  - No Action Alternative 150
  - Alternative A 210
  - Alternative B 210

- Latent Cancer Fatalities in Involved and Noninvolved Worker Population
  - No Action Alternative less than 1 (0.077)
  - Alternative A less than 1 (0.11)
  - Alternative B less than 1 (0.11)

- Total Public Population Dose (in person-rem)
  - No Action Alternative 2.5
  - Alternative A 2.5
  - Alternative B 2.5

- Latent Cancer Fatalities in Public Population
  - No Action Alternative — less than 1 (1.5×10^{-3})
  - Alternative A — less than 1 (1.5×10^{-3})
  - Alternative B — less than 1 (1.5×10^{-3})

- Total Maximally Exposed Individual Dose (in mrem)
  - No Action Alternative — 0.62
  - Alternative A — 0.62
  - Alternative B — 0.62

- Total Probability of Latent Cancer Fatality to Maximally Exposed Individual
  - No Action Alternative — 3.7×10^{-7}
  - Alternative A — 3.7×10^{-7}
  - Alternative B — 3.7×10^{-7}

Based on the detailed analyses provided later in this chapter and in Appendix C, under all alternatives, neither individual involved workers, the maximally exposed individual, nor the general public near the WVDP site would be expected to incur a latent cancer fatality under any atmospheric conditions if an accident were to occur during waste management activities. Among the accident scenarios evaluated, the projected latent cancer fatalities among the public ranged from a high of 0.084 to a low of 4.5×10^{-6}. The frequencies of these accidents ranged from 0.1 to 10^{-8} per year. Using the screening procedure in *A Graded Approach for Evaluating Radiation Doses to Aquatic and Terrestrial Biota* (DOE 2002), the sum of the fractions of the biota concentration guides for these accidents was less than 1. Therefore, the radioactive releases from these accidents would not be likely to cause persistent, measurable, deleterious changes in populations or communities of terrestrial or aquatic plants or animals.

4.2.2 Transportation Impacts

Projected impacts from offsite waste transportation were less than 1 latent cancer fatality among workers and the public for all three alternatives. Rail transportation was generally found to be slightly higher than, but similar to, the impacts from truck transportation. Impacts are also projected to be slightly higher for Alternative B due to the increased shipping required to move the TRU and HLW wastes to interim storage prior to ultimate disposal. Although the same number of shipments would be loaded at the WVDP site (2,250 truck or 847 rail), the total number of shipments required to reach disposal destinations would be higher under Alternative B due to the interim storage of TRU waste and HLW (see Table 2-3).

The transportation impacts that could result from transportation are summarized below.

- No Action Alternative
  - 169 truck or 85 rail shipments of Class A LLW
  - 0.034 – 0.041 fatalities expected from truck shipments
  - 0.042 – 0.049 fatalities expected from rail shipments

- Alternative A
  - 2,550 truck or 847 rail shipments of LLW, mixed LLW, TRU waste and HLW canisters
  - 0.79 – 0.82 fatalities expected for truck shipments
  - 0.60 – 0.68 fatalities expected for rail shipments

- Alternative B
  - 3,120 truck or 1,079 rail shipments of LLW, mixed LLW, TRU waste, and HLW canisters
  - 0.84 – 0.93 fatalities expected for truck shipments;
  - 0.66 – 0.79 fatalities expected for rail shipments

The consequences of the maximum reasonably foreseeable transportation accidents under each alternative would vary slightly among the alternatives and between truck and rail transport. Under the No Action Alternative, the maximum reasonably foreseeable transportation accident would involve Class A LLW. For truck transport, this accident could result in about 1 latent cancer fatality, and for rail about 2 latent cancer fatalities, among the exposed population. For Alternatives A and B, the maximum reasonably foreseeable truck or rail transportation accident with the highest consequences would involve CH-TRU waste. Because one TRUPACT-II shipping container was assumed to be involved in either the truck or rail accident, the consequences for the truck or rail accident would be the same. Among the exposed population, this accident could result in about 4 latent cancer fatalities. Using the screening procedure in *A Graded Approach for Evaluating Radiation Doses to Aquatic and Terrestrial Biota* (DOE 2002), the sum of the fractions of the biota concentration guides for the Class A LLW accidents and the CH-TRU accident was less than 1. Therefore, the radioactive releases from the Class A LLW accidents and the CH-TRU accident would not be likely to cause persistent, measurable, deleterious changes in populations or communities of terrestrial or aquatic plants or animals.

4.2.3 Offsite Impacts

Impacts of waste management activities at offsite locations (Envirocare, Hanford, INEEL, NTS, ORNL, SRS, WIPP, and Yucca Mountain) have been addressed in earlier NEPA documents (see Section 1.7.1). For all waste types, WVDP waste represents less than 2 percent of the total DOE waste inventory. Human health impacts at all sites as a result of the management (storage or disposal) of WVDP during the 10-year period of analysis would be very minor (substantially less than 1 latent cancer fatality).

4.3 IMPACTS OF THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE – CONTINUATION OF ONGOING WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

As described in Chapter 2, under the **No Action Alternative**, no additional waste management activities would be performed beyond those activities that have already been evaluated under prior NEPA analyses (Section 1.7.1) in accordance with the provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality Implementing Regulations for NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). DOE would provide continued operational support and monitoring of the facilities to meet the requirements for safety and hazard management. Waste management activities currently in progress for onsite storage of existing wastes and offsite disposition of a limited quantity of Class A LLW to a facility such as Envirocare (a commercial radioactive waste disposal site in Clive, Utah) or NTS in Mercury, Nevada, would continue. For the purposes of analysis, however, offsite disposal of Class A LLW at Hanford was also considered. The emptied waste storage tanks would continue to be ventilated and maintained in either a wet or dry condition to mitigate corrosion until final decisions are reached in a ROD for the Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship EIS. Both wet and dry conditions were analyzed in this EIS. Under the No Action Alternative, active hazard management, operational support, surveillance, and oversight would continue at the current levels of activity. The waste management activities evaluated under this alternative would occur over the next 10 years.

4.3.1 Human Health Impacts (No Action Alternative)

This section characterizes the radiological impacts from the No Action Alternative activities that could result from exposure of workers to direct radiation and contaminated material and exposure of the public to small quantities of radioactive material from controlled releases to the environment. Nonradiological injuries and fatalities have also been estimated using Bureau of Labor Statistics on incident rates for construction, manufacturing, and services. The figures shown in the textbox provide the relative probabilities of cancer fatalities from more common sources of risk.

Comparative Risk

Cause of Death	**Approximate Probability**
Cancer	1 chance in 5
Lung cancer due to smoking	1 chance in 10
Cancer caused by background radiation	1 chance in 100
Second-hand smoke	1 chance in 700
Motor vehicle accident	1 chance in 5,000
Cancer due to CAT scan	1 chance in 20,000
Cancer due to chest x-ray	1 chance in 250,000

Worker Impacts. Under the No Action Alternative, waste management activities currently in progress would continue for onsite storage of existing wastes and offsite disposal of a limited quantity of Class A LLW. Management of the waste storage tanks would also continue as under current operations. Table 4-1 presents the radiological impacts to involved and noninvolved workers for the No Action Alternative. During the 10-year time period, the collective radiation dose to involved workers was estimated to be about 4.1 person-rem or about 0.41 person-rem per year from activities under the No Action Alternative. Over this same time period, the individual radiation dose to the average involved worker would be about 68 mrem per year.

Table 4-1. Radiation Doses for Involved and Noninvolved Workers Under the No Action Alternative

Worker Population	Activity	Time Period (years)	Collective Dose		Latent Cancer Fatalities	
			Annual (person-rem/yr)	Total (person-rem)	Annual	Total
Involved workers[a]	No Action Alternative activities	10	0.41	4.1	2.1×10^{-4}	2.1×10^{-3}
Noninvolved workers[b]	Ongoing operations of WVDP[b]	10	15	150	7.5×10^{-3}	0.075
All workers	Total	10	15	150	7.7×10^{-3}	0.077

Worker Population	Activity	Time Period (years)	Individual Dose		Latent Cancer Fatalities	
			Annual (mrem/yr)	Total (mrem)	Annual	Total
Involved workers[a]	No Action Alternative activities	10	68	680	3.4×10^{-5}	3.4×10^{-4}
Noninvolved workers[b]	Ongoing operations of WVDP[b]	10	59	590	3.0×10^{-5}	3.0×10^{-4}

a. Involved workers would be those individuals that actively participate in the No Action Alternative.
b. Noninvolved workers would be those individuals that would be onsite but would not actively participate in the No Action Alternative.

This radiation dose is well below the limit in 10 CFR 835 of 5 rem (5,000 mrem) per year and the WVDP administrative control level of 500 mrem per year (WVNS 2001), and would result in less than 1 (3.4×10^{-5}) latent cancer fatality or a chance of about 1 in 29,000 per year.

In addition to radiation doses from No Action Alternative activities, workers would be exposed to radiation doses from the ongoing operations of the WVDP site. When radiation doses are calculated for involved and noninvolved workers for both No Action Alternative activities and ongoing operations, the total collective radiation dose to the workers was estimated to be about 150 person-rem over the duration of the No Action Alternative or about 15 person-rem per year (Table 4-1). This dose is equivalent to less than 1 (0.077) latent cancer fatality within the worker population.

Nonradiological impacts to workers, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics and the required work effort estimated to complete the actions proposed under the No Action Alternative, are not expected to result in any non-lost workday injuries, lost workday injuries, or fatalities.

Public Impacts. Under the No Action Alternative, waste management activities currently in progress would continue for onsite storage of existing wastes and offsite disposal of a limited quantity of Class A LLW. Management of the waste storage tanks would also continue as under current operations. Radiation doses to the public would be similar to the radiation doses for ongoing operations at the WVDP (Table 4-2).

Table 4-2. Radiation Doses to the Public Under the No Action Alternative[a]

Activity	Maximally Exposed Individual				Population Around WVDP Site			
	Individual Radiation Dose[b]		Probability of Latent Cancer Fatality		Collective Radiation Dose[c]		Probability of Latent Cancer Fatality	
	Annual (mrem/yr)	Total (mrem)	Annual	Total	Annual (person-rem/yr)	Total (person-rem)	Annual	Total
Ongoing operations at WVDP								
Airborne releases	0.021	0.21	1.3×10^{-8}	1.3×10^{-7}	0.17	1.7	1.0×10^{-4}	1.0×10^{-3}
Percent of EPA standard (10 mrem per year)	<1	NA[d]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Waterborne releases	0.041	0.41	2.5×10^{-8}	2.5×10^{-7}	0.083	0.83	5.0×10^{-5}	5.0×10^{-4}
All pathways	0.062	0.62	3.7×10^{-8}	3.7×10^{-7}	0.25	2.5	1.5×10^{-4}	1.5×10^{-3}
Percent of DOE standard (100 mrem per year)	<1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Percent of natural background	<1	NA	NA	NA	<1	NA	NA	NA

a. The time period for the No Action Alternative is 10 years.
b. Individual background radiation doses are about 300 mrem per year.
c. The collective radiation dose to the 1.5-million-person population that surrounds the WVDP site from natural background is about 380,000 person-rem per year.
d. NA = not applicable.

Annual Dose. The collective radiation dose through all exposure pathways (air and water) to people living within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the site would be about 0.25 person-rem per year. This is equivalent to less than 1 (1.5×10^{-4}) latent cancer fatality in the exposed population each year. The radiation dose through all exposure pathways to the maximally exposed individual living around the WVDP site would be about 0.062 mrem per year. This radiation dose is 0.062 percent of the DOE standard of 100 mrem per year (DOE Order 5400.5, *Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment*) and would result in less than 1 (3.7×10^{-8}) latent cancer fatality per year or a chance of about 1 in 27 million for the maximally exposed individual.

Total Dose. For the duration of the No Action Alternative (10 years), the total collective radiation dose through all exposure pathways to the population around the WVDP site would be about 2.5 person-rem. This is equivalent to less than 1 (1.5×10^{-3}) latent cancer fatality over the duration of the No Action Alternative.

4.3.2 Impacts from Facility Accidents (No Action Alternative)

DOE evaluated the potential impacts that could occur as a result of accidents at the WVDP site during the implementation of the No Action Alternative. Because only Class A LLW would be shipped under the No Action Alternative, these accidents were limited to those involving the handling of Class A LLW in preparation for shipping. In addition, accidents involving the ongoing management of Tanks 8D-1 and 8D-2 were evaluated. Accidents involving ongoing or continuing activities at the WVDP site that were not part of this EIS have been addressed in other documents such as the *Long-Term Management of Liquid High-Level Radioactive Wastes Stored at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center, West Valley Final Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE 1982) and several facility safety analysis reports and environmental assessments. For example, accidents involving the High-Level Waste Vitrification Facility are characterized in the *Safety Analysis Report for Vitrification System Operations and High-Level Waste Interim Storage* (WVNS 2000b).

One potential handling accident involved the puncture of a drum containing Class A LLW. The frequency of this accident was estimated to be in the range of 0.1 to 0.01 per year. The consequences of this accident using 50-percent atmospheric conditions are presented in Table 4-3. For a worker located at the site, this accident could result in a radiation dose of 7.1×10^{-6} rem. This accident could result in a radiation dose of 2.4×10^{-6} rem to the maximally exposed individual living near the WVDP site. For the population living within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the site, this accident could result in a radiation dose of 0.0075 person-rem; this is equivalent to a probability of a latent cancer fatality of 4.5×10^{-6}. Using 95-percent atmospheric conditions, this accident could result in a probability of a latent cancer fatality of 7.2×10^{-5} for the population living within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the WVDP site (Table 4-4).

A second potential accident involved a drop of a pallet containing six Class A LLW drums, all of which were assumed to rupture. The frequency of this accident was estimated to be in the range of 0.1 to 0.01 per year. The consequences of this accident using 50-percent atmospheric conditions are presented in Table 4-3. For a worker located at the site, this accident could result in a radiation dose of 4.2×10^{-5} rem. This accident could result in a radiation dose of 1.4×10^{-5} rem to the maximally exposed individual living near the WVDP site. For the population living within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the site, this accident could result in a radiation dose of 0.044 person-rem; this is equivalent to a probability of a latent cancer fatality of 2.6×10^{-5}. Using 95-percent atmospheric conditions, this accident could result in a probability of a latent cancer fatality of 4.1×10^{-4} for the population living within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the WVDP site (Table 4-4).

Table 4-3. Radiological Consequences of Accidents Using 50-Percent Atmospheric Conditions under the No Action Alternative

Accident	Frequency (per year)	Worker		Maximally Exposed Individual		Population[a]	
		Radiation Dose (rem)	Latent Cancer Fatality	Radiation Dose (rem)	Latent Cancer Fatality	Radiation Dose (person-rem)	Latent Cancer Fatality
Class A drum puncture[b]	0.1 – 0.01	7.1×10^{-6}	3.6×10^{-9}	2.4×10^{-6}	1.4×10^{-9}	7.5×10^{-3}	4.5×10^{-6}
Class A pallet drop[b]	0.1 – 0.01	4.2×10^{-5}	2.1×10^{-8}	1.4×10^{-5}	8.4×10^{-9}	0.044	2.6×10^{-5}
Class A box puncture[b]	0.1 – 0.01	8.5×10^{-5}	4.3×10^{-8}	2.9×10^{-5}	1.7×10^{-8}	0.090	5.4×10^{-5}
Collapse of Tank 8D-2 (wet)[b]	$10^{-4} - 10^{-6}$	2.4×10^{-3}	1.2×10^{-6}	8.1×10^{-4}	4.9×10^{-7}	2.5	1.5×10^{-3}
Collapse of Tank 8D-2 (dry)[b]	$10^{-4} - 10^{-6}$	2.8×10^{-3}	1.4×10^{-6}	9.5×10^{-4}	5.7×10^{-7}	3.0	1.8×10^{-3}

a. Collective dose to the 1.5 million people living within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the WVDP site.
b. Ground-level release.

Table 4-4. Radiological Consequences of Accidents Using 95-Percent Atmospheric Conditions under the No Action Alternative

Accident	Frequency (per year)	Worker		Maximally Exposed Individual		Population[a]	
		Radiation Dose (rem)	Latent Cancer Fatality	Radiation Dose (rem)	Latent Cancer Fatality	Radiation Dose (person-rem)	Latent Cancer Fatality
Class A drum puncture[b]	0.1 – 0.01	7.0×10^{-5}	3.5×10^{-8}	2.6×10^{-5}	1.6×10^{-8}	0.12	7.2×10^{-5}
Class A pallet drop[b]	0.1 – 0.01	4.2×10^{-4}	2.1×10^{-7}	1.5×10^{-4}	9.0×10^{-8}	0.69	4.1×10^{-4}
Class A box puncture[b]	0.1 – 0.01	8.4×10^{-4}	4.2×10^{-7}	3.2×10^{-4}	1.9×10^{-7}	1.4	8.4×10^{-4}
Collapse of Tank 8D-2 (wet)[b]	$10^{-4} - 10^{-6}$	0.024	1.2×10^{-5}	8.9×10^{-3}	5.3×10^{-6}	39	0.023
Collapse of Tank 8D-2 (dry)[b]	$10^{-4} - 10^{-6}$	0.028	1.4×10^{-5}	0.010	6.0×10^{-6}	46	0.028

a. Collective dose to the 1.5 million people living within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the WVDP site.
b. Ground-level release.

A third potential accident involved the puncture of a box containing Class A LLW. The frequency of this accident was estimated to be in the range of 0.1 to 0.01 per year. The consequences of this accident using 50-percent atmospheric conditions are presented in Table 4-3. For a worker located at the site, this accident could result in a radiation dose of 8.5×10^{-5} rem. This accident could result in a radiation dose of 2.9×10^{-5} rem to the maximally exposed individual living near the WVDP site. For the population living within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the site, this accident could result in a radiation dose of 0.090 person-rem; this is equivalent to a probability of a latent cancer fatality of 5.4×10^{-5}. Using 95-percent atmospheric conditions, this accident could result in a probability of a latent cancer fatality of 8.4×10^{-4} for the population living within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the WVDP site (Table 4-4).

DOE also analyzed accidents involving the ongoing management of Tanks 8D-1 and 8D-2. These accidents assumed that a severe earthquake occurred at the WVDP site, causing the roof of the vault and Tank 8D-2 to collapse into the tank. Two accidents were analyzed, one where the contents of the tank were kept wet and another where the contents of the tank were allowed to dry before the collapse. The frequencies of the accidents were estimated to be in the range of 10^{-4} to 10^{-6} per year.

The consequences of the accidents using 50-percent atmospheric conditions are presented in Table 4-3. If the contents of the tanks are kept wet, the accident could result in a radiation dose of 2.4×10^{-3} rem for the worker located at the site. This accident could result in a radiation dose of 8.1×10^{-4} rem to the maximally exposed individual living near the WVDP site. For the population living within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the site, this accident could result in a radiation dose of 2.5 person-rem; this is equivalent to a probability of a latent cancer fatality of 1.5×10^{-3}. Using 95-percent atmospheric conditions, this accident could result in a probability of a latent cancer fatality of 0.023 for the population living within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the WVDP site (Table 4-4).

If the contents of the tanks are kept dry, this accident could result in a radiation dose of 2.8×10^{-3} rem for the worker located at the site (Table 4-3). This accident could result in a radiation dose of 9.5×10^{-4} rem to the maximally exposed individual living near the WVDP site. For the population living within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the site, this accident could result in a radiation dose of 3.0 person-rem; this is equivalent to a probability of a latent cancer fatality of 1.8×10^{-3}. Using 95-percent atmospheric conditions, this accident could result in a probability of a latent cancer fatality of 0.028 for the population living within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the WVDP site (Table 4-4).

The highest consequence accident in Table 4-3 was the collapse of Tank 8D-2 while the contents of the tank were dry. Using the screening procedure in *A Graded Approach for Evaluating Radiation Doses to Aquatic and Terrestrial Biota* (DOE 2002), the sum of the fractions of the biota concentration guides for this accident was less than 1. Therefore, the radioactive releases for this accident would not be likely to cause persistent, measurable, deleterious changes in populations or communities of terrestrial or aquatic plants or animals.

4.3.3 Transportation (No Action Alternative)

Under the No Action Alternative analysis, about 4,100 cubic meters (145,000 cubic feet) of Class A LLW would be shipped for disposal either to NTS, Hanford, or a commercial disposal site such as Envirocare, under existing NEPA reviews. These shipments would take place over 10 years. All other newly generated and existing wastes would continue to be stored under this alternative. The waste transportation destinations proposed under the No Action Alternative are shown in Figure 4-1.

Transportation impacts were estimated assuming 100 percent of the Class A LLW would be shipped by truck and 100 percent of the Class A LLW would be shipped by rail. Table 4-5 lists the Class A LLW shipments proposed under the No Action Alternative.

4.3.3.1 Total Impacts from Transportation Activities

The transportation impacts of shipping radioactive waste would be from two sources: incident-free transportation and transportation accidents. Both radiological impacts and nonradiological impacts are included in the analysis. The total impacts from transportation would be the sum of the impacts from incident-free transportation and transportation accidents. Additional details on these analyses are provided in Appendix D.

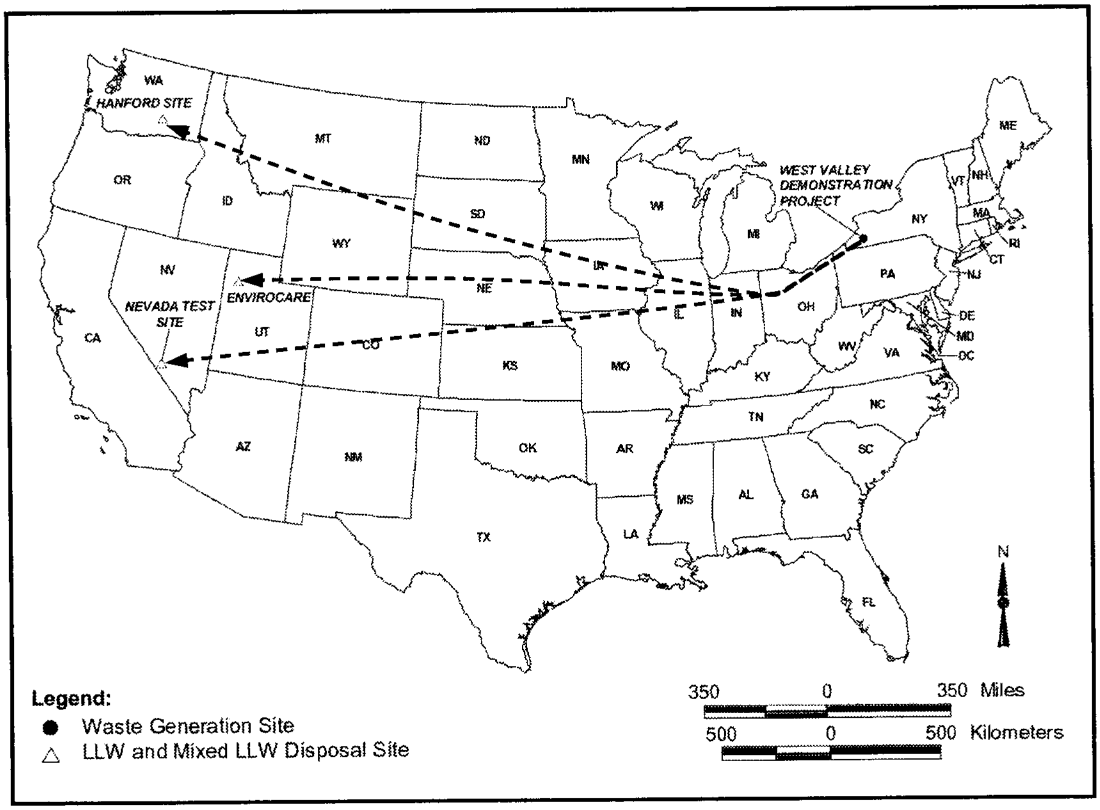

Figure 4-1. Waste Destinations Under the No Action Alternative

Table 4-5. LLW Shipped Under the No Action Alternative

Waste Type	Container Type	Waste Shipped (cubic feet)[a]	Number of Containers	Number of Shipments
Class A LLW	Boxes[b]	97,649	1,206	87 (truck) 44 (rail)
	Drums[b]	47,351	6,878	82 (truck) 41 (rail)
Total		145,000	8,084	169 (truck) 85 (rail)

a. To convert cubic feet to cubic meters, multiply by 0.028
b. Shipped in Type A shipping container

Table 4-6 lists the total transportation impacts by waste type and destination under the No Action Alternative. If either trucks or trains were used to ship the radioactive waste, less than 1 fatality would occur. For perspective, there would be about 400,000 traffic fatalities in the United States over the 10-year time period for the No Action Alternative (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1997).

4.3.3.2 Incident-Free Impacts for the Maximally Exposed Individual from Transportation Activities

Worker Impacts. If trucks were used to ship the waste, the maximally exposed worker would be a driver who would receive a radiation dose of about 250 mrem per year based on driving a truck containing radioactive waste for about 700 hours per year. This is equivalent to a probability of a latent cancer fatality of about 1.3×10^{-4}. If trains were used to ship the waste, the maximally exposed worker would be

Table 4-6. Transportation Impacts Under the No Action Alternative

Waste Type	Destination	Incident-Free Public (LCFs)	Incident-Free Worker (LCFs)	Radiological Accident Risk (LCFs)	Pollution Health Effects (Fatalities)	Traffic Fatalities	Total Fatalities
Truck							
Class A LLW	Envirocare	9.2×10^{-3}	0.011	6.9×10^{-5}	2.1×10^{-3}	0.011	0.034
	Hanford Site	0.011	0.014	7.4×10^{-5}	2.3×10^{-3}	0.014	0.041
	NTS	0.011	0.013	8.5×10^{-5}	2.8×10^{-3}	0.013	0.041
Total Truck Fatalities: 0.034 – 0.041							
Rail							
Class A LLW	Envirocare	0.016	0.012	2.7×10^{-4}	3.0×10^{-3}	9.8×10^{-3}	0.042
	Hanford Site	0.017	0.013	3.0×10^{-4}	3.1×10^{-3}	0.012	0.046
	NTS	0.017	0.016	2.7×10^{-4}	3.0×10^{-3}	0.012	0.049
Total Rail Fatalities: 0.042 – 0.049							

Acronyms: LCFs = latent cancer fatalities; NTS = Nevada Test Site. The range of total fatalities is based on the minimum and maximum total fatalities for each waste type.

an inspector. This worker would receive a radiation dose of about 1.9 mrem per year. This is equivalent to a probability of a latent cancer fatality of about 9.5×10^{-7}.

Public Impacts. For truck shipments, the maximally exposed member of the public would be a person working at a service station who would receive a radiation dose of about 0.10 mrem per year. This is equivalent to a probability of a latent cancer fatality of about 6.0×10^{-8}.

If shipments were made by rail, the maximally exposed member of the public would be a railyard worker who was not directly involved with handling the railcars. This person would receive a radiation dose of about 0.35 mrem per year. This is equivalent to a probability of a latent cancer fatality of about 2.1×10^{-7}.

4.3.3.3 Impacts from the Maximum Reasonably Foreseeable Transportation Accidents

The maximally exposed individual would receive a radiation dose of 4.6 rem from the maximum reasonably foreseeable transportation accident involving a truck shipment of Class A LLW. This is equivalent to a probability of a latent cancer fatality of about 2.8×10^{-3}. The probability of this accident is about 5×10^{-7} per year. The population would receive a collective radiation dose of about 1,300 person-rem from this truck accident involving Class A LLW. This could result in about 1 latent cancer fatality.

For the maximum reasonably foreseeable transportation rail accident involving Class A LLW, the maximally exposed individual would receive a radiation dose of about 9.2 rem. This is equivalent to a probability of a latent cancer fatality of about 5.5×10^{-3}. The probability of this accident is about 2×10^{-6} per year. The population would receive a collective radiation dose of about 2,600 person-rem from this rail accident involving Class A LLW. This could result in about 2 latent cancer fatalities.

Using the screening procedure in *A Graded Approach for Evaluating Radiation Doses to Aquatic and Terrestrial Biota* (DOE 2002), the sum of fractions of the biota concentration guides for the Class A LLW accidents was less than 1. Therefore, the radioactive releases from the Class A LLW accidents would not be likely to cause persistent, measurable deleterious changes in populations or communities of terrestrial or aquatic plants or animals.

4.3.4 Offsite Impacts (No Action Alternative)

Under the No Action Alternative, 4,060 cubic meters (145,000 cubic feet) of Class A LLW would be disposed of at Hanford, NTS, or a commercial disposal site such as Envirocare. If the entire volume of WVDP Class A LLW were sent to one of these sites, the probability that a worker would incur a latent cancer fatality would range from 4.8×10^{-3} to 5.4×10^{-3}. The maximally exposed individual member of the public would have a probability of incurring a latent cancer fatality of between 6.9×10^{-6} and 3×10^{-16}. Table 2-6 provides offsite human health impacts in detail; Appendix C, Section C.10, explains how these impacts were derived.

4.4 IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE A – OFFSITE SHIPMENT OF HLW, LLW, MIXED LLW, AND TRU WASTE TO DISPOSAL

Under **Alternative A (Preferred Alternative)**, DOE would ship Class A, B, and C LLW and mixed LLW to one of two DOE potential disposal sites (in Washington or Nevada) or to a commercial disposal site (such as the Envirocare facility in Utah); ship TRU waste to WIPP in New Mexico; and ship HLW to the proposed Yucca Mountain HLW Repository. LLW and mixed LLW would be shipped over the next 10 years. TRU waste shipments to WIPP could occur within the next 10 years if the TRU waste were determined to meet all the requirements for disposal in this repository. If some or all of WVDP's TRU waste did not meet these requirements, the Department would need to explore other alternatives for disposal of this waste.

Under DOE's current programmatic decisionmaking, offsite disposal of HLW would occur at the proposed Yucca Mountain HLW Repository sometime after 2025 assuming a license to operate is granted by NRC. Although this period would extend well beyond the 10 years required for all other proposed actions under this alternative, the impacts of transporting the HLW have been included in this EIS to fully inform the decisionmakers should an earlier opportunity to ship HLW present itself. The waste storage tanks would continue to be managed as described under the No Action Alternative.

4.4.1 Human Health Impacts (Alternative A)

This section characterizes the radiological impacts from Alternative A activities that could result from exposure of workers to direct radiation and contaminated material and exposure of the public to small quantities of radioactive material. Nonradiological injuries and fatalities have also been estimated using Bureau of Labor Statistics on incident rates for construction, manufacturing, and services.

Worker Impacts. Under Alternative A, waste management activities would involve offsite transportation and disposal of Class A, B, C, mixed LLW, RH-TRU, CH-TRU, and HLW. Management of the waste storage tanks would continue as under current operations. Table 4-7 presents the radiological impacts to involved and noninvolved workers for Alternative A. During the 10-year time period, the collective radiation dose to involved workers was estimated to be about 61 person-rem or about 6.1 person-rem per year from activities under Alternative A. Over this same time period, the individual radiation dose to the average involved worker would be about 260 mrem per year. This radiation dose is well below the limit in 10 CFR 835 of 5 rem (5,000 mrem) per year and the WVDP administrative control level of 500 mrem per year (WVNS 2001), and would result in less than 1 (1.3×10^{-4}) latent cancer fatality or a chance of about 1 in 7,700 per year.

In addition to radiation doses from Alternative A activities, workers would be exposed to radiation doses from the ongoing operations of the WVDP site. When radiation doses are calculated for involved and noninvolved workers for both Alternative A activities and ongoing operations, the total collective