

Quarterly Report

Calendar Year 2023 – Third Quarter, July 1 – September 30, 2023

Prepared by:

**Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring & Research Center
under a financial assistance grant from
U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO)
Award No. DE-EM0005195**

Submitted to:

**U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office**

November 2023

Field Programs - Radiation Safety Group

WIPP Underground Effluent Monitoring (Station A and Station B)

From July 1st to September 30th, a total of 133 filters from the primary skid at Station A, of which 109 were sample filters, 12 were trip blanks and 12 were filter blanks, were collected. In addition, 156 filters were collected from the backup skid at Station A (132 sample filters, 12 trip blank filters and 12 filter blanks). One hundred and seventeen filters were collected from the primary skid at Station B, (93 sample filters, 12 trip blanks and 12 filter blanks). One hundred and eighteen filters were collected from Station B backup (94 sample filters, 12 trip blanks and 12 filter blanks), during the same time period. Station B was down due to the running of Station H. A total of 19 filters were collected from Station H, (13 sample filters, 3 trip blanks and 3 filter blanks).

All 133 filters from the primary skid at Station A have been processed (gravimetrics, sample flow volume, and mass concentration have been calculated in the Field Programs (FP) data package) and transferred to the Radiochemistry group (RC). All 156 of the Station A backup filters have been processed and transferred to the Environmental Chemistry group (EC). All 235 filters from each skid (primary and backup) at Station B have been processed and transferred to RC and EC, respectively.

Ambient Air Sampling

From July 1st to September 30th, 24 ambient air samples were collected from the six perimeter and regional continuous sampling stations (On-Site, Near Field, Cactus Flats, WIPP East, Carlsbad, and Loving) using a high-volume sampler (HiVol). All filter samples have been processed (gravimetrics, total air flow values, and notes of any irregularities) by FP and transferred to RC.

Subtask - Non-Radiological analyses

Eight Whatman-41 filters and 4 trip blank filters were collected from July 1st to September 30th, from the 2 sampling sites (Near Field, Cactus Flats) using a high-volume sampler. All filter samples have been processed (total air flow values and notes of any irregularities) by FP and transferred to EC.

Soil sampling

No soil samples were collected in the 3rd quarter, processing will begin once all 36 samples are collected.

Surface Water Monitoring

From July 1st to September 30th, no surface water samples were collected. FP is planning on collecting surface water samples in October 2023.

Drinking Water Monitoring

From July 1st to September 30th, no drinking water samples were collected. FP is planning on collecting drinking water samples in October 2023.

Sediment Monitoring

No sediment sampling was performed from July 1st to September 30th. FP is planning on collecting sediment samples in October 2023.

Nuclear Materials Management and Safeguards

From July 1st to September 30th the Radiation Safety group (RS) has collected and bulked Rad waste from NMSU, LANL and the WIPP Labs groups working in this facility. RS has performed monthly surveys of all Rad laboratories in the building, including smears and dose rate measurements. All fume hoods are face velocity checked quarterly. All fume hoods are face-velocity checked quarterly. The date of the last inspection was September 21, 2023. Several survey instruments have been sent to Ludlum Corporation for calibration.

Radiochemistry Group

WIPP Underground Effluent Monitoring (Station A and Station B)

Gross alpha and beta activities on individual filters collected from station A, taken immediately before, and Station B, taken after the high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration, were counted using a low-background gas proportional counter (Protean Instruments) for 1200 minutes (20 hours). The analysis of all filters from Station A and Station B has been completed through October 2023. The complete results for gross alpha and gross beta counts on FAS filters from Station A and Station B through October 2023 were submitted to CBFO on November 13, 2023.

Between July 1st and September 30th 2023 the total number of samples processed includes the following:

- 20 HiVol samples were analyzed for gamma-radiation-emitting radionuclides (^{137}Cs , ^{60}Co , and ^{40}K).
- 45 FAS Station A samples were analyzed for gamma-radiation-emitting radionuclides (^{137}Cs , ^{60}Co , and ^{40}K).
- 48 FAS Station A samples were analyzed for alpha-radiation-emitting radionuclides (isotopes of U, Pu, and Am).
- 12 FAS Station B samples were analyzed for alpha-radiation-emitting radionuclides (isotopes of U, Pu, and Am).
- 6 water samples were analyzed for alpha-radiation-emitting radionuclides (isotopes of U, Pu, and Am).
- 2 soil samples were analyzed for alpha-radiation-emitting radionuclides (isotopes of U, Pu, and Am).
- 48 FAS Station A samples were analyzed for the beta-radiation-emitting radionuclide ^{90}Sr .
- 12 FAS Station B samples were analyzed for the beta-radiation-emitting radionuclide ^{90}Sr .
- 6 water samples were analyzed for the beta-radiation-emitting radionuclide ^{90}Sr .
- 6 soil samples were analyzed for the beta-radiation-emitting radionuclide ^{90}Sr .

Characteristic results are shown in the following tables.

As of September 30, 2023 the annual service contract with Mirion Technologies was still not in place and alpha and beta radiation detectors could not be serviced.

Environmental Chemistry Group

From July 1 through September 30, 2023, the Environmental Chemistry group (EC) worked on processing Fixed Air Sampler (FAS) filters, ambient air (HiVol) filters, completing proficiency tests, and analyzing surface water samples collected in 2023.

The following Tables and Figures represent characteristic results.

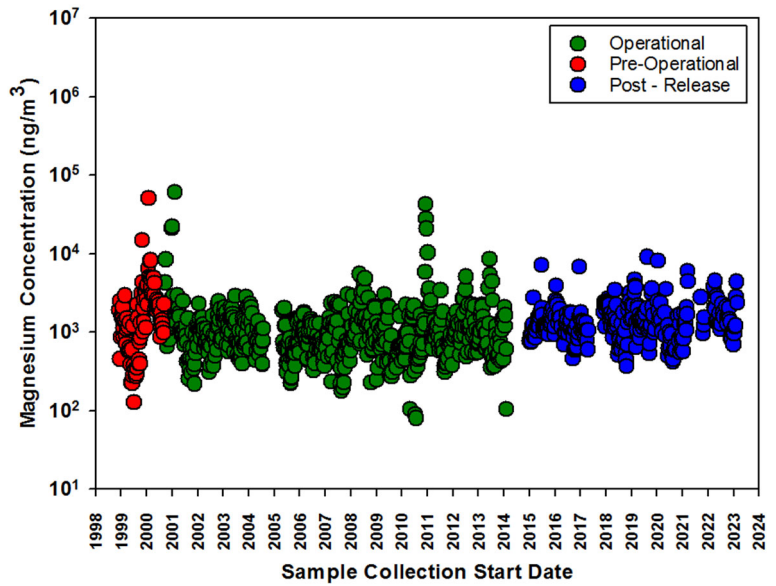
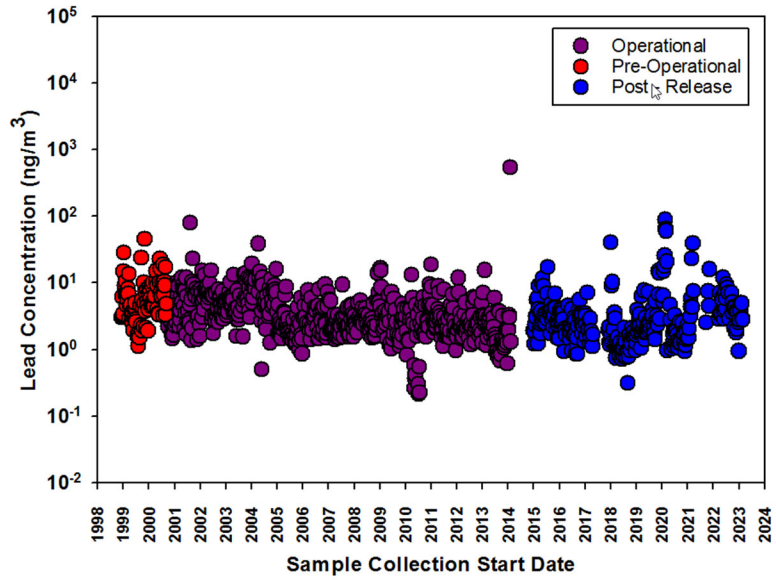
Sample Type: FAS, Station A

Year: 2022

Analysis Performed: Metals in weekly composites

Week	Aluminum ng/m ³	Cadmium ng/m ³	Lead ng/m ³	Magnesium ng/m ³	Silicon ng/m ³	Thorium ng/m ³	Uranium ng/m ³
01/01/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
01/08/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
01/15/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
01/22/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
02/01/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
02/08/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
02/15/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
02/22/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
03/01/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
03/08/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
03/15/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
03/22/22	1.087E+03	6.314E-01	2.874E+00	1.909E+04	1.438E+04	1.394E-01	9.830E-02
04/01/22	8.750E+02	6.864E-01	6.958E+00	1.032E+04	2.573E+03	1.603E-01	7.171E-02
04/08/22	9.194E+02	4.033E-01	3.400E+00	2.245E+04	1.444E+04	1.262E-01	7.280E-02
04/15/22	5.459E+02	5.250E-01	3.517E+00	9.622E+03	1.677E+03	7.960E-02	3.798E-02
04/22/22	5.466E+02	4.887E-01	4.573E+00	8.790E+03	1.720E+03	8.589E-02	4.267E-02
05/01/22	4.261E+02	3.749E-01	3.459E+00	1.397E+03	1.306E+03	6.290E-02	3.521E-02
05/08/22	7.024E+02	6.443E-01	6.011E+00	2.863E+03	2.253E+03	1.025E-01	7.215E-02
05/15/22	6.950E+02	4.721E-01	5.399E+00	2.692E+03	2.118E+03	9.325E-02	5.393E-02
05/22/22	4.631E+02	3.921E-01	1.189E+01	1.447E+03	1.483E+03	7.412E-02	2.947E-01
06/01/22	2.826E+02	4.818E-01	2.843E+00	1.253E+03	9.301E+02	<MDL	2.684E-02
06/08/22	6.657E+02	4.096E-01	3.810E+00	1.221E+03	1.913E+03	9.953E-02	4.111E-02
06/15/22	5.280E+02	4.057E-01	7.106E+00	1.716E+03	1.524E+03	7.078E-02	3.541E-02
06/22/22	3.403E+02	3.728E-01	4.135E+00	1.287E+03	1.213E+03	4.684E-02	3.002E-02
07/01/22	1.707E+02	4.023E-01	5.738E+00	1.085E+03	7.141E+02	<MDL	3.315E-02
07/08/22	2.722E+02	6.184E-01	9.460E+00	1.252E+03	1.041E+03	<MDL	3.138E-02
07/15/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
07/22/22	3.007E+02	3.796E-01	8.452E+00	2.282E+03	9.674E+02	4.275E-02	3.170E-02
08/01/22	4.885E+02	3.592E-01	7.048E+00	1.800E+03	1.466E+03	6.331E-02	3.215E-02
08/08/22	2.981E+02	3.835E-01	7.043E+00	1.716E+03	1.094E+03	4.046E-02	2.590E-02
08/15/22	2.665E+02	6.804E-01	2.887E+00	1.552E+03	1.383E+03	<MDL	<MDL
08/22/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
09/01/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
09/08/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
09/15/22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
09/22/22	4.349E+02	4.175E-01	7.021E+00	1.058E+04	1.296E+03	4.971E-02	3.704E-02
10/01/22	2.770E+02	3.870E-01	5.030E+00	1.581E+03	1.088E+03	<MDL	2.305E-02
10/08/22	4.735E+02	3.814E-01	3.569E+00	1.278E+03	9.402E+02	<MDL	1.890E-02
10/15/22	2.525E+02	4.012E-01	4.230E+00	1.649E+03	9.579E+02	<MDL	2.632E-02
10/22/22	2.349E+02	3.754E-01	2.086E+00	1.537E+03	8.583E+02	<MDL	2.568E-02
11/01/22	3.212E+02	3.977E-01	4.216E+00	2.041E+03	1.154E+03	<MDL	4.100E-02
11/08/22	2.132E+02	3.792E-01	4.238E+00	1.466E+03	7.800E+02	<MDL	2.696E-02
11/15/22	1.975E+02	3.652E-01	3.674E+00	1.342E+03	7.810E+02	<MDL	3.162E-02
11/22/22	1.424E+02	3.578E-01	1.801E+00	8.436E+02	6.260E+02	<MDL	1.706E-02
12/01/22	2.115E+02	3.683E-01	2.035E+00	9.302E+02	8.362E+02	<MDL	2.457E-02
12/08/22	1.195E+02	4.005E-01	2.979E+00	8.208E+02	5.917E+02	<MDL	1.803E-02
12/15/22	1.703E+02	3.673E-01	3.653E+00	1.009E+03	7.392E+02	<MDL	3.228E-02
12/22/22	2.011E+02	4.193E-01	2.564E+00	9.849E+02	8.187E+02	<MDL	1.965E-02

NOTE: Filters were not received for the following time frames: January, February, the 1st three weeks of March, one week in July, one week in August, and the 1st three weeks of September for 2022.



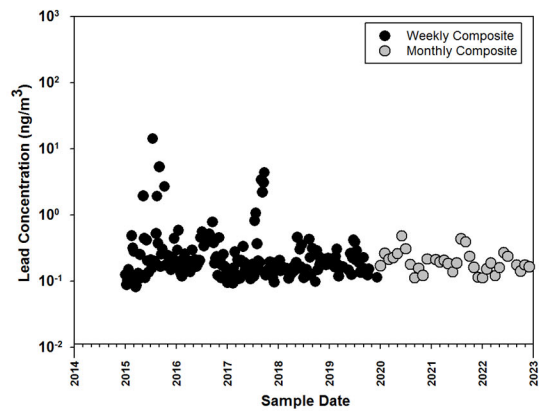
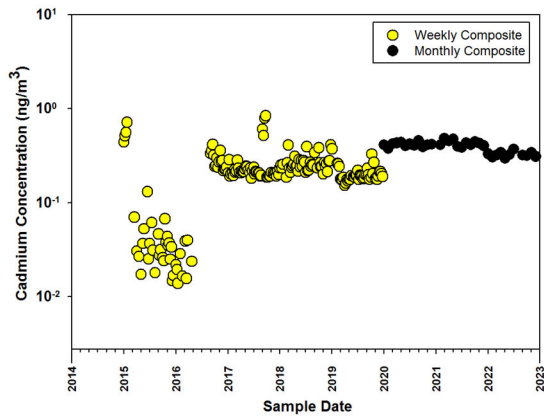
Sample Type: FAS, Station B

Year: 2022

Analysis Performed: Metals in monthly composites

Sample Date	Aluminum ng/m ³	Cadmium ng/m ³	Lead ng/m ³	Magnesium ng/m ³	Silicon ng/m ³	Thorium ng/m ³	Uranium ng/m ³
January	<MDC	0.33	0.11	<MDC	237.4	<MDC	<MDC
February	<MDC	0.31	0.15	<MDC	297.6	<MDC	<MDC
March	<MDC	0.32	0.19	<MDC	359.6	<MDC	<MDC
April	<MDC	0.34	0.12	<MDC	363.3	<MDC	<MDC
May	81.11	0.30	0.16	<MDC	373.4	<MDC	<MDC
June	<MDC	0.33	0.27	<MDC	409.4	<MDC	<MDC
July	<MDC	0.37	0.24	<MDC	<MDC	<MDC	<MDC
August	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
September	<MDC	0.32	0.17	<MDC	<MDC	<MDC	<MDC
October	<MDC	0.32	0.14	<MDC	271.4	<MDC	<MDC
November	<MDC	0.34	0.17	<MDC	293.9	<MDC	<MDC
December	<MDC	0.31	0.16	<MDC	297.1	<MDC	<MDC

NOTE: Filters were not received in August.



Sample Type: FAS, Station A
Year: 2023
Analysis Performed: Metals in weekly composites

Week	Aluminum ng/m ³	Cadmium ng/m ³	Lead ng/m ³	Magnesium ng/m ³	Silicon ng/m ³	Thorium ng/m ³	Uranium ng/m ³
01/01/23	1.347E+02	4.004E-01	9.461E-01	6.954E+02	5.331E+02	<MDL	1.610E-02
01/08/23	2.229E+02	4.963E-01	2.744E+00	9.495E+02	9.079E+02	<MDL	3.238E-02
01/15/23	2.339E+02	4.926E-01	4.736E+00	9.654E+02	9.024E+02	<MDL	2.702E-02
01/22/23	2.556E+02	6.202E-01	3.796E+00	1.177E+03	9.348E+02	<MDL	2.779E-02
02/01/23	2.742E+02	5.433E-01	4.956E+00	1.212E+03	1.039E+03	<MDL	2.404E-02
02/08/23	6.047E+02	1.921E+00	4.896E+00	2.807E+03	2.301E+03	<MDL	<MDL
02/15/23	8.367E+02	6.982E-01	2.922E+00	4.370E+03	2.511E+03	9.697E-02	7.775E-02
02/22/23	6.330E+02	5.306E-01	2.816E+00	2.379E+03	1.919E+03	8.888E-02	7.272E-02
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NOTE: Filters were not received for the following time frames: N/A.

Sample Type: Proficiency Test
Year: 2023
Analysis Performed: Follow-up Metals for Mo

Ver. 1
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A Waters Company

Adrienne Chancellor
 Associate Research Scientist
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 (575) 234-5525

EPA ID: Not Reported
 ERA Customer Number: N215603

071323H Final Evaluation Report

TNI Analyte Code	Analyte	Units	Reported Value	Assigned Value	Acceptance Limits	Performance Evaluation	Method Description	Analysis Date	Z Score	Study Mean	Study Standard Deviation	Analyst Name
WS Metals (cat# 697, lot# 071323H) Study Dates: 07/13/2023 - 07/25/2023												
1000	Aluminum	µg/L		555	472 - 838	Not Reported				555	46.4	
1005	Antimony	µg/L		37.5	26.2 - 48.8	Not Reported				37.6	3.18	
1010	Arsenic	µg/L		33.7	23.6 - 43.8	Not Reported				32.7	2.82	
1015	Barium	µg/L		2460	2090 - 2830	Not Reported				2470	113	
1020	Beryllium	µg/L		12.9	11.0 - 14.8	Not Reported				13.0	0.713	
1025	Boron	µg/L		1210	1030 - 1390	Not Reported				1210	67.1	
1030	Cadmium	µg/L		6.13	4.90 - 7.36	Not Reported				5.96	0.522	
1040	Chromium	µg/L		166	141 - 191	Not Reported				167	10.1	
1055	Copper	µg/L		399	350 - 439	Not Reported				394	22.4	
1070	Iron	µg/L		795	676 - 914	Not Reported				803	33.2	
1075	Lead	µg/L		31.1	21.8 - 40.4	Not Reported				31.3	2.33	
1090	Manganese	µg/L		808	687 - 929	Not Reported				826	37.2	
1100	Molybdenum	µg/L	113.01	105	89.2 - 121	Acceptable	EPA 200.8.5.4 1994	7/24/2023	1.99	105	4.16	
1105	Nickel	µg/L		317	269 - 365	Not Reported				314	13.3	
1140	Selenium	µg/L		95.7	78.6 - 115	Not Reported				94.6	5.66	
1150	Silver	µg/L		271	190 - 352	Not Reported				269	17.3	
1165	Thallium	µg/L		6.12	4.28 - 7.96	Not Reported				6.09	0.522	
1185	Vanadium	µg/L		531	451 - 611	Not Reported				513	29.0	
1190	Zinc	µg/L		272	231 - 313	Not Reported				273	17.9	



All analytes are included in ERA's A2LA accreditation. Lab Code: 1539-01

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Project #: 071323H

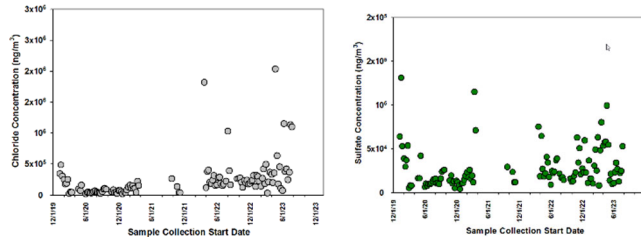


Sample Type:

Sample Type: FAS, Station A
Year: 2023
Analysis Performed: Anions in weekly composites

Week	Chloride ng/m ³	Nitrate ng/m ³	Phosphate ng/m ³	Sulfate ng/m ³
01/01/23	1.35E+05	<MDL	<MDL	1.10E+04
01/08/23	3.18E+05	2.55E+01	<MDL	3.67E+04
01/15/23	2.98E+05	<MDL	<MDL	1.64E+04
01/22/23	2.25E+05	<MDL	<MDL	1.59E+04
02/01/23	1.43E+05	<MDL	<MDL	1.04E+04
02/08/23	2.69E+05	<MDL	<MDL	3.07E+04
02/15/23	4.19E+05	<MDL	<MDL	4.92E+04
02/22/23	1.83E+05	1.92E+02	6.20E+02	2.50E+04
03/01/23	4.94E+05	1.42E+02	<MDL	6.32E+04
03/08/23	3.41E+04	<MDL	<MDL	8.21E+03
03/15/23	2.11E+05	8.52E+01	<MDL	4.83E+04
03/22/23	3.67E+05	2.71E+02	<MDL	8.03E+04
04/01/23	3.32E+05	2.39E+02	<MDL	5.34E+04
04/08/23	1.98E+05	1.61E+02	<MDL	5.73E+04
04/15/23	3.58E+05	3.06E+02	<MDL	5.82E+04
04/22/23	2.03E+06	2.42E+03	<MDL	9.94E+04
05/01/23	6.34E+05	1.08E+02	<MDL	5.45E+04
05/08/23	1.78E+05	4.32E+01	<MDL	1.40E+04
05/15/23	4.55E+05	<MDL	<MDL	2.13E+04
05/22/23	1.09E+05	<MDL	<MDL	9.73E+03
06/01/23	7.36E+04	3.60E+01	<MDL	1.07E+04
06/08/23	1.15E+06	9.43E+01	<MDL	2.33E+04
06/15/23	3.77E+05	5.10E+01	<MDL	3.41E+04
06/22/23	4.22E+05	3.47E+01	<MDL	2.69E+04
07/01/23	2.45E+05	6.28E+01	<MDL	1.26E+04
07/08/23	3.68E+05	3.74E+01	<MDL	2.24E+04
07/15/23	1.13E+06	1.81E+02	<MDL	2.47E+04
07/22/23	1.10E+06	2.35E+02	<MDL	5.28E+04
08/01/23				
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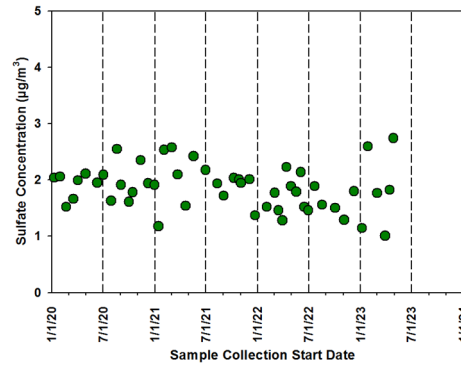
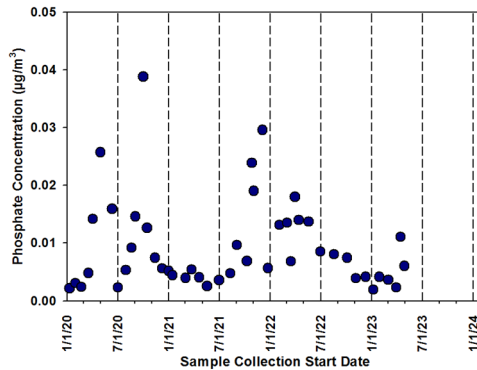
NOTE: Filters were not received for the following time frames: N/A



Sample Type: Near Field (107), ambient air
 Year: 2023

Analysis Performed: Anions

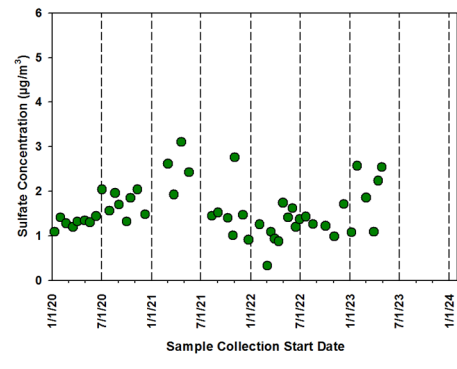
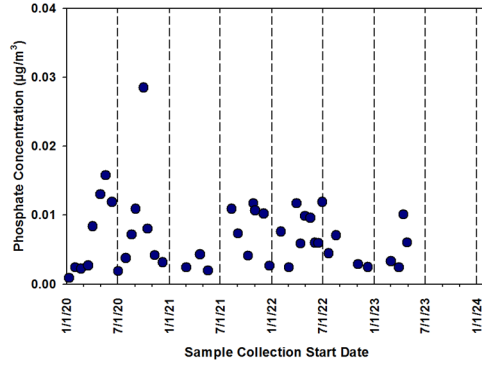
Start Date	Chloride µg/m ³	Nitrate µg/m ³	Phosphate µg/m ³	Sulfate µg/m ³
01/06/23	2.92E-01	1.47E+00	1.95E-03	1.15E+00
01/27/23	6.44E-01	3.79E+00	4.13E-03	2.60E+00
03/01/23	3.52E-01	2.17E+00	3.63E-03	1.76E+00
03/29/23	3.59E-01	1.13E+00	2.32E-03	1.01E+00
04/14/23	3.53E-01	1.80E+00	1.11E-02	1.82E+00
04/28/23	4.60E-01	3.23E+00	6.03E-03	2.74E+00



Sample Type: Cactus Flats (108), ambient air
 Year: 2023

Analysis Performed: Anions

Start Date	Chloride µg/m ³	Nitrate µg/m ³	Phosphate µg/m ³	Sulfate µg/m ³
01/06/23	3.50E-01	1.55E+00	<MDL	1.08E+00
01/27/23	4.04E-01	3.56E+00	<MDL	2.57E+00
03/01/23	2.51E-01	2.23E+00	3.32E-03	1.86E+00
03/29/23	1.59E-01	1.11E+00	2.43E-03	1.09E+00
04/14/23	3.50E-01	2.01E+00	1.01E-02	2.23E+00
04/28/23	3.79E-01	2.70E+00	6.03E-03	2.54E+00



Internal Dosimetry Group

Number of *in vivo* radiobioassay measurements performed during the reporting period: 2 for WIPP, 14 for the contract radiological personnel and those working in the laboratories located at CEMRC, none for the public participants.

Outreach activities:

The Internal Dosimetry group continues to interact with the general public to encourage citizens to participate in the Lie Down and Be Counted (LDBC) project's lung and whole body in-vivo radiobioassay measurements at CEMRC. CEMRC also promotes awareness of environmental monitoring and research to the general public.

The following activities took place during the reporting period of July 1 to September 30, 2023:

September 14, 2023: Artesia Public Library, 205 W Quay St, Artesia, NM 88210.
Talked to the front desk clerk Mr. Andrew. He was not familiar with WIPP or CEMRC. The LDBC brochures were distributed and information was provided about WIPP and the LDBC program at CEMRC and the fact that the program is freely available to citizens living in the area. He was quite interested and listened to the information about LDBC and the importance of participation.

Contacted the supervisor and worked with him to arrange a presentation at the library on October 21, 2023 from 11 am to 12 pm to discuss environmental monitoring and the contributions of CEMRC.