Radiation Pollution



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WHAT IS RADIOACTIVE POLLUTION?

- Addition of radiation to environment by using radioactive elements .
- Radioactive pollution, like any other kind of pollution, is the release of something Unwanted into the environment and, in this case, the unwanted thing is radioactive material.



- Radioactivity is a natural phenomenon.
- It occurs when overly excited atoms seek stability by emitting energy in the form of radiation.
- The amount of energy and the forms of radiation emitted vary radioactive elements.
- It is due to this variation that the uses of radiation range from powerful tracers of biological, physiological, and geological cycles; to healing medicine; to weapons of mass destruction.

• The process of radioactive decay transforms one element into another.

• There are long chains of naturally occurring transformations.



- At each step the resulting product loses all the characteristics .
- Characteristics such as color, melting point, hardness, even physical state change with each transformation.
- For example, within the U-decay series.

• Radioactive contamination .

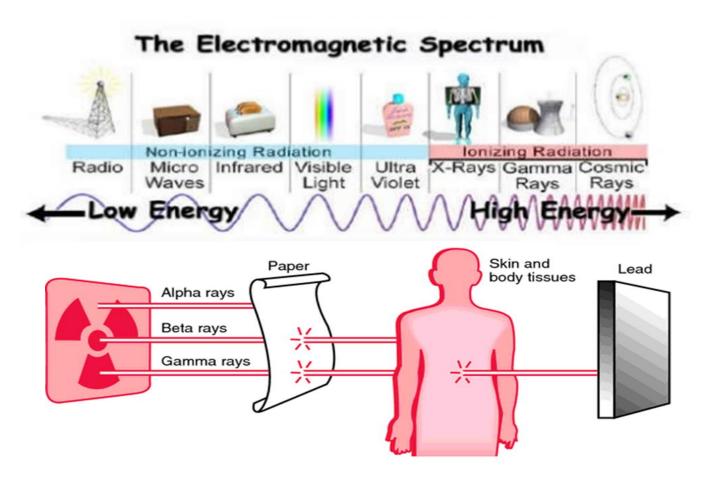
• Such contamination presents a <u>hazard</u> .

• The <u>degree of hazard</u> is determined by:

- 1. the concentration of the contaminants
- 2. the energy of the radiation being emitted
- 3. the type of radiation
- 4. the **proximity** of the contamination to organs of the body .
- Contamination may affect a person, a place, an animal, or an object such as clothing

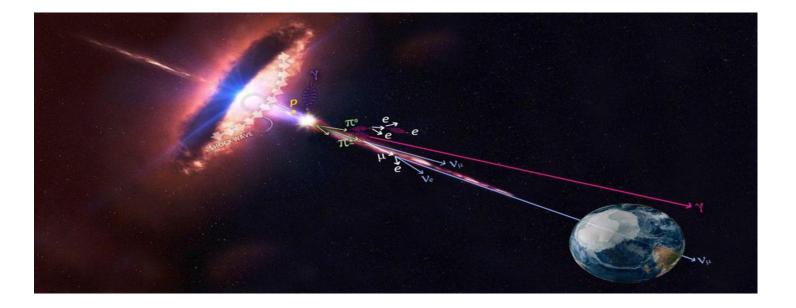
Types of Radiations

- Non-ionizing radiations
- Ionizing radiations



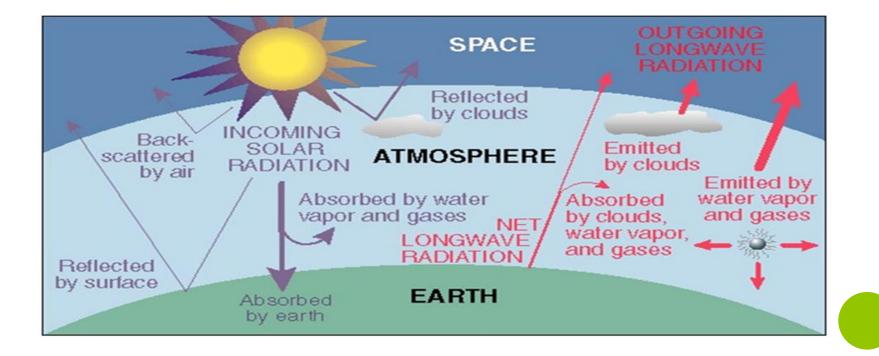
Sources of Radioactive Pollution

Natural sources of radiation:Cosmic rays:

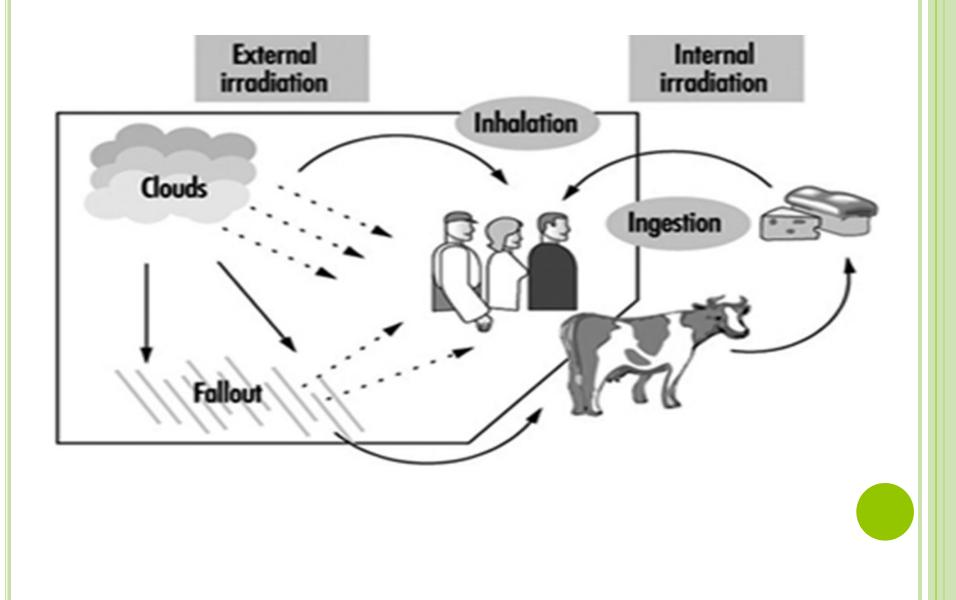


Environmental:

- Terrestrial radiation:
- Atmospheric radiation:



Internal radiation:



Anthropogenic sources of radiation: Human activities mentioned below include in sources of radioactive pollution:

- Nuclear tests
- Nuclear reactors
- Diagnostic medical applications
- Nuclear Wastes
- Nuclear explosions
- Nuclear metal processing



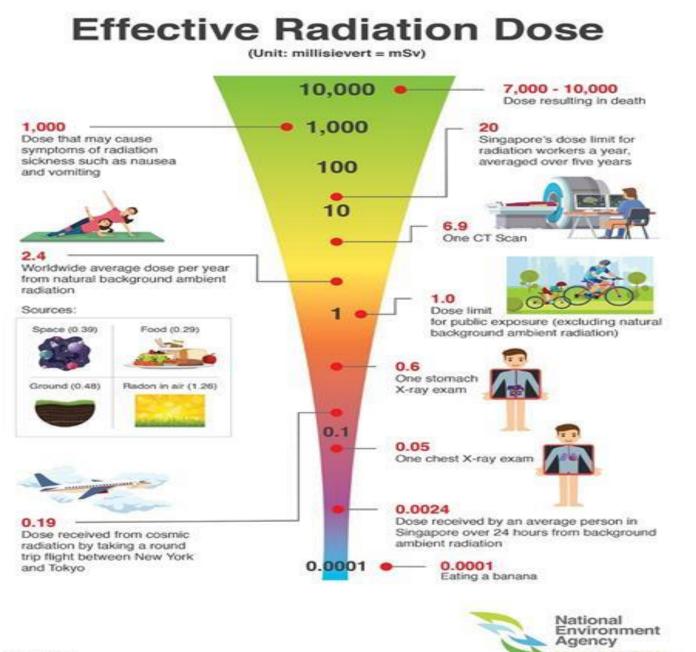
Man-made or artificial sources:

• X rays: Medical and dental X-ray.



• Miscellaneous: some every day appliances such as TV set and luminous wrist watches are radioactive.





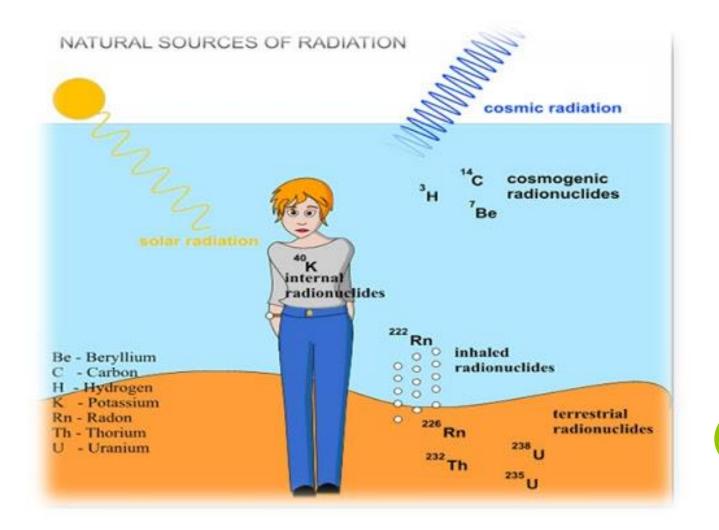
EFFECTS OF RADIOACTIVE POLLUTION

On Human Beings

- The impact of radioactive pollution on human beings can vary from mild to fatal
- Low levels of localized exposure
- Long-term exposure or exposure to high amounts of radiation
- Radioactive rays can cause <u>irreparable damage</u> to DNA

Effect of Radiation

• Effect on Human body



Interaction of radiation with matter

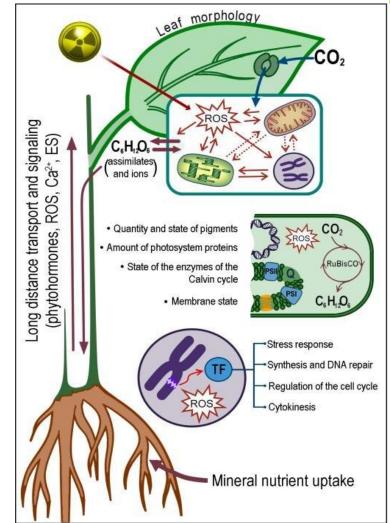
- The interaction of radiation with matter leads to the excitation and ionization of the target material (tissue).
- The effects of dissipating radiation energy in the target tissue include:
- \Box temperature increase
- $\hfill\square$ excitation and ionization of atoms
- \Box the breaking of chemical bonds
- \Box biological effects
- Ionizing radiation is characterized by a large release of energy

Dose (whole-body irradiation)	Effects
<0.25 Gy	No clinically recognizable damage
0.25 Gy	Decrease in white blood cells
0.5 Gy	Increasing destruction of leukocyte-forming organs (causing decreased resistance to infections)
1 Gy	Marked changes in the blood (decrease in the numbers of leukocytes and neutrophils)
2 Gy	Nausea and other symptoms
5 Gy	Damage to the gastrointestinal tract causing bleeding and \sim 50% death
10 Gy	Destruction of the neurological system and ~100% death within 24 h

Environmental radiological protection

There are fundamental differences in determining the risk to humans following exposure to radiation and the risks to a radioactively contaminated environment. ecological risk to nonhuman biota is concerned with plants and animals.

Endpoints for ecological risks are not cancer oriented, but instead include a wide assortment of effects ranging from chromosomal damage to reduced reproductive success.



PREVENTION

- Nuclear devices
- Radio isotopes
- Industrial wastes
- Chimney and ventilations
- Nuclear reactors
- Fission reactions
- Nuclear medicines and radiation therapy



Indoor Plants Help in Absorbing Harmful Radiations

Conclusion

- Overall, nuclear energy has several risks for us and the next generations, and we are living with them and are responsible for them. None of the nuclear plants, wastes, or weapons will disappear in this world because they overwhelmingly need a long time to be safety disposed of, even if we can dispose of them, they are still around us, we just cannot see it.
- So, what we can do is to dwindle the usage of nuclear power for the future. The third nuclear plants(Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, Fukushikma) disaster should be a turning point for us. It is not too late for us to change our goal, although we have a responsibility for nuclear power because we are using it.

