ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESMENT OF TRITIUM RELEASE OVER THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

P. Castro[1], M. Velarde[2], L.A. Sedano[1], J.Ardao[3], J.M. Perlado[2]

[1] *Laboratorio Nacional de Fusión, CIEMAT Avda. Complutense 22,28040-Madrid, Spain*

[2] *Instituto Fusión Nuclear (DENIM) E.T.S.I. Industriales, UPM, 20006-Madrid, Spain*

[3] *Servicio Medioambiental, AEMET, Leonardo Prieto Castro s/n, 28040-Madrid, Spain*

Corresponding author: paloma.castro@ciemat.es

The environmental impact of the tritium effluent emission in an ITER-like type reactor can be measured from the knowledge of the real boundary conditions of the primary phase after the tritium discharge to the boundary layer, low and medium levels of the atmosphere and terrestrial medium. That phase has been modeled by using the real meteorological data both at surface and low and middle levels. We have developed an advance simulation tool that transfers the processes under the base of the High Resolution Limited Area Model (HIRLAM) and also with European Centre Medium range Weather integrated Forecasting system (ECMWF). These last data are coupled to the tritium discharge code in normal operational conditions and in the accidental cases, in particular: Tritium Plant, Vacuum Vessel Active Cooling System or DBA.

Real time meteorological data, including satellite derived products of MSG as infrared, visible water vapour and air mass products, regional and composite radar imagery for precipitation and some real wind observations have been used. To make this exercise and analyze consequences, we used our good access to extensive data bank for surroundings of Vandellós NPP (Spain). Those data are measured during half year, giving the changes in the wind direction towards the interior of the peninsula (e.g. due to Mediterranean cyclogenesis and south winds) or its discharge to the Mediterranean Sea (e.g. in case of other waves with north component winds). Backwards surface trajectories were analyzed with the Lagrangian particle dispersion model FLEXPART coupled to ECMWF model, and ejected for the forecast fields valid at 9, 12 and 24 hours. Then, we can have a precise idea of the order of magnitude of the dry and humid deposited HT, HTO and others in the zone and some indicators concerning the re-emitted tritium to the atmosphere in the oxidized form. Results of the primary phase are strongly adjusted to the precision of the meteorological changes mainly, but not only, due to the events or accidents, but also in tritium concentration emitted to the atmosphere in normal operation conditions. This probabilistic modeling allows us to obtain results in the secondary phase which will be used for detecting doses to population by inhalation or ingestion within permitted limits.

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