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# RADICAL CHRONICLE

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RSS INFORMATION NOTICE

Spring 1999

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Visit us on the web: [www.usda.gov/da/shmd/rss1.htm](http://www.usda.gov/da/shmd/rss1.htm)

## Inspections Performed (March-May)

### APHIS

Plum Island, NY

### ARS

San Francisco, CA  
E. Lansing, MI  
Plum Island, NY  
Klingertown, PA  
Wyndmoor, PA

### FS

Irvine, PA

### NRCS

Riverhead, NY

## Violations Cited

- ✓ Nuclear gauge transported over public roads shipping papers did not contain the correct information.  
***Shipping papers must identify the quantity of radioactive material in SI units (not millicuries.)***
  
- ✓ Radioactive material found that was not listed on any permit holder's inventory.  
***Radioactive material (with the exception of check sources and liquid scintillation counter standards) at a facility must be listed on the inventory of the permit holder who is responsible for that inventory.***

## Tentative Inspection Schedule (May-August)

### ARS

Fort Collins, CO  
Aberdeen, ID  
Frederick, MD  
Bend, OR  
Corvallis, OR  
Eugene, OR  
Pendleton, OR  
Pullman, WA  
Cheyenne, WY

### FS

Boise, ID  
Moscow, ID

### NRCS

Beckley, WV

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Parkersburg, WV

## Quarterly Surveys

Quarterly surveys are required to be submitted each quarter of the year to the Radiation Safety Staff. These surveys should be a copy of one of the surveys that has been performed during the quarter. You do not have to use the survey diagram that is mailed to you. You must however, attach the cover sheet when you send the survey to RSS. The surveys can be any format you choose as long as the following information is included:

1. Diagram of the lab/storage area.
2. Identity of all isotopes used/stored during the quarter.
3. The results of the wipe taken in units of disintegration per minute (DPM). Results should be identified for each isotope if the counting efficiencies are different. (For example: P-32, H-3, and C-14 have different efficiencies, therefore if all 3 of these isotopes were used or stored in a lab during the quarter, there should be three sets of results indicated on the survey form. The type of counting equipment should also be indicated.
4. Radiation level results should be indicated for all isotopes except tritium. The type of survey meter and calibration date should be indicated.

Additional rooms should not be written on or crossed out on the cover sheet. Changes in rooms (adding/deleting) should be submitted in the writing as a permit amendment request.

All rooms must be approved by the RSS prior to using or storing radioactive material in them.

## RSS Web Site

Our web site address is [www.usda.gov/da/shmd/rss1.htm](http://www.usda.gov/da/shmd/rss1.htm). The following information is currently available on the website: Radiation Safety Handbook; forms; Radiation Safety Committee members; RSS staff information; USDA's NRC licenses; inspection schedule; RADical Chronicle (past and present issues); information on LRPO training classes; and links to other web sites that contain regulatory information, manufacturer's information, and waste disposal.

## Burial Sites

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently amended the USDA's radioactive material license to remove two USDA burial sites. The burial sites located at the Grazinglands Research Laboratory in El Reno, Oklahoma and the Range and Livestock Research Laboratory in Miles City, Montana have been released for unrestricted use.

Solid waste containing tritium, iodine-125 and chromium-51 was disposed of by land burial between 1988 and 1994 at the Grazinglands Research Laboratory.

Disposals of tritium, iodine-125, iodine-131, carbon-14, and chromium-51 in the form of dry solid laboratory trash, liquid, animal urine/feces, and liquid scintillation vials were made between

1972 and 1981 at Range and Livestock Laboratory.

The RSS used a screening methodology developed by the NRC to determine the radiation doses to the general public from these sites. Based on this methodology, the dose from each of these sites to the general public was less than 100 millirem per year.

### How to Contact Us

NAME	TITLE	TELEPHONE#	E-MAIL
John Jensen	Director	(301) 504-2440	jjensen@rss.usda.gov
John Elliott	Permits Operations Chief	(301) 504-2443	jelliott@rss.usda.gov
Katina Jones	Health Physics Technician	(301) 504-2444	kjones@rss.usda.gov
Jack Patterson	Health Physicist	(301) 504-2445	jpatterson@rss.usda.gov
Lori Powell	Health Physicist	(301) 504-2446	lpowell@rss.usda.gov
Daniel Sharp	Health Physicist	(301) 504-2447	dsharp@rss.usda.gov
Rachel Scott	Office Automation Clerk	(301) 504-2442	rscott@rss.usda.gov
Nicole Smith	Permit Processing Assistant	(301) 504-2463	nsmith@rss.usda.gov

FAX : (301) 504-2450

Website : [www.usda.gov/da/shmd/rss1.htm](http://www.usda.gov/da/shmd/rss1.htm)

Address: USDA/HRM/SHMD/RSS  
Mail Stop 5510  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue

**Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5510**

In Case of Emergency please contact one of the Health Physicists:

**Jack Patterson: (240) 463-0433**

**Lori Powell: (240) 463-0431**

**Dan Sharp: (240) 463-0430**