

Environmental Emissions Data for Nuclear Waste Management - Bruce Site

Q2 2020

OVERVIEW

This report summarizes the environmental emissions data for Q2 2020 for OPG’s Nuclear Waste Management operations located at the Bruce Nuclear Power Development site in Bruce County. OPG’s Western Waste Management Facility stores low and intermediate level radioactive waste from the operation of OPG and Bruce Power nuclear reactors. The low level waste is stored as is, compacted or incinerated. The facility also provides used fuel dry storage for the Bruce Power reactors. OPG’s Radioactive Waste Operations Site 1 stores low and intermediate level radioactive waste.

This report includes:

- Radioactive Effluents: Releases to air and water remained well below the regulatory limits.
- Perimeter Dose Rate Monitoring: Results demonstrate radiation exposures were within the regulatory limit.
- Groundwater Monitoring: OPG continued to analyze groundwater results to examine trends.
- Waste Incinerator: Emissions testing results confirmed compliance with air quality standards.
- Spills to the Environment: There were no spills to the environment that were reportable to a regulatory authority.

Note: The contents of this report are consistent with environmental data OPG is required to provide to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on a quarterly basis. These reporting requirements are periodically revised.

ENVIRONMENTAL EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT

OPG has an environmental management program to ensure its activities are conducted in a manner that minimizes any adverse impact on the public and the environment. OPG’s environmental program conforms to CNSC requirements for environmental protection and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard for environmental management systems. The quality assurance programs for OPG’s chemistry and health physics laboratories conform to the requirements of national and international standards.

As part of OPG’s environmental management program, OPG has established an effluent monitoring and control program that is based on the “ALARA” principle. That is, measures are in place to ensure emissions to the environment are kept As Low As Reasonably Achievable while taking social and economic factors into account.

Public Radiation Dose Data

Annual assessments of environmental radiological data for the Bruce Nuclear Power Development site, including OPG’s waste facilities, are available at:

www.brucepower.com/resources-and-publications/reports

MONITORING OF RADIOACTIVE EFFLUENTS

Release Limits & Action Levels

OPG uses **radiation dose limits** specified in federal legislation to derive Release Limits for the radionuclides that may be released to air and water from its nuclear facilities. OPG’s Western Waste Management Facility must maintain its radiological emissions well below these limits to meet the terms of its operating licence.

OPG also sets Action Levels that are much lower than the Release Limits to identify and control emissions before a limit can be reached.

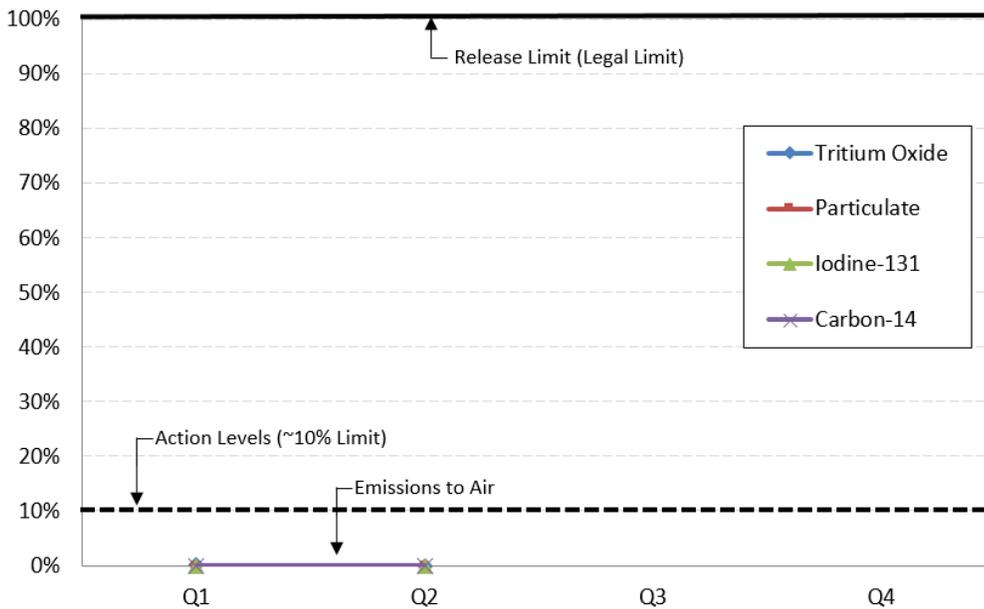
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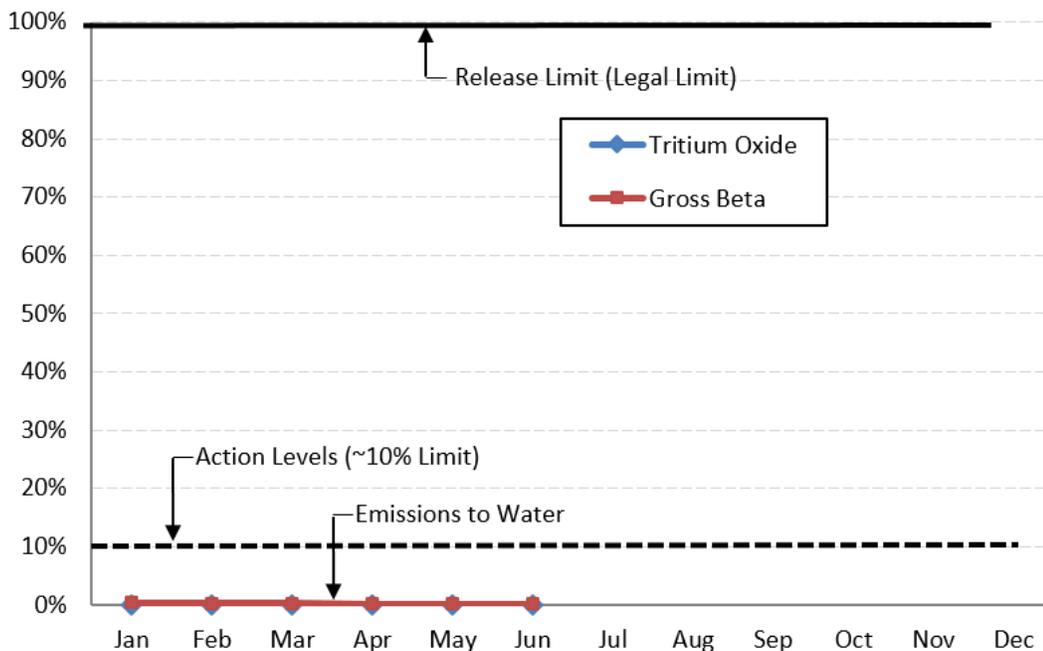
Performance Results

Emissions from the Western Waste Management Facility are monitored to track performance. For Q2 2020, radiological emissions to air and water remained less than one per cent of the Release Limits and no Action Levels were exceeded. (Appendix A, Tables A.1 and A.2) The following graphs show radiological emissions for the year to date as a percentage of the Release Limits.

Air Emissions as a Per Cent of Release Limits



Water Emissions as a Per Cent of Release Limits



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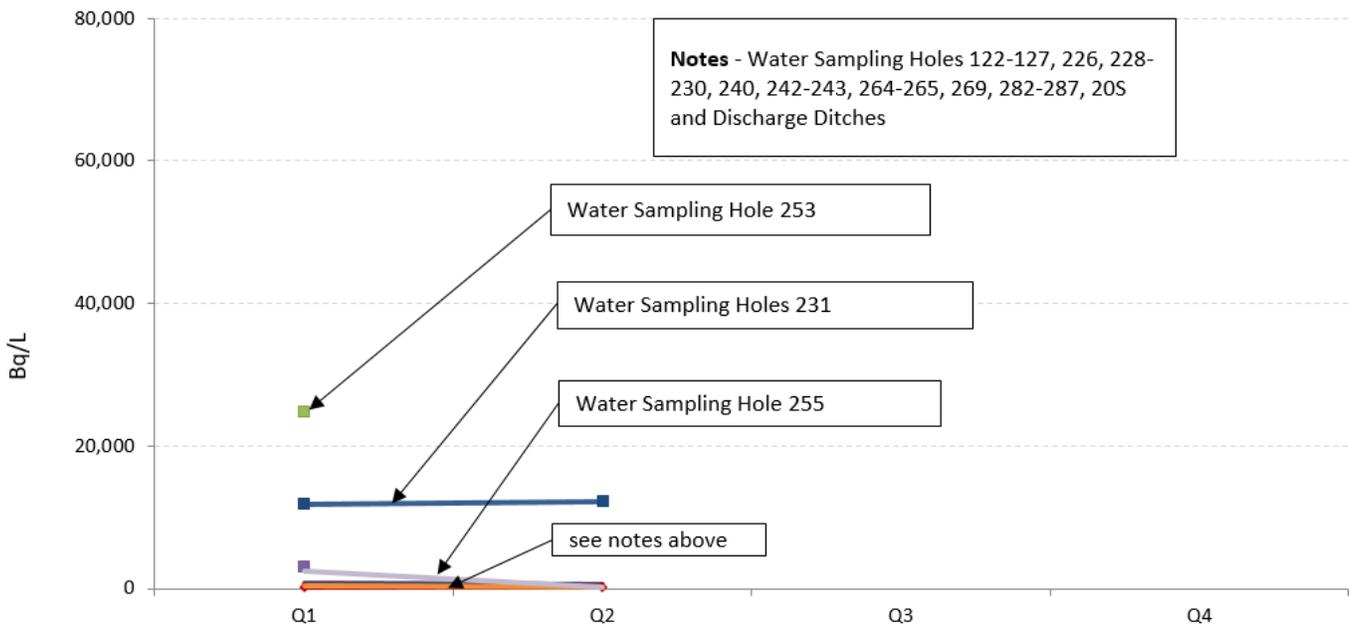
PERIMETER DOSE RATE MONITORING

Average ambient dose rates are measured at perimeter fences by Thermoluminescent Dosimeters to demonstrate that radiation exposures to non-Nuclear Energy Workers and members of the public are as low as reasonably achievable. (Appendix A, Table A.3)

GROUNDWATER MONITORING

Groundwater monitoring is conducted in and around the Western Waste Management Facility and the Radioactive Waste Operations Site 1 waste storage structures to analyze water quality. (Appendix A, Tables A.4 and A.5) The following graph shows average quarterly tritium concentration results for the year to date. Tritium concentrations at Water Sampling Hole (WSH) 231 remain elevated but show a decreasing trend since 2010, with seasonal variation. Elevated tritium concentrations at WSH 253 is expected as it is located up-gradient of WSH 231 and is closer to the tritium source. A few temporary changes were made to the sampling program as a result of the Provincial response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Routine sampling was decreased for Q2 2020 to minimize site presence at the WWMF during the pandemic.

Groundwater Monitoring Tritium Concentration Results



WASTE INCINERATOR EMISSIONS TESTING

The results of annual emissions testing performed at the Waste Volume Reduction Facility in 2017 indicated the facility is in compliance with Ontario air quality standards. (Appendix A, Table A.6). The Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks exempted OPG from testing the facility in 2018 and 2019 due to the extended or forced incinerator outage. Testing to resume in the fall of 2020.

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SPILLS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

OPG has extensive programs to ensure the risk of spills to the environment is effectively assessed and managed. All spills are reported by OPG to the appropriate federal, provincial and municipal authorities as required.

OPG classifies its reportable spills as Category A, B or C spills based on the actual or potential impacts. Category A spills are considered very serious due to the scale of injury or damage, health effects, or safety impairment. Category B spills are considered serious due to localized injury or impacts to property. Category C spills are all other reportable spills that are less serious than Category A and B spills.

There were no reportable spills at the Nuclear Waste Management site in Q2 2020.

APPENDIX A

ENVIRONMENTAL EMISSIONS DATA

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Table A.1: Airborne Radionuclide Releases^(a)

	Tritium Oxide (Bq)	Particulate (Bq)	Iodine-131 (Bq)	Carbon-14^(b) (Bq)
SUMMARY: ANNUAL				
Release Limit (Bq/year)^(c)	3.45 x 10 ¹⁷	6.65 x 10 ¹¹	1.99 x 10 ¹²	2.41 x 10 ¹⁵
Total Releases As of Q2 2020	1.12 x 10 ¹³	0	0	2.81 x 10 ¹⁰
DETAILS: QUARTERLY^(d)				
Action Level (Bq/week)^(e)	6.91 x 10 ¹⁴	1.33 x 10 ⁹	3.98 x 10 ⁹	4.82 x 10 ¹²
Q1 ^(f)	6.76 x 10 ¹²	0	0	2.74 x 10 ¹⁰
Q2	4.39 x 10 ¹²	0	0	6.92 x 10 ⁸

- (a) The Waste Volume Reduction Building radioactive waste incinerator stack and ventilation exhaust stack are monitored for tritium, particulate, and iodine-131 emissions. The incinerator stack is also monitored for carbon-14 emissions. The Transportation Package Maintenance Building ventilation stack is monitored for tritium and particulate emissions. The Used Fuel Dry Storage Facility ventilation stack is monitored for particulate emissions.
- (b) Carbon-14 emissions are impacted by the in-service time of the incinerator. In 2018, OPG initiated an effluent monitoring assessment project to reassess the effluent monitoring program at the facility. The project is in final phase and results are expected in 2020. The project findings will be used to determine the routine effluent monitoring and reporting requirements for C-14 fugitive emissions.
- (c) The derived Release Limit for a given radionuclide is the release rate of that radionuclide to air or surface water during normal operation of a nuclear facility over the period of a calendar year, which would result in an individual receiving a dose equal to the regulatory annual dose limit for a member of the public. New Release Limits have been implemented for Western Waste Management Facility starting in 2020.
- (d) Releases have been summarized by quarter for this report.
- (e) Exceedances of Action Levels must be reported by OPG to the CNSC. To prevent an Action Level from being reached, OPG has set Internal Investigation Levels that require emissions to be reviewed when they reach the high end of the normal range. Corrective actions are taken if necessary. There were no CNSC Action Level exceedance events in the second quarter of 2020. New Action Levels have been implemented for Western Waste Management Facility starting in 2020.

A becquerel (Bq) is the standard international unit for measuring radioactive decay or radioactivity. One becquerel is the decay of one atom of a radioisotope per second, and is an extremely small amount of radioactivity. Becquerel is a measure of the rate (not energy) of radiation emission from a source.

Another unit of measuring radioactivity is the curie (Ci). 1 Ci = 3.7 x 10¹⁰ Bq.

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Table A.2: Waterborne Radionuclide Releases^(a)

	Tritium Oxide (Bq)	Gross Beta-Gamma (Bq) ^(b)
SUMMARY: ANNUAL		
Release Limit (Bq/year)^(c)	3.59 x 10 ¹⁵	4.01 x 10 ¹⁰
Total Releases as of Q2 2020	9.05 x 10 ¹⁰	4.73 x 10 ⁷
DETAILS: MONTHLY		
Action Level (Bq/month)^(d)	2.87 x 10 ¹³	3.2 x 10 ⁸
January	1.01 x 10 ¹⁰	1.37 x 10 ⁷
February	6.17 x 10 ⁹	9.55 x 10 ⁶
March	1.15 x 10 ¹⁰	9.53 x 10 ⁶
April	2.09 x 10 ¹⁰	4.65 x 10 ⁶
May	2.06 x 10 ¹⁰	4.49 x 10 ⁶
June	2.12 x 10 ¹⁰	5.42 x 10 ⁶

- (a) Various surface and sub-surface water drainage systems service the Western Waste Management Facility. Water is collected at sample stations and is monitored for radioactivity before the water is released to surface water drainage. The weekly samples taken from each sample station are analyzed for tritium and gross beta activity. The results of the individual sample stations are combined and reported as a total emission from the Western Waste Management Facility.
- (b) Monthly release data is gross beta.
- (c) The derived Release Limit for a given radionuclide is the release rate of that radionuclide to air or surface water during normal operation of a nuclear facility over the period of a calendar year, which would result in an individual receiving a dose equal to the regulatory annual dose limit for a member of the public. New Release Limits have been implemented for Western Waste Management Facility starting in 2020.
- (d) Exceedances of Action Levels must be reported by OPG to the CNSC. To prevent an Action Level from being reached, OPG has set Internal Investigation Levels that require emissions to be reviewed when they reach the high end of the normal range. Corrective actions are taken if necessary. There were no CNSC Action Level exceedance events in the second quarter of 2020. New Action Levels have been implemented for Western Waste Management Facility starting in 2020.

Table A.3: Perimeter Fence Dose Rates

Location		Average Air Kerma Rate (μGy/hour) ^(a)
		Q2
Radioactive Waste Operations Site 1	1	0.045
	1A	0.043
	2	0.045
	2A	0.044
	3	0.041
	4	0.042
	4A	0.043

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Location		Average Air Kerma Rate ($\mu\text{Gy}/\text{hour}$) ^(a)
		Q2
Western Low and Intermediate Level Waste Storage Facility	5	0.043
	8	0.049
	10	0.039
	11	0.053
	12	0.051
	15	0.053
	16	0.055
	17	0.053
	18	0.051
	19	0.058
	20	0.047
	21	0.049
	22	0.047
	23	0.059
	24	0.053
	25	0.063
	26	0.062
	27	0.058
	28	0.075
29	0.051	
Western Used Fuel Dry Storage Facility	DFSN-1	0.073
	DFSN-2	0.083
	DFSN-3	0.075
	DFSN-4	0.054
	DFSS-1	0.059
	DFSS-2	0.059
	DFSS-3	0.062
	DFSS-4	0.058
	DFSE-1	0.057
	DFSE-2	0.077
	DFSE-3	0.078
	DFSE-4	0.053
	DFSW-1	0.077
	DFSW-2	0.075
DFSW-3	0.069	
DFSW-4	0.049	

(a) Average ambient dose rates are measured at perimeter fences by Thermoluminescent Dosimeters to demonstrate that potential doses due to radiation fields from waste management facility operations are well within allowable limits and pose a negligible risk for the public, the workers and the environment. Dose rate monitoring results are compared to an internal target dose rate standard of 0.5 $\mu\text{Gy}/\text{hour}$. This target is derived from the 1 mSv/year dose limit specified in federal legislation for a member of the public and assumes exposure for a working year (2,000 hours).

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Table A.4: Radioactive Waste Operations Site 1 Groundwater Monitoring Results

		Tritium (Bq/L)	Gross Beta (Bq/L)	Carbon 14 (Bq/L) ^(a)
		Q2	Q2	Q2
WSH 122		1.81 x 10 ²	8.27 x 10 ⁻²	<0.1
WSH 123		4.42 x 10 ²	5.70 x 10 ⁻²	<0.1
WSH 205		1.99 x 10 ²	6.23 x 10 ⁻²	<0.1
WSH 124		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 125		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 126		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 127		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
DD (N) ^{(b)(c)}	April	2.18 x 10 ²	1.32 x 10 ⁻¹	N/A
	May	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	N/A
	June	1.88 x 10 ²	8.25 x 10 ⁻²	N/A
DD (S) ^{(b)(c)}	April	1.76 x 10 ²	7.80 x 10 ⁻²	N/A
	May	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	N/A
	June	1.65 x 10 ²	6.53 x 10 ⁻²	N/A

- (a) Values prefixed by an “<” indicate that reported results were less than the minimum detectable limit.
- (b) Discharge Ditches (DD) are surface water sampling points and are sampled monthly.
- (c) Routine sampling was decreased for Q2 2020 to minimize site presence at the WWMF during the pandemic.

Table A.5: Western Waste Management Facility Groundwater Monitoring Results

		Tritium (Bq/L)	Gross Beta (Bq/L)	Carbon 14 (Bq/L) ^(a)
		Q2	Q2	Q2
WSH 226 ^(c)		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 228 ^(c)		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 229		6.26 x 10 ²	1.07 x 10 ⁻¹	0.2
WSH 230		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 231 ^(b)	April	1.30 x 10 ⁴	3.35 x 10 ⁻¹	N/A
	May	1.08 x 10 ⁴	8.01 x 10 ⁻²	N/A
	June	1.28 x 10 ⁴	1.73 x 10 ⁻¹	N/A
WSH 240 ^(c)		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 242 ^(c)		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 243		2.81 x 10 ²	1.72 x 10 ⁻¹	<0.1
WSH 253 ^(b)		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	N/A
WSH 255 ^(b)		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	N/A
WSH 264 ^(c)		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 265 ^(c)		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 269		2.90 x 10 ²	2.41	N/A
WSH 282 ^(c)		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 283 ^(c)		Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled

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	Tritium (Bq/L)	Gross Beta (Bq/L)	Carbon 14 (Bq/L) ^(a)
	Q2	Q2	Q2
WSH 284 ^(c)	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 285 ^(c)	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 286 ^(c)	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
WSH 287 ^(c)	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled

- (a) Values prefixed by an “<” indicate that reported results were less than the minimum detectable limit.
- (b) Water Sampling Holes are sampled on a quarterly basis, except for WSH 231 which is sampled monthly. It has been determined the source of the tritium at WSH 231 is evaporated water from waste in the Low Level Storage Buildings, which has likely migrated as condensate via underground electrical infrastructure. Various mitigating measures have been taken and the tritium concentration at WSH 231 shows a decreasing trend, with seasonal variations. WSH 253 and WSH 255 were incorporated into the groundwater monitoring program in 2017 and are used to monitor the extent of the tritium migration.
- (c) Routine sampling was decreased for Q2 2020 to minimize site presence at the WWMF during the pandemic.

Table A.6: Annual Waste Incinerator Emission Test Results and Emission Criteria^(a)

Stack Gas Concentration Criterion	Maximum Allowable Value	2017 Test Average Value
Total Hydrocarbons (as CH ₄)	50 ppm	0.8 ppm
Particulate Matter	14 mg/Rm ³	0.95 mg/Rm ³
Mercury	20 µg/Rm ³	<0.22 µg/Rm ³
Isomers of Dioxins and Furans	80 pg TEQ/Rm ³	2.04 pg TEQ/Rm ³ / 2.33 (including dioxin-like PCBs)
Hydrogen Chloride	27 mg/Rm ³	20.91 mg/Rm ³
Nitrogen Oxides (as NO ₂)	198 mg/Rm ³	126.06 mg/Rm ³
Carbon Monoxide	25 ppm	2.5 ppm

- (a) The results of an emission testing program performed in October 2017 indicated the Western Waste Management Facility Waste Volume Reduction Facility was operating well within compliance for all Ontario Environmental Protection Act, Ontario Regulation 419/05 standards and point of impingement guidelines based on ground level point of impingement concentrations. This testing is required annually to meet Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Environmental Compliance Approval requirements. The Ministry granted OPG an exemption from source testing in 2018 and 2019 due to the extended/forced incinerator outage schedule. Annual testing is to resume in the Fall of 2020.