Radioactive Sources in Your Community

Michael Snee
Bureau of Environmental Health & Radiation Protection
Ohio Department of Health

OEMA Fall Conference
October 18, 2018
Radioactive sources in your community

- How is radioactive material regulated in Ohio?
- What are the uses of radioactive material?
- Where are radioactive sources and devices in Ohio?
- What do these sources and devices look like?
Federally regulated RAM
Federally regulated RAM

- Nuclear power plants
- Military
- VA hospitals
- General Dynamics
- Department of Energy facilities
State regulated RAM

On August 31, 1999 the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission transferred the regulatory oversight of most radioactive material users in the state to Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Health is the designated Ohio radiation control agency.
What are the uses of radioactive material?

- Medical Uses - use of radioactive materials to monitor, image, or treat metabolic processes or tissues in humans.

- Veterinary Uses - use of radioactive materials to treat animals.
What are the uses of radioactive material?

- **Academic and Research Uses** - use of radioactive materials in universities, colleges, and other academic institutions for course work, laboratory demonstrations, and research.

- **Industrial Uses** - the use of radioactive materials in industrial devices such as irradiators, gauging devices, well-logging devices, and industrial radiography systems.
What are the uses of radioactive material?

- Product Manufacturing and Distribution – manufacturing of products containing radioactive materials to other licensees and members of the public.
- Exempt Consumer Product Uses - products containing radioactive materials whose use is exempt from regulation and that are available in the marketplace to the public.
• There are thousands of devices containing radioactive material in use in Ohio.
• ODH licenses and inspects 1092 sites where radioactive material is used (465 medical and 627 industrial).
• These are the ones that we know about......
• RAM licensees are inspected on a routine basis by ODH.

• The risk of the material determines the frequency of inspection. Annually to 5 year inspection cycles.
Licensees with certain material are subject to increased security regulations.

The security requirements are meant to provide reasonable assurance of preventing the theft or diversion of the most risk-significant quantities of radioactive materials (IAEA Category 1 and Category 2 quantities of radioactive materials).
Where are radioactive sources and devices in Ohio?
Where are radioactive sources and devices in Ohio?

- 82 of 88 counties have sites where radioactive material is used or stored.
- Cuyahoga – 130 sites
- Franklin – 112 sites
- Hamilton - 87 sites
Jackson 2009
Contact Information

Michael Snee
Bureau of Environmental Health & Radiation Protection
Ohio Department of Health

(614) 644-2727
Michael.Snee@odh.ohio.gov
Bradiation@odh.ohio.gov