Message

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Sent: 11/11/2021 3:16:44 AM
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Subject: Range of literature values described in the 2020 soil background report

Paul –

The June 2020 FINAL BACKGROUND SOIL STUDY REPORT includes a table (Table 7-2) which provides a "range of literature values" for six HPNS radionuclides of concern in "background soil" in the United States." The reported range for strontium-90 in soil is 0.069 – 0.75 pCi/g. A footnote to the table lists eight reports as sources of information for the reported range of literature values.

The report indicates that the ranges were informed by a "review of analytical results of ROCs and NORM constituents, analytical methods, soil lithology, and geographic latitude," but does not explain which data from the eight studies were used to develop the reported ranges. I note that the most recent of the cited studies, a 2011 report on sampling of background areas near the Santa Susana Field Laboratory in southern California, reports surficial Sr-90 soil background concentrations ranging from non-detect to 0.084 pCi/g.

Can you provide additional information on the basis for the range of literature values reported in the HPNS background report for strontium-90 in soil? Thanks.

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