

The Radiological Release on Feb 14, 2014

13
Employees

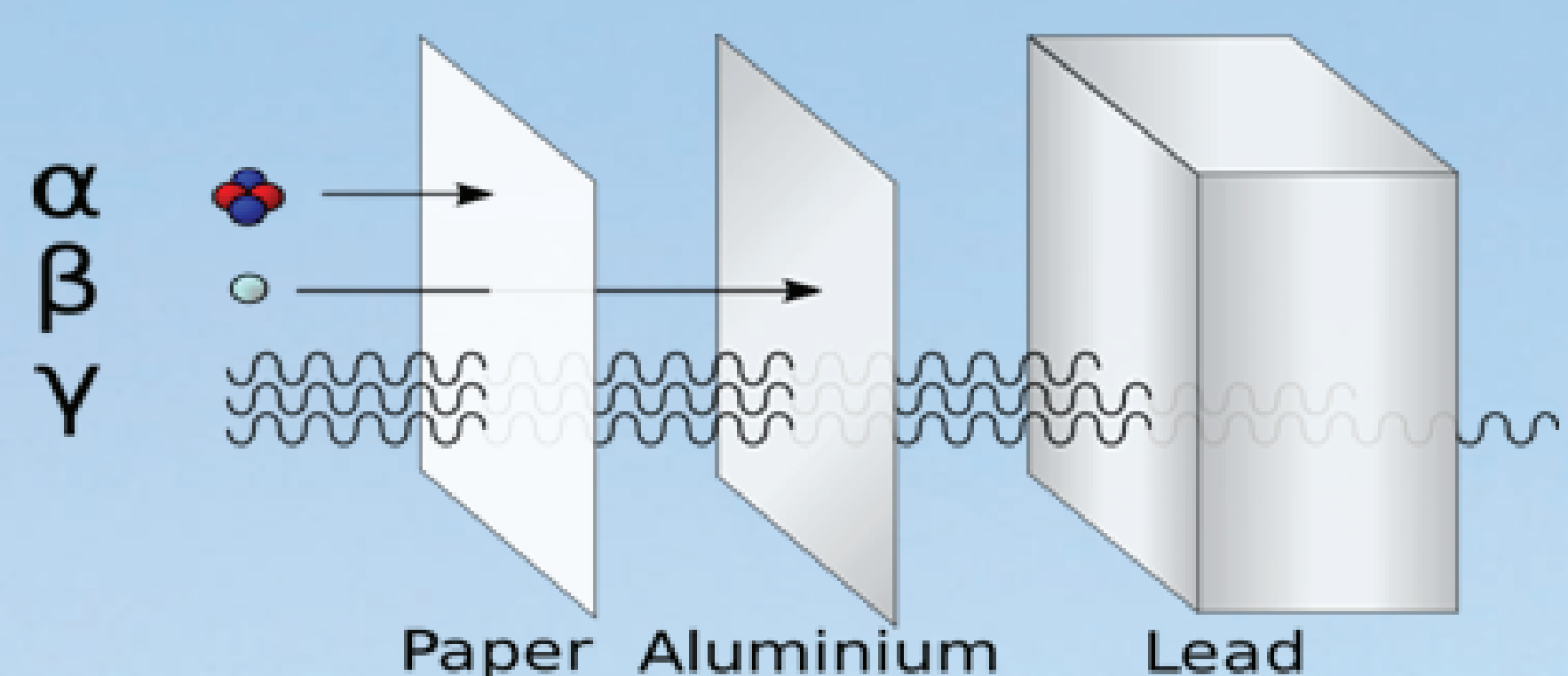
were notified after the release that they received internal contamination. Further biological sample results of the employees have shown negative results for contamination, meaning exposure levels were extremely low, and the employees are unlikely to experience any health effects as a result.

Information we have would indicate there is no offsite exposure risk

- Offsite sampling indicates radioactive levels only slightly above “background” at one location 0.6 miles from the site boundary. Background is defined as naturally-occurring radiation that is always present in our environment.
- All indicators are that this was a one-time event. The event was detected by an underground continuous air monitor (CAM) that was in the vicinity of the event and has not re-occurred.
- Our safety systems are engaged and continue to operate.
- Offsite sampling indicates that background levels are returning to normal.

- Tests indicate workers inhaled radioactivity-emitting particles.
- Time/distance/shielding are valuable protective methods for external radioactivity. Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) may be necessary to prevent inhalation of loose radioactive particles that can present internal health dangers.
- The site is in the process of determining the cause of the event and the next steps to remedy it.

Worker exposure and onsite response



Because alpha particles (α) can be stopped by clothing/skin/paper, they pose the greatest danger when they are inhaled/ingested. (Beta and gamma shown only for comparison. They are not related to this event)



U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management

