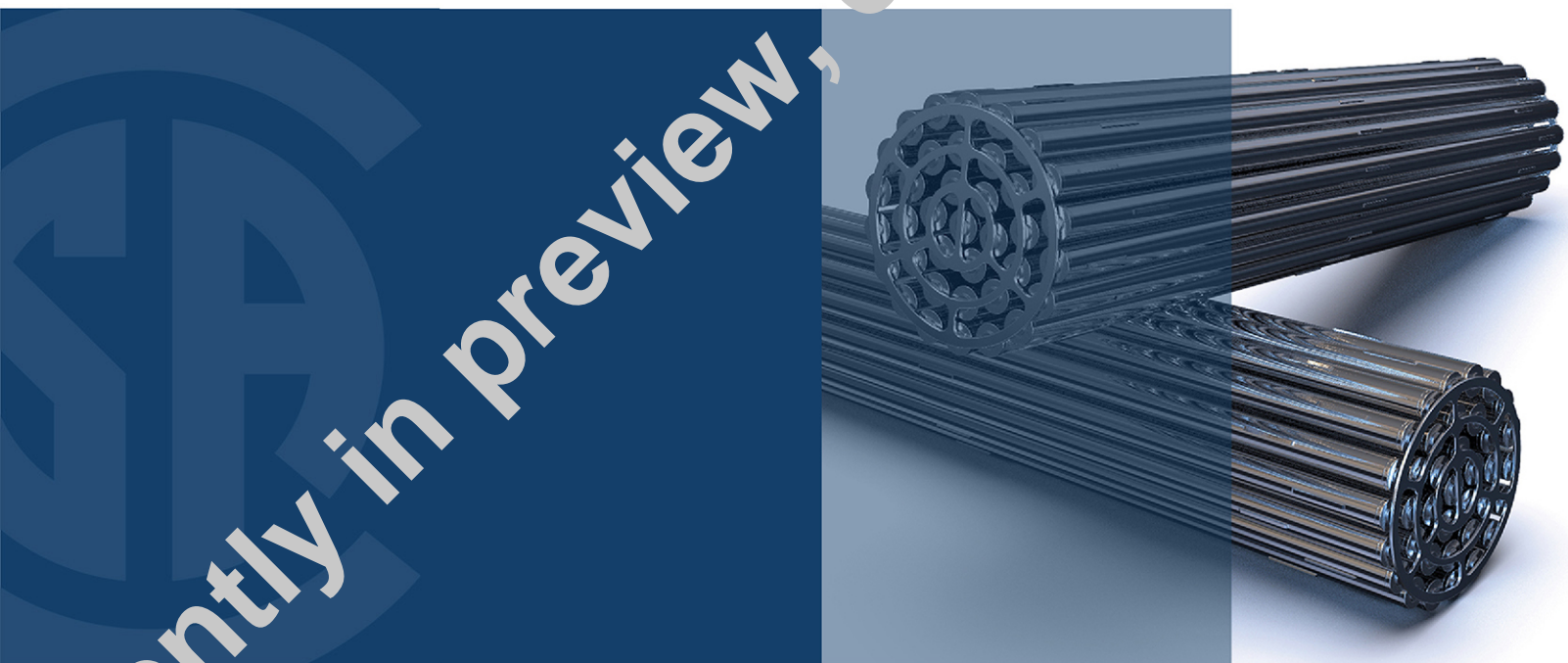


Environmental risk assessments at nuclear facilities and uranium mines and mills



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Contents

Technical Committee on Environmental Management for Nuclear Facilities	5
Subcommittee on Environmental Risk Assessments at Class I Nuclear Facilities and Uranium Mines and Mills	8
Preface	10
0 Introduction	12
0.1 Environmental risk assessment	12
0.1.1 General	12
0.1.2 Need for an ERA	12
0.1.3 HHRA	13
0.1.4 EcoRA	13
0.1.5 Risk-based recommendations	13
0.2 Levels of complexity	13
0.3 Basic concepts	14
0.3.1 Radiation dose limits	14
0.3.2 Benchmark values	14
0.3.3 Receptors	14
0.3.4 Conceptual models	15
0.3.5 Assessment and measurement endpoints	15
1 Scope	16
1.1 Facilities	16
1.1.1 Types of facilities	16
1.1.2 Facility lifecycle	16
1.2 Operating conditions	16
1.3 Releases	17
1.4 Fate and transport	17
1.5 Contaminants and physical stressors	17
1.6 Receptors	17
1.7 Risk management	17
1.8 Reporting	17
1.9 Terminology	18
2 Reference publications	18
3 Definitions and abbreviations	30
3.1 Definitions	30
3.2 Abbreviations	35
4 ERA objectives and report format	37
4.1 ERA objectives	37
4.2 ERA report format	37
5 ERA framework, tiers, and timelines	37
5.1 Types of ERAs	37

5.2	Framework	37
5.3	Tiers of assessment	38
5.3.1	General	38
5.3.2	Screening level risk assessment	41
5.3.3	Preliminary quantitative risk assessment	41
5.3.4	Detailed quantitative risk assessment	41
5.4	Risk assessment updates	42
6	Human health risk assessments	42
6.1	General	42
6.2	Problem formulation	42
6.2.1	General	42
6.2.2	Site characterization	42
6.2.3	Receptor selection and characterization	43
6.2.4	Assessment and measurement endpoints	44
6.2.5	Selection of chemical, radiological, and other stressors	45
6.2.6	Selection of exposure pathways	46
6.2.7	Human health conceptual model	48
6.3	Exposure assessment	49
6.3.1	General	49
6.3.2	Exposure locations	49
6.3.3	Exposure frequency, duration, and averaging	49
6.3.4	Dose calculation methods	50
6.3.5	Transfer factors, exposure factors, and dose coefficients	57
6.3.6	Modelled versus measured exposure concentrations	61
6.3.7	Models	61
6.3.8	Exposure point concentrations and doses	62
6.4	Toxicity assessment	62
6.4.1	General	62
6.4.2	Radiological toxicity assessments	62
6.4.3	Non-radiological toxicity assessment	62
6.4.4	Reference concentrations, reference doses, and slope factors (non-radiological)	63
6.4.5	Radiation dose limits and targets	64
6.4.6	Other criteria (air quality and noise)	64
6.5	Risk characterization	64
6.5.1	General	64
6.5.2	Risk estimation	65
6.5.3	Other lines of evidence	67
7	Ecological risk assessments	67
7.1	General	67
7.2	Problem formulation	67
7.2.1	General	67
7.2.2	Site characterization	67
7.2.3	Receptor selection and characterization	68
7.2.4	Assessment and measurement endpoints	70
7.2.5	Selection of chemical, radiological, and other stressors	74
7.2.6	Selection of exposure pathways	77
7.2.7	Ecological conceptual model	77

7.3	Exposure assessment	79
7.3.1	General	79
7.3.2	Exposure points/locations	79
7.3.3	Exposure frequency, duration, and averaging	79
7.3.4	Dose calculation methods	81
7.3.5	Transfer factors, exposure factors, and dose coefficients	86
7.3.6	Modelled versus measured exposure concentrations	88
7.3.7	Models	88
7.3.8	Exposure point concentrations and doses	89
7.4	Effects assessment	89
7.4.1	General	89
7.4.2	Radiological benchmarks	89
7.4.3	Toxicological benchmarks	89
7.4.4	Thermal benchmarks	91
7.5	Risk characterization	92
7.5.1	General	92
7.5.2	Risk estimation	93
7.5.3	Other lines of evidence	94
7.5.4	Thermal effects	94
7.5.5	Wildlife-vehicle and bird-structure mortalities effects	96
8	Evaluation of uncertainty	96
8.1	General	96
8.2	Identifying and evaluating uncertainty	96
8.2.1	Rationale	96
8.2.2	Identification of uncertainties	97
8.2.3	Quantitative evaluation of uncertainty	97
8.2.4	Sources of uncertainty	97
8.2.5	Degree of uncertainty	97
8.2.6	Uncertainty factors	98
8.2.7	Surrogate values	98
8.2.8	Combined uncertainty	98
8.3	Probabilistic risk assessment	98
8.3.1	Rationale	98
8.3.2	Sensitivity analysis	98
8.3.3	Distribution of values	99
8.3.4	Uncertainty in human health	100
8.3.5	Uncertainty in ecological receptors	100
9	Risk-based recommendations	100
9.1	General	100
9.2	Recommendations for monitoring	100
9.3	Recommendations for risk management or remediation	100
10	Quality assurance and quality control	100
10.1	Scope and rationale	100
10.2	Purpose	101
10.3	EMP data	101

11	Periodic review of the ERA	101
11.1	Scope of review	101
11.2	ERA predictions	102
11.3	EMP review frequency	102

Annex A (informative)	— Suggested table of contents for an environmental risk assessment report	103
Annex B (informative)	— Environmental risk assessment frameworks	108
Annex C (informative)	— Site characterization components	109
Annex D (informative)	— Receptor terminology in human health risk assessments	111
Annex E (informative)	— Sample portions of the conceptual site model section of an environmental risk assessment	112
Annex F (informative)	— Sample dose and risk calculations	123
Annex G (informative)	— Supplementary information on toxicological reference values in human health risk assessments	141
Annex H (informative)	— Indigenous and other representative persons for populations with significant reliance on country and traditional foods	144

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Preface

This is the second edition of CSA N288.6, *Environmental risk assessments at nuclear facilities and uranium mines and mills*. It supersedes the previous edition published in 2012.

It is part of the CSA N288 series of Standards and guidelines on environmental management of nuclear facilities.

The major changes in this edition include the following:

- a) alignment with the CSA N288 series of Standards; and
- b) improved guidance and clarity.

The CSA N series of Standards provides an interlinked set of requirements for the management of nuclear facilities and activities. CSA N286-12, *Management system requirements for nuclear power plants*, provides overall direction to management to develop and implement sound management practices and controls, while the other CSA nuclear Standards provide specific technical requirements and guidance that support the management system. This Standard, which addresses the design, implementation, and management of an environmental risk assessment program that incorporates best practices used in Canada and internationally, works in harmony with CSA N286 and does not duplicate the generic requirements of CSA N286; however, it might provide more specific direction for those requirements.

Users of this Standard are reminded that additional and site-specific requirements might be specified by federal, provincial/territorial, or municipal authorities. This Standard should not be considered a replacement for the requirements contained in any

- a) applicable federal or provincial/territorial statute, including the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*; or
- b) regulation, licence, or permit issued pursuant to an applicable statute.

This Standard was prepared by the Subcommittee on Environmental Risk Assessments at Class I Nuclear Facilities and Uranium Mines and Mills, under the jurisdiction of the Technical Committee on Environmental Management for Nuclear Facilities and the Nuclear Strategic Steering Committee, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

Notes:

- 1) *Use of the singular does not exclude the plural (and vice versa) when the sense allows.*
- 2) *Although the intended primary application of this Standard is stated in its Scope, it is important to note that it remains the responsibility of the users of the Standard to judge its suitability for their particular purpose.*
- 3) *This Standard was developed by consensus, which is defined by CSA Policy governing standardization — Code of good practice for standardization as “substantial agreement. Consensus implies much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity”. It is consistent with this definition that a member may be included in the Technical Committee list and yet not be in full agreement with all clauses of this Standard.*
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 - c) *wording of the proposed change; and*
 - d) *rationale for the change.*

CSA N288.6:22

Environmental risk assessments at nuclear facilities and uranium mines and mills

0 Introduction

0.1 Environmental risk assessment

0.1.1 General

0.1.1.1

Environmental risk assessment (ERA) of nuclear facilities is a systematic process used to identify, quantify, and characterize the risk posed by contaminants and physical stressors in the environment on biological receptors, including the magnitude and extent of the potential effects associated with a facility. Receptors should include humans as well as non-human biota (see Clause [0.3.3](#)). Human receptors are addressed through a human health risk assessment (HHRA) and non-human biota are addressed through an ecological risk assessment (EcoRA).

0.1.1.2

An ERA should

- a) identify and prioritize the contaminants and physical stressors of concern;
- b) identify and prioritize the sources or points of release of the contaminants and physical stressors of concern;
- c) identify and prioritize the potential receptors (human and non-human biota) of concern;
- d) include a conceptual model of the environment representing the relationship between sources and receptors;
- e) provide an assessment of the exposure to the contaminants and physical stressors of concern (to be used with the benchmark value [BV] to assess the risk);
- f) identify the BVs used to assess the potential effects of the contaminants and physical stressors of concern on the receptors;
- g) provide an assessment of the environmental risk to receptors posed by the facility; and
- h) identify and, if possible, quantify the uncertainties in the assessment of the environmental risk.

0.1.1.3

The ERA approach takes into consideration the fact that many contaminants can be present simultaneously in several media such as food, air, water, soil, dust, or consumer products and that they can reach the receptors through multiple exposure pathways. An ERA can have both predictive and retrospective elements (as defined in Clause [3.1](#)).

0.1.2 Need for an ERA

The need to conduct an ERA arises from one or more of the following factors:

- a) a desire for risk-based environmental management;
- b) a desire to address stakeholder concerns about environmental protection; or
- c) regulatory requirements for characterization of environmental risks.