

N172. Update On U.S. Power Industry Exposures

The U.S. nuclear power industry has been very successful in reducing worker exposure in the past 10 years. New exposure trend data are shown in Figures 1 and 2 for PWRs and LWRs, respectively. The data show the following:

- Person-rem/MW.Y has decreased by more than 67% since 1983 and is on par with that in Japan, France, and Germany.
- In the 10-year period from 1981-1991, exposures dropped from 1.7 to 0.4 person-rem/MW.Y.
- In the same 10-year period, total person-rem have dropped from about 55,000 to less than 30,000, while annual production has increased from about 28,000 to greater than 70,000 MW.
- Median BWR plant exposures dropped from 446 person-rem in 1990 to 293 person-rem in 1991.
- Median PWR plant exposures dropped from 273 person-rem in 1990 to 189 person-rem in 1991.

Figure 1: PWR Radiation Exposures/Power Generated

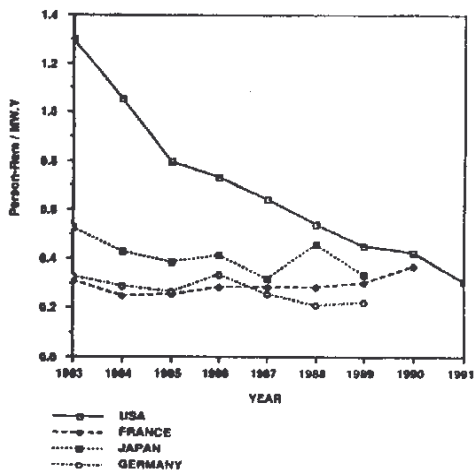
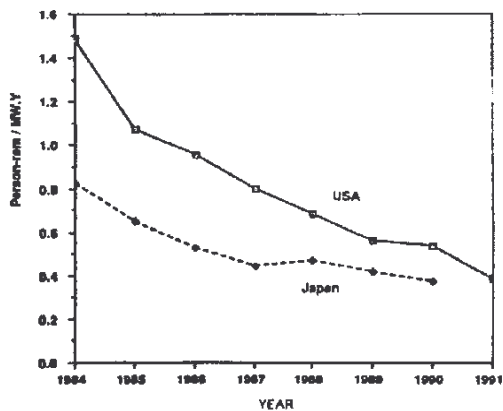


Figure 2: LWR Exposure Trends - USA and Japan



Taken from "Update on U.S. Power Industry Exposures," Radiation Control News, Eds: H. Ocken and C.J. Wood, No. 14, June 1992 (EPRI, 3412 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303, or contact Howard Ocken, 415-855-2055).