

Tritium – How Did It Get There?

Precipitation scavenging, dry deposition and condensation are three mechanisms which can remove substantial tritium (HT) from the atmosphere. These phenomena have been used to explain high tritium concentrations found in surface and ground water. In many cases, the only technical justification for such an assumption is based on anecdotal evidence. These processes can be simply modeled and can provide an estimate of the magnitude of tritium removed from the atmosphere and transferred to surface water. How well these models work can be seen in the comparison between predicted and measured surface water concentrations.