Advanced Lab homework set 3

Download, read, and understand the material at http://physics.csuchico. edu/ayars/427/handouts/tipler_radiation_safety.pdf, then answer the following questions:

1. In 1989, Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischman claimed to have achieved fusion in an electrochemical cell at room temperature. They claimed a power output of 4 W from deuterium-deuterium fusion in their electrodes. The two most likely reactions are

> $^{2}\text{H} + ^{2}\text{H} \longrightarrow ^{3}\text{He} + n + 3.27 \text{ MeV}$ $^{2}\text{H} + ^{2}\text{H} \longrightarrow ^{3}\text{H} + ^{1}\text{H} + 4.03 \text{ MeV}$

With 50% of the reactions going by each branch.

- (a) How many neutrons per second would we expect to be emitted in the generation of 4 W by this method?
- (b) If 10% of these neutrons were absorbed by an 80-kg researcher standing near the apparatus, and each neutron carries an average energy of 0.5 MeV with an RBE of 4, what is the researcher's dose in rems per hour?
- (c) How long would it take for the researcher to receive the LD50 dose of 500 rems?
- 2. There is a fairly "hot" ¹³⁷Cs source in a lead container in the lab.
 - (a) Using a calibrated Geiger counter, determine the activity of the source. Consider distance and detector size in your calculation, and don't leave the container open longer than necessary.
 - (b) If you were standing close enough to this source to absorb 10% of the radiation emitted, how long before you reached some relevant NRC dose limit, and what would that limit be?
 - (c) Does use of this source in the lab present a health risk? Explain.
- 3. Repeat problem 2 for our 10 μ Ci ²²Na source. Again, clearly explain under what circumstances this source would present a health risk.
- 4. From chapter 4 of Taylor, do exercises {5, 6, 11, 13, 17, 23, 24}.