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Radiological Assessment of cement particles from Obajana Factory

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Massive building constructions result to high demand of cement production in recent time. This lead Obajana cement plant to operate at maximum capacity in Nigeria. Exposure to high level radiation for prolong period can result to acute health effects such as skin burns, cancer and cardiovascular disease. This study evaluates the natural radionuclides and radiological indices of cement particles from productions plant of Obajana Factory. Gamma ray spectroscopy was used to analyze the activity level of ^{226}Ra , ^{232}Th and ^{40}K in the samples. The activity concentration of the sample ranged between $(7.4719 \pm 1.9179 - 60.1351 \pm 8.5508)$ BqKg⁻¹, $(29.4892 \pm 1.1009 - 90.1191 \pm 6.2124)$ BqKg⁻¹ and $(84.8930 \pm 3.8076 - 179.3318 \pm 11.4227)$ Bqkg⁻¹, with the average value 36.0011 ± 17.5529 Bqkg⁻¹, 49.2077 ± 21.1908 Bqkg⁻¹, and 146.6098 ± 45.0115 Bqkg⁻¹ for ^{40}K , ^{226}Ra and ^{232}Th respectively. The activity concentrations of ^{226}Ra and ^{232}Th were slightly above the corresponding world average concentration of 32 BqKg⁻¹ for ^{226}Ra and 45 BqKg⁻¹ for ^{232}Th . The high concentration might be attributed to material composition used for cement production in Obajana Cement Factory. The average values of Absorbed dose (D), Annual effective dose rate (H), Annual gonad dose equivalent (AGDE) and Excess lifetime cancer risk (ELCR) are 53.303 nGy⁻¹, 0.065 mSv, 363.961 mSvy⁻¹ 1.928×10^{-3} respectively. The absorbed dose and annual gonad dose equivalent were lower than the world standard of 60 nGy⁻¹ and 1.0 mSv respectively, while the Annual gonad dose equivalent (AGDE) and Excess lifetime cancer risk (ELCR) were slightly above the world standard of 300 mSvy⁻¹ and 0.29×10^{-3} respectively. The average value of External and Internal hazard indices (Hex and Hin) were below world standard of unity. The radiological assessment from this research compared favorably with other related published studies and world permissible limits, therefore constitute no radiological risk.

Primary authors: BELLO, Ibrahim Ayodeji (Ahmadu Bello University Zaria Nigeria); Mr KURE, N. (Department of Physics, Kaduna State University, Kaduna, Nigeria.); Dr IGE, O.O. (Department of Physics, Nigeria Defence Academy, Kaduna, Nigeria); Mr MOHAMMED, T. N. (Department of Science Laboratory Technology, Federal Polytechnic Offa, Nigeria)

Presenter: BELLO, Ibrahim Ayodeji (Ahmadu Bello University Zaria Nigeria)

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