

# RASCAL 4.3 Dispersion and Deposition Models

J.V. Ramsdell, Jr.

18<sup>th</sup> Annual George Mason University Conference on  
Atmospheric Transport and Dispersion Modeling

June 25, 2014



**Pacific Northwest**  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

*Proudly Operated by Battelle Since 1965*

# RASCAL Background

- ▶ Radiological Assessment System for Consequence Analysis
- ▶ Confirmatory assessment tools for staff use in the evaluation of events at U. S. nuclear facilities.
- ▶ Initial version RASCAL 1.3 published in 1989 based on earlier NRC codes MESORAD (1986), MESOI (1983), with roots in DOE codes dating from 1974 (MESODIF)
- ▶ Recent RASCAL Versions 3.05 (NUREG-1887 2007), 4.2 (NUREG-1940 2012), and 4.3 (Draft Technical Supplement 2013)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Available from <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1328/ML13281A490.pdf>

# RASCAL Modules

- ▶ Source Term Estimation
  - U.S. Power Reactors
  - U.S. Spent Fuel Storage Facilities
  - U.S. Fuel Cycle Facilities
- ▶ Atmospheric Transport and Dispersion Calculations
  - Small particles and gases
  - UF<sub>6</sub>
- ▶ Early and Intermediate Phase Dose Calculations
- ▶ Supporting Modules
  - Meteorological data acquisition and processing (MetFetch)
  - Nuclear facility data base
  - Radionuclide data base

# Recent RASCAL Evolution

	RASCAL 3.05	RASCAL 4.2	RASCAL 4.3
<b>Source Term</b>	Base Case NUREG-1465 LOCA	Minor changes NUREG-1465 LOCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major changes</li> <li>Add SOARCA LTSBO</li> <li>Import, export, &amp; merge capabilities</li> </ul>
<b>Atm. Transport and Dispersion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 domains (10,25, 50 mi)</li> <li>48 hr limit</li> <li>Gaussian Puff and Plume</li> <li>Pasquill-Gifford Dispersion with low speed adjustment</li> <li>Constant dep. velocities</li> <li>Wet deposition by washout</li> <li>Iodine <math>\frac{1}{3}</math> part, <math>\frac{1}{3}</math> I<sub>2</sub>, <math>\frac{1}{3}</math> CH<sub>3</sub>I</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time-based dispersion with low speed adjustment</li> <li>Dispersion parameters estimated by turbulence</li> <li>Temporal and spatial varying dep. velocities</li> <li>Iodine 25% part, 30% I<sub>2</sub>, 45% CH<sub>3</sub>I</li> <li>Revised decay scheme to include short daughters implicitly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add 100 mi domain</li> <li>96 hr limit</li> </ul>
<b>Dose Calculation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TEDE, Cloudshine, CEDE, Groundshine using ICRP 26/30 methodology</li> <li>Finite Cloudshine</li> <li>Limited radionuclide set</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add option of using ICRP 60/72 methodology</li> <li>All radionuclides in FGR 12 with half lives &gt; 10 min.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add child thyroid</li> </ul>
<b>Meteorological Data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manual or Internet</li> </ul>



**Pacific Northwest**  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

*Proudly Operated by Battelle Since 1965*

# Why ATD Changes?

- ▶ Update the technical basis
  - Pasquill-Gifford dispersion is based on data collected prior to 1960
  - Turbulence and dispersion theory advanced significantly from 1960 to 1990
  - Dispersion experiments conducted prior to 1970 are biased toward moderate to high wind speed conditions
  - NRC licensees are installing instrumentation capable of supplying turbulence data
  - Computers permit more realistic dispersion assessments
- ▶ The new model parameterizations will facilitate future ATD model upgrades

# RASCAL 4 Dispersion Models

$$\sigma_y(t) = 0.5 \int_0^t \sigma_v(t) dt$$

$$t \leq 3600 \text{ s}$$

$$\sigma_y(t) = \sigma_y(3600) + 0.2(t - 3600)$$

$$t > 3600 \text{ s}$$

$$\sigma_z(t) = \int_0^t \sigma_w(t) f_z(t) dt$$

$$f_z(t) = [1.0 + 0.9(t/T)^{1/2}]^{-1}$$

$$T = 50 \text{ s}$$

# RASCAL 4 Turbulence Parameterizations

$\sigma_v = \sigma_w = 1.3u_* (1 - z_p/H)$	Stable, $z_p < 0.9 H$
$\sigma_v = \sigma_w = 1.3u_* \exp(-2fz_p/u_*)$	Neutral
$\sigma_v = u_* (12 - 0.5H/L)^{1/3}$	Unstable
$\sigma_w = 1.3u_* (1.0 - 3.0 z_p/L)^{1/3}$	Unstable, $z_p \leq H/2$
$\sigma_w = 1.3u_* (1.0 - 1.5 H/L)^{1/3}$	Unstable, $z_p > H/2$

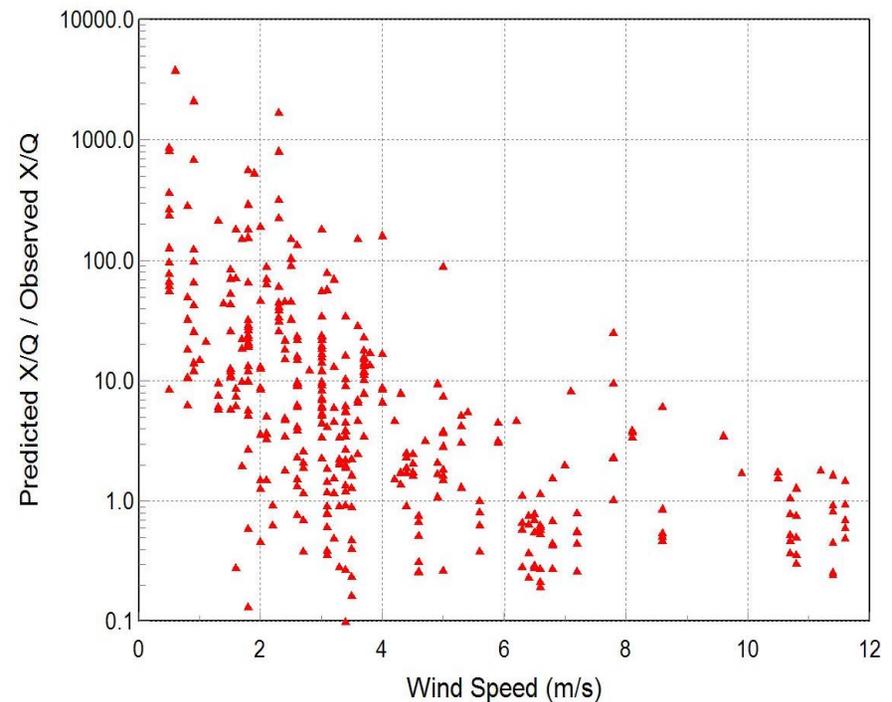
# Where:

- ▶  $\sigma_y$  = horizontal dispersion parameter (m)
- ▶  $\sigma_v$  = lateral turbulence component (m/s)
- ▶  $\sigma_z$  = vertical dispersion parameter (m)
- ▶  $\sigma_w$  = vertical turbulence component (m/s)
- ▶  $t$  = time since release to atmosphere (s)
- ▶  $u_*$  = friction velocity (m/s)
- ▶  $z_p$  = plume height (m)
- ▶  $H$  = mixing layer height (m)
- ▶  $L$  = Monin-Obukhov length (m)

# Low Wind Speed Correction

## ► Why?

- Gaussian plume model is incomplete
- Low wind speed conditions are not adequately represented in dispersion data
- Limited dispersion data indicate concentrations are significantly over estimated at low speeds



# RASCAL 4 Low Wind Speed Correction

$$\Sigma_y = (\sigma_y^2 + \Delta\sigma_y^2)^{1/2}$$

$$\Sigma_z = (\sigma_z^2 + \Delta\sigma_z^2)^{1/2}$$

$$\Delta\sigma^2(t) = A(1 - (1 + t/T)\exp(-t/T))$$

$t$  = travel time or time after release (s)

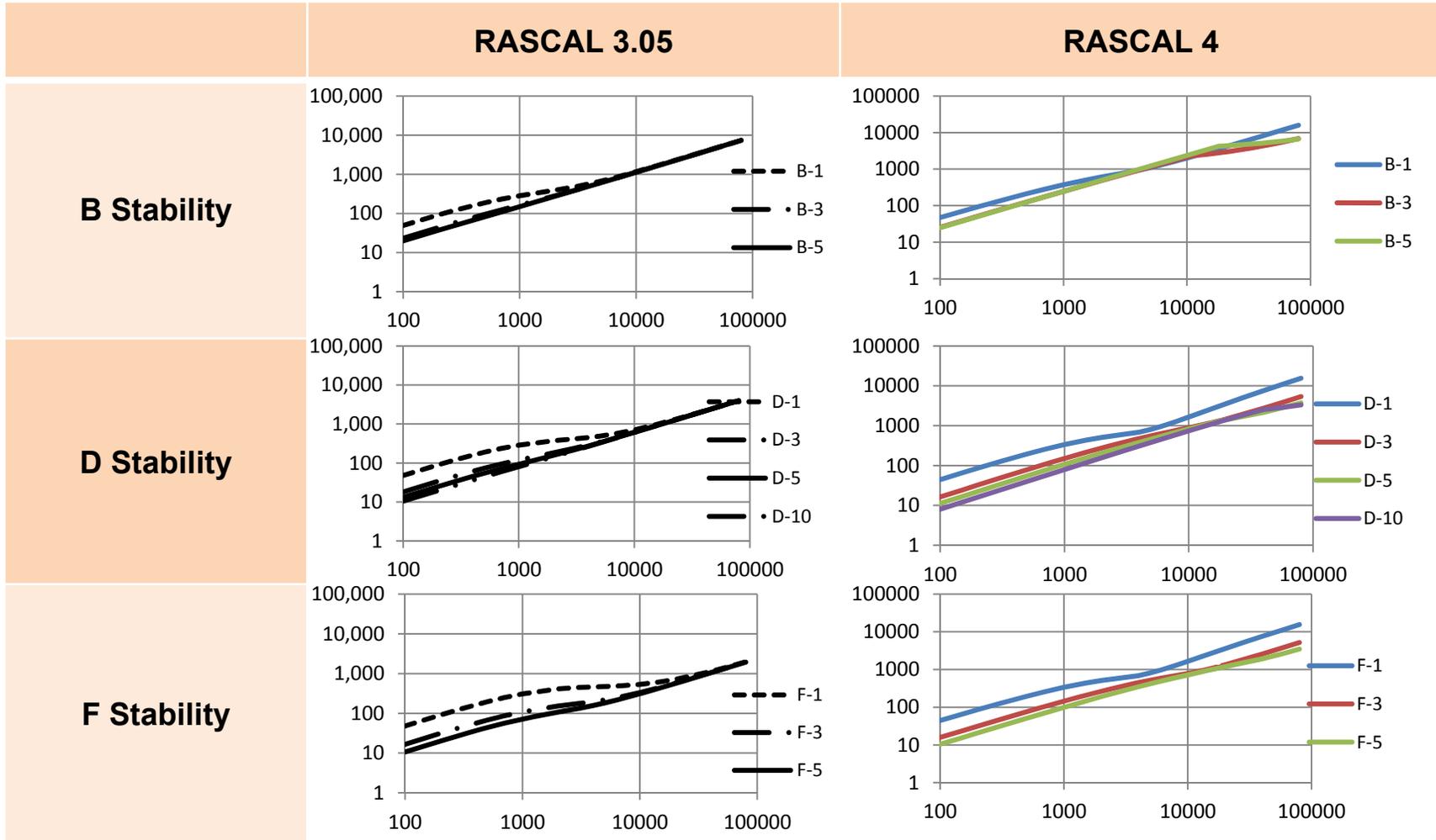
$$A_y = (0.64T_y)^2$$

$$T_y = 1000 \text{ s}$$

$$A_z = (0.845T_z)^2$$

$$T_z = 100 \text{ s}$$

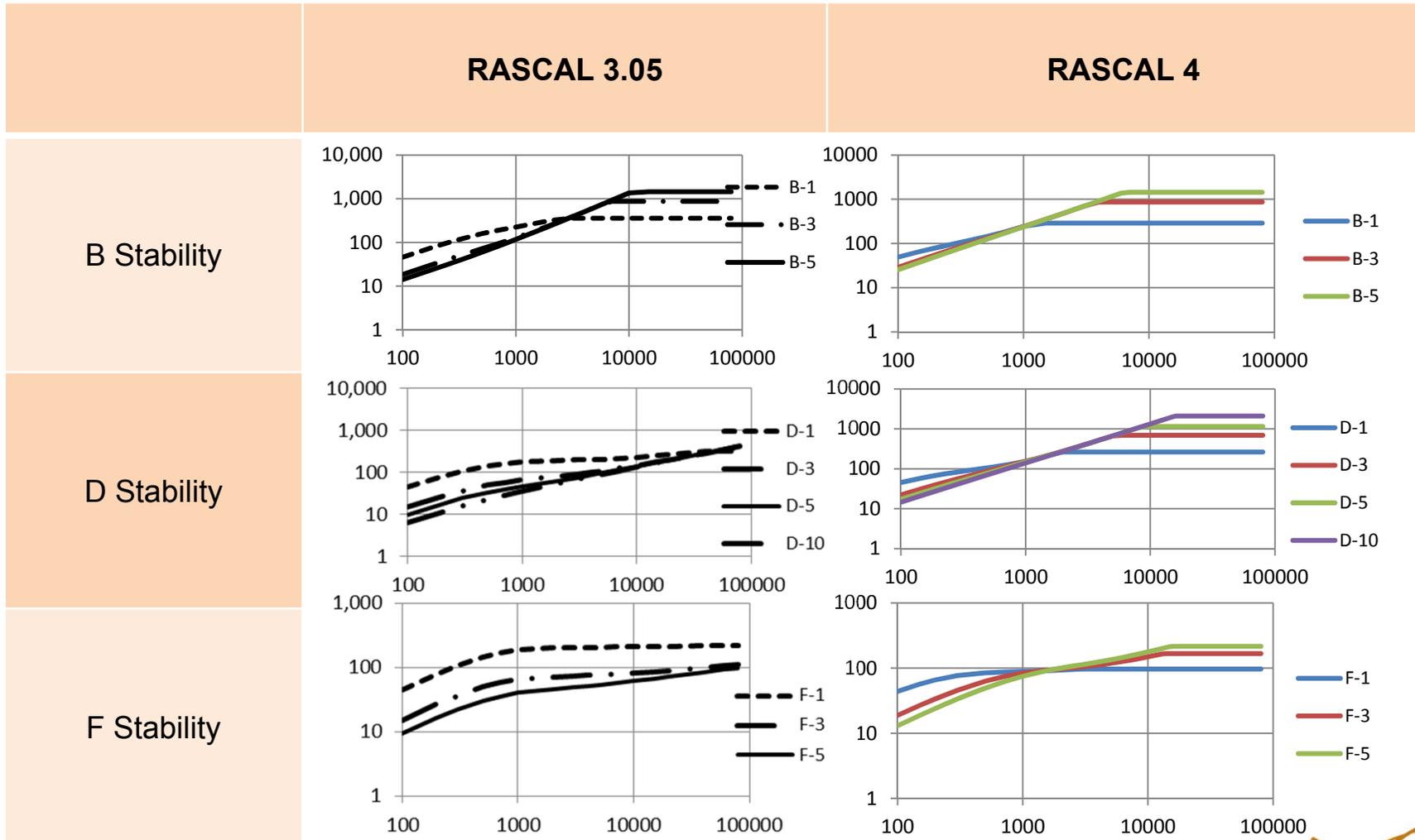
# RASCAL $\sigma_y$ Comparison



Pacific Northwest  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Proudly Operated by Battelle Since 1965

# RASCAL $\sigma_z$ Comparison

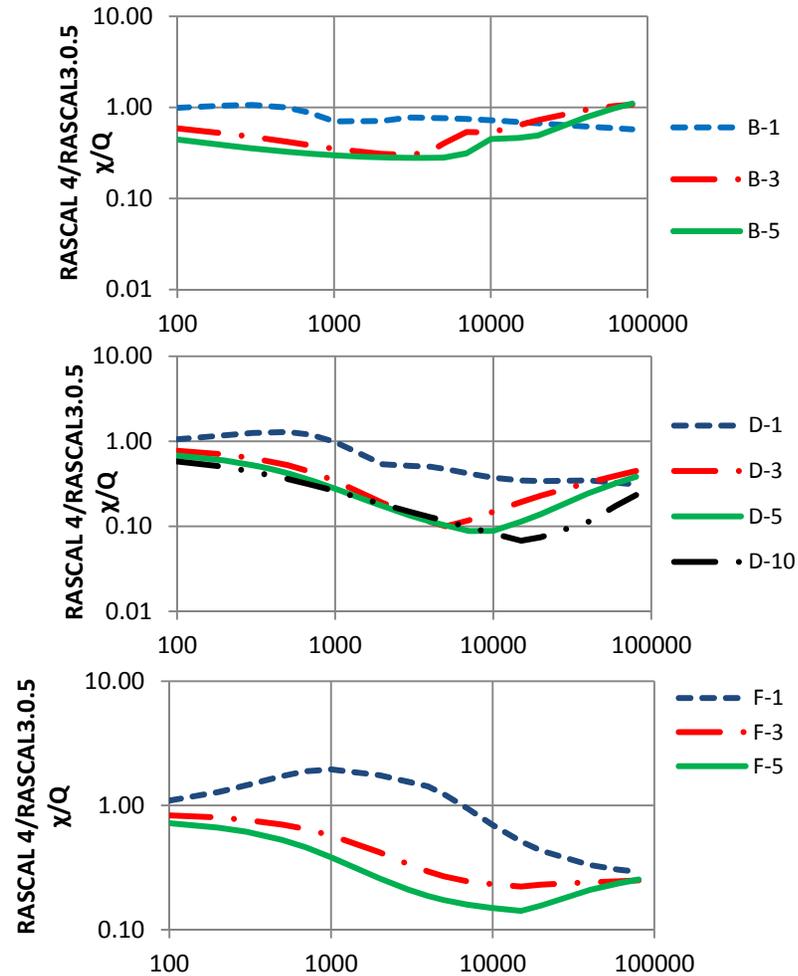


# RASCAL $\chi/Q$ Comparison

B Stability

D Stability

F Stability



# Representative RASCAL 4 Dry Deposition Velocities<sup>1,2</sup>

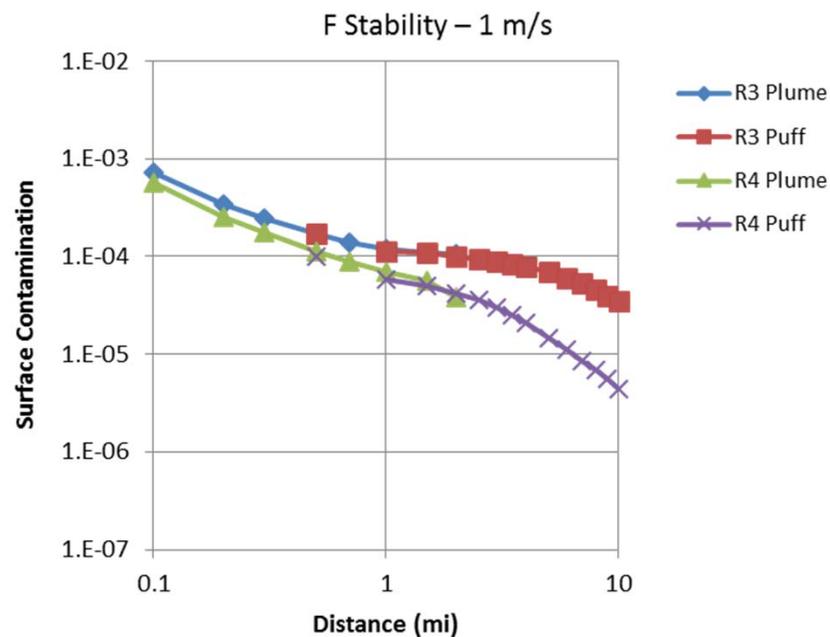
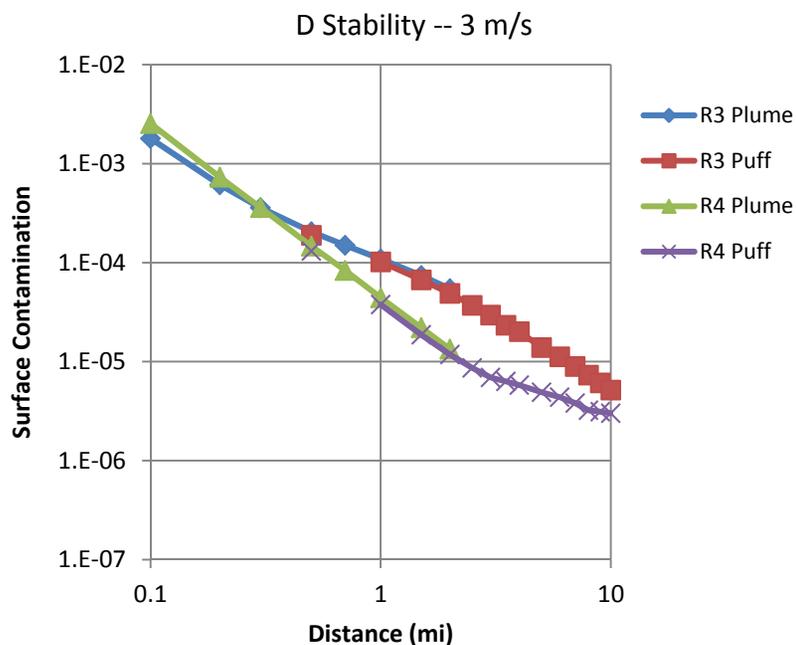
	Stability	Wind Speed				
		1 m/s	2 m/s	3 m/s	5 m/s	10 m/s
Particles <sup>3</sup>	B	0.0047	0.0064	0.0073	0.0082	
	D	0.0039	0.0056	0.0065	0.0076	0.0086
	F	0.0031	0.0048	0.0058	0.0070	
Reactive Gases	B	0.0037	0.0062	0.0082	0.011	
	D	0.0027	0.0047	0.0064	0.0091	0.014
	F	0.0021	0.0037	0.0051	0.0073	

1) Deposition velocity units: m/s

2)  $Z_0 = 10$  cm

3)  $\sim 1$   $\mu$ m particles

# RASCAL Dry Deposition Comparison



# RASCAL 4 Wet Deposition

Precipitation Type	Washout Coefficient <sup>1,2</sup>	Wet Deposition Velocity <sup>3,4</sup>
Light rain	0.25	$2.8 \times 10^{-5}$
Moderate or heavy rain	3.3	$8.3 \times 10^{-4}$
Light snow	$0.006^5 / 0.00^6$	$8.3 \times 10^{-6}$
Moderate or heavy snow <sup>5</sup>	$0.3^5 / 0.00^6$	$4.2 \times 10^{-4}$

<sup>1</sup>Particles

<sup>2</sup>Units: 1/hr

<sup>3</sup>Gases

<sup>4</sup>Units: m/s

<sup>5</sup>Temperature  $\geq -3^{\circ}\text{C}$

<sup>6</sup>Temperature  $< -3^{\circ}\text{C}$

# Why These Parameterizations?

- ▶ Based on peer-reviewed literature
  - Panofsky and Dutton (1984)
  - Stull (1988)
- ▶ Developed under extensive peer review in the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project
  - Formal QA procedures
  - Extensive peer review (Gifford, Hanna, Nappo, Randerson, Dabbert, Petersen, et al. )
  - Parameter uncertainty/variability estimates
  - Formal validation

# Atmospheric Iodine

- ▶ Natural iodine occurs in many forms
  - 6 to 33% associated with particles
  - 10 to 75% of the gaseous iodine occurs in reactive species ( $I_2$ )
  - 25 to 90% of the gaseous iodine occurs in slightly or non-reactive species ( $CH_3I$ )
- ▶ Physical form controls iodine deposition on surfaces
- ▶ Physical form determines the dose from inhaled iodine
- ▶ Iodine isotopes are at the top of the list of radionuclides that are important to inhaled dose in nuclear reactor accidents

# Iodine Species in the Atmosphere

	Distance	Particulate Iodine	Gaseous Iodine in Reactive Species
Reactor containment		95%	97% to 100% (first 2 hr)
Hanford stacks		0% to 6%	30% to 90%
NRTS expts (1963)	50 m to 300 m	8% to 30%	65% to 80%
Hanford expts (1963)	200 m to 3200 m	10% to 30%	49% to 82%
Hanford plumes (1964-1967)	5 km to 8 km	5% to 14%	35% to 48%
Hanford Green Run (1949)	1 km to 55 km	6% to 39%	
Chernobyl (1986)	> 1000 km	7% to 54%	11% to 54%
Fukushima (2011)	> 1000 km	2% to 34%	
RASCAL 4		25%	40%

# Iodine Deposition

## ▶ Historic practice

- Iodine deposition velocities vary depending on surface 0.1 cm/s to 3 cm/s
- Typical values (Voilleque and Keller, 1981)
  - $I_2$  vapor  $\rightarrow$  1 cm/s
  - Iodine associated with particles  $\rightarrow$  0.1 cm/s
  - $CH_3I$   $\rightarrow$  0.0003 to 0.01 cm/s

## ▶ RASCAL Assumes

- Deposition velocity for  $CH_3I$  = 0.0
- Thus, deposition velocity for iodine = Particulate fraction  $\times$  dry deposition velocity for particles + Reactive gas fraction  $\times$  dry deposition velocity for reactive gases

# Representative RASCAL Iodine Deposition Velocities

STABILITY CLASS	WIND SPEED				
	1 m/s	2 m/s	3 m/s	5 m/s	10 m/s
<b>B</b>	0.0023	0.0035	0.0043	0.0055	
<b>D</b>	0.0018	0.0028	0.0035	0.0046	0.0063
<b>F</b>	0.0014	0.0023	0.0030	0.0039	

# RASCAL 4 Doses from Iodine

- ▶ Cloudshine is independent of iodine form
- ▶ Groundshine and ingestion pathway doses (including the cow-milk pathway) depend only on the deposited iodine (atmospheric concentration, iodine speciation, and deposition velocity)
- ▶ Inhalation doses are a function of the form of iodine inhaled (atmospheric concentration and iodine speciation)
- ▶ RASCAL 4 assumes that atmospheric iodine is 25% particles, 30%  $I_2$  and 45%  $CH_3I$ . This speciation contributes to the deposition of iodine and to the inhalation doses if the ICRP 60/72 dose coefficients are selected. This speciation does not enter into inhalation doses if ICRP 26/30 dose conversion factors are used.

# Iodine-131 Dose Coefficients<sup>1</sup> (ICRP-60/72)

	Adult (7300 d)	Adult (7300 d)	Child (365 d)
Iodine Form \ Organ	CED	Thyroid	Thyroid
Particle	7.39E-09	1.47E-07	1.43E-06
Reactive Gas (I <sub>2</sub> )	1.98E-08	3.93E-07	3.24E-06
Non-reactive Gas (CH <sub>3</sub> I)	1.54E-08	3.07E-07	2.53E-06
RASCAL (weighted avg)	1.47E-08	2.93E-07	2.47E-06
1) Sv/Bq inhaled			

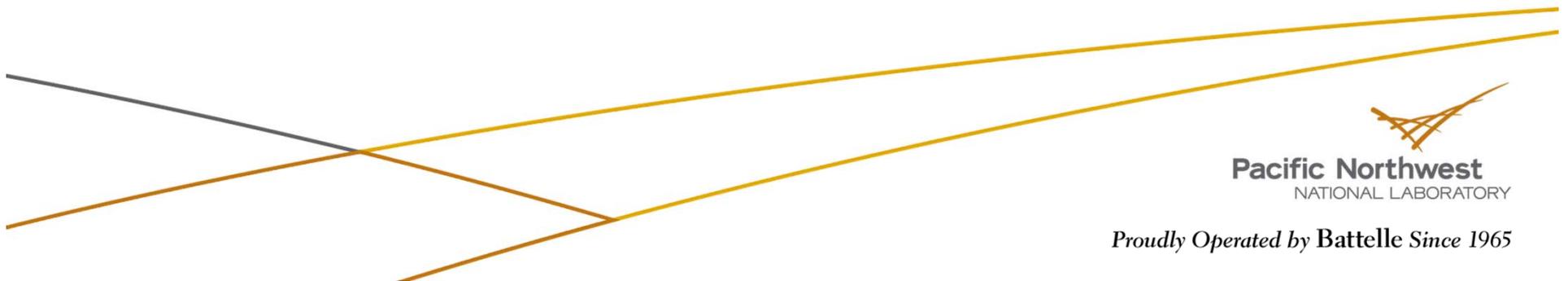
# Composite Thyroid Dose Coefficients

Age	Breathing Rate (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Dose Coefficients (Sv/Bq) <sup>1</sup>				
		I-131	I-132	I-133	I-134	I-135
100 days	5.28E-05	2.52E-06	3.40E-08	6.78E-07	7.02E-09	1.39E-07
1 year	9.72E-05	2.47E-06	3.03E-08	6.12E-07	6.24E-09	1.24E-07
5 years	1.58E-04	1.40E-06	1.57E-08	3.18E-07	3.23E-09	6.43E-08
10 years	3.11E-04	7.10E-07	7.02E-09	1.42E-07	1.44E-09	2.88E-08
15 years	3.83E-04	4.59E-07	4.53E-09	9.09E-08	9.30E-10	1.85E-08
20 years	4.17E-04	2.93E-07	2.87E-09	5.70E-08	5.90E-10	1.17E-08

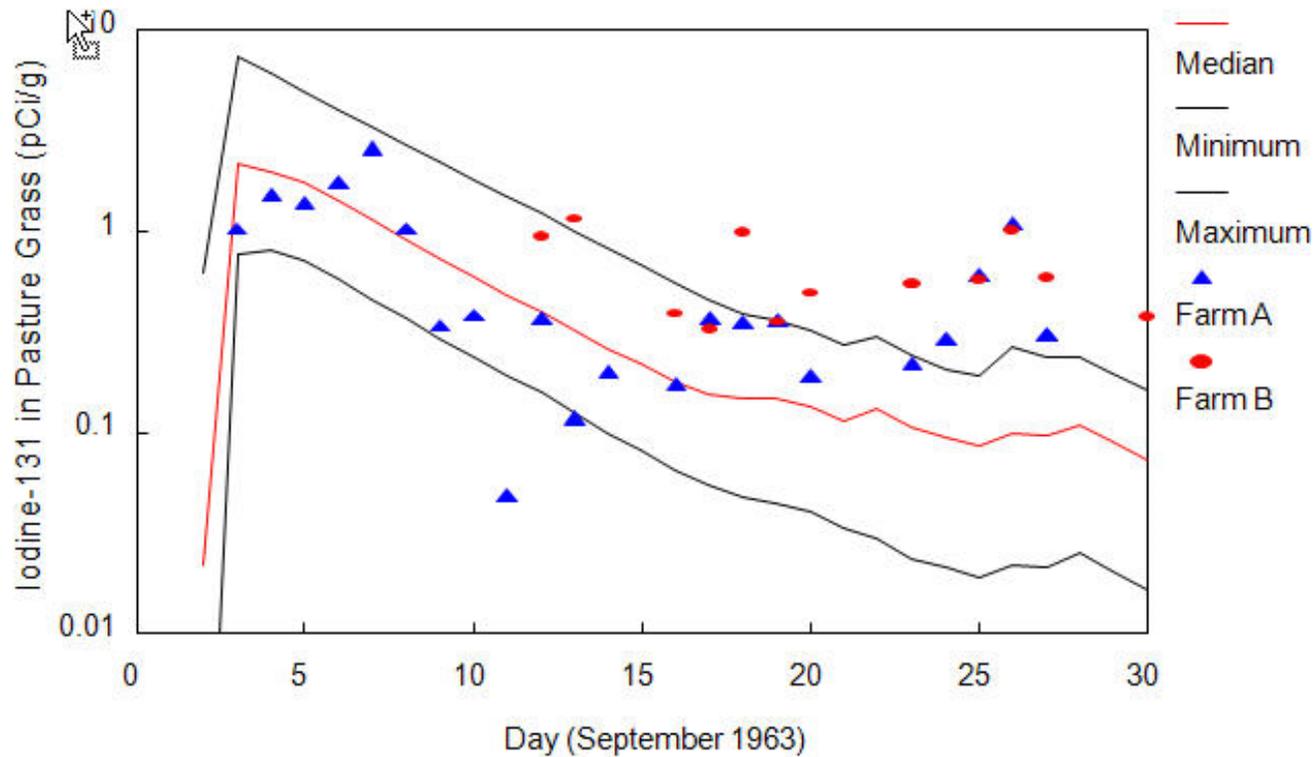
1) Based on ICRP 60/72 dose coefficients weighted by RASCAL iodine partitioning fractions

# Thoughts Related to Iodine

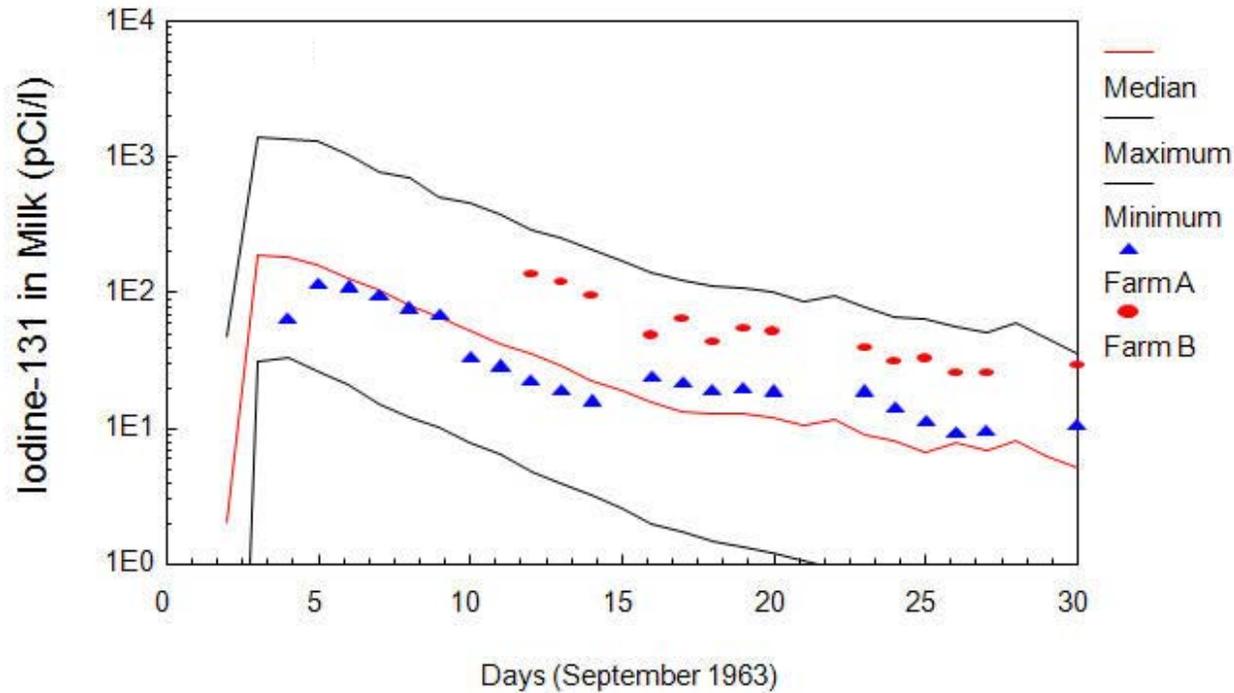
- ▶ Deposition samples are likely to have a greater variation than model predictions.
- ▶ The variability of deposition samples is likely to be greater than the variation of iodine in milk.



# Predicted and Measured Iodine-131 in Grass Samples near Hanford



# Measured and Predicted Iodine-131 in Milk Samples near Hanford



# Final Thoughts Related to Iodine

- ▶ Don't trust published filter efficiencies when applied to iodine particles
- ▶ More data are needed on the speciation of iodine in the atmosphere following reactor accidents, particularly the gaseous components



**Pacific Northwest**  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

*Proudly Operated by Battelle Since 1965*

# Questions?

► Contact:

J. V. Ramsdell, Jr.  
Ramsdell Environmental Consulting, LLC  
13106 184<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Redmond, WA 98052  
425 307 1038  
ramenvcon@earthlink.net

# RASCAL Sponsor

- ▶ This work is supported by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research under Inter-Agency Agreement Number NRC-HQ-11-12-D-0001 and was prepared by Ramsdell Environmental Consulting, LLC for Pacific Northwest National Laboratory managed by Battelle Memorial Institute (BMI), for the U.S. Department of Energy under contract DE-AC05-76RL01830.



*Proudly Operated by Battelle Since 1965*

# More Detailed Information

- ▶ McGuire, S.A. et al. 2007. *RASCAL 3.0.5: Description of Models and Methods*. NUREG-1887. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- ▶ Panofsky, H.A. and J.A. Dutton. 1984. *Atmospheric Turbulence*, Wiley & Sons, New York
- ▶ Ramsdell, J.V., Jr., et al. 1994. Regional Atmospheric Transport Code for Hanford Emission Tracking (RATCHET). PNWD-2224 HEDR. Battelle, Pacific Northwest Laboratories, Richland, Washington.
- ▶ Ramsdell, J.V. Jr., et al. 1996. "Atmospheric Dispersion and Deposition of <sup>131</sup>I Released from the Hanford Site". *Health Physics* 71(4):568-577.
- ▶ Ramsdell, J.V., Jr., and C. J. Foscire. 1998a. "Estimating Concentrations in Plumes Released in the Vicinity of Buildings: Model Development." *Atmospheric Environment*, 32:1663-1677.
- ▶ Ramsdell, J.V., Jr., and C. J. Foscire. 1998b. "Estimating Concentrations in Plumes Released in the Vicinity of Buildings: Model Evaluation." *Atmospheric Environment*, 32:1663-1677.
- ▶ Ramsdell, J.V., Jr., et al. 2012. *RASCAL 4: Descriptions of Models and Methods*. NUREG-1940, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- ▶ Stull, R.B. 1988. *An Introduction to Boundary Layer Meteorology*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht.

