

GLOSSARY

aerosol - particles dispersed in a gas

aliquot - a subsample drawn from a larger sample

alpha-emitting - producing ionizing radiation in the form of alpha particles

anthropogenic - referring to environmental alterations resulting from the presence or activities of humans

actinides - the series of radioactive elements that starts with actinium and ends with lawrencium

coefficient of variation - a statistical parameter that expresses standard deviation as a percentage of the mean, calculated as standard deviation divided by the mean, multiplied by 100

dosimetry - the measurement of radiation doses

gamma-emitting - producing ionizing radiation in the form of gamma rays

gross alpha - measurement of total number of alpha decays without specification of individual energies

in vivo - taking place within a living cell or organism

informatics - information management systems

photon - a massless particle, the quantum of the electromagnetic field, carrying energy, momentum and angular momentum

radionuclide - a type of atom that loses particles and energy through decay or transformation into other elements

shield - cast iron or steel enclosure often used in conjunction with gamma detectors to reduce the influence of background radiation on measurements

spallation - a nuclear reaction in which several nucleons are released from the nucleus of an atom

standard deviation - a statistical parameter, calculated as the positive square root of the expected value of the square of the difference between a random variable and its mean

standard error - the standard deviation of the probability function or probability density function of a random variable and of a statistic; typically the standard deviation of the mean

temporal - pertaining to or limited by time