DETERMINATION OF RADON CONCENTRATION AND EMANATION RATE IN SOIL USING CR-39 AND CRM SURROUND UITM JENGKA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

| ACK TABI LIST LIST LIST ABST ABST | NOWLEDGEMENT LE OF CONTENTS OF TABLES OF FIGURES OF ABBREVIATIONS FRACT FRAK | iii iv vi vii ix x xi |
|---|--|---|
| СНА | PTER 1 INTRODUCTION | |
| 1.1 | Background of the study | 1 |
| 1.2 | Problem statement | 2 |
| 1.3 | Significant of study | 3 |
| 1.4 | Objectives of study | 4 |
| CHA | PTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW | |
| 2.1 | Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) | 5 |
| | 2.1.1 Uranium-238 | 6 |
| | 2.1.2 Thorium-232 | 7 |
| | 2.1.3 Potassium-40 | 8 |
| | 2.1.4 Radon-222 | 9 |
| 2.2 | Soil | 10 |
| 2.3 | Solid State Nuclear Track Detector. | 11 |
| | 2.3.1 CR-39 | 12 |
| | 2.3.2 Etching treatment | 12 |
| | 2.3.3 Radon tracks on CR-39 | 13 |
| 2.4 | Continuous Radon Monitor | 13 |
| 2.5 | Energy Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence | 14 |
| 2.6 | Air-tight chamber method. | 14 |
| 2.7 | Comparison studies of detectors | 15 |
| 2.8 | Emanation of radon in soil | 21 |
| 2.9 | Radiological effect | 21 |
| CHA | PTER 3 METHODOLOGY | |
| 3.1 | Preamble | 23 |
| 3.2 | Apparatus and instruments | 24 |
| 3.3 | Chemicals | 24 |
| 3.4 | Framework flow process | 25 |

Sampling location Samples collection 3.4.1 27 3.4.2 28

| | 3.4.3 | Samples preparation | 29 |
|-----|-------|------------------------------|----|
| | 3.4.4 | Method preparation | 30 |
| | 3.4.5 | Sealed cup technique | 30 |
| | 3.4.6 | Air-tight chamber method | 31 |
| | 3.4.7 | Etching | 33 |
| | 3.4.8 | Energy Dispersive X-Ray | 34 |
| 3.5 | Radio | ological assessment of CR-39 | 35 |
| | 3.5.1 | Track density | 35 |
| | 3.5.2 | Radon gas concentration | 36 |
| | 3.5.3 | Radon gas emanation rate | 36 |
| 3.6 | Radio | ological assessment of CRM | 37 |
| | 3.6.1 | Radon gas concentration | 37 |
| | 3.6.2 | Radon gas emanation rate | 37 |
| 3.7 | Radio | ological risk | 38 |
| | 3.7.1 | Annual effective dose rate | 38 |
| | 3.7.2 | External hazard index | 39 |

CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

| 4.1 | Pream | ble | 40 |
|-----|--|---|----|
| 4.2 | Radon | a gas concentration and emanation rate using CR-39. | 40 |
| 4.3 | Radon gas concentration and emanation rate using CRM | | 44 |
| 4.4 | Eleme | ental analysis using EDXRF | 46 |
| | 4.4.1 | Concentration of radionuclides | 46 |
| | 4.4.2 | Radiological risk | 49 |
| 4.5 | Comp | arison of methods in the study. | 52 |
| | 4.5.1 | Radon concentration analysis method comparison | 52 |
| | 4.5.2 | Radon emanation rate analysis method comparison | 53 |
| | | | |

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

| 5.1 | Conclusion | 55 |
|-----|----------------|----|
| 5.2 | Recommendation | 57 |

| REFERENCES | 58 |
|------------------|----|
| APPENDIX | 63 |
| CURRICULUM VITAE | 65 |

LIST OF TABLES

| Table | Caption | Page |
|-------|---|------|
| 2.1 | Measurements of radionuclides using CR-39 in the previous years | 16 |
| 2.2 | Measurements of radionuclides using CRM in the previous years | 19 |
| 3.1 | Coordinates of sampling points | 27 |
| 4.1 | Variation of track density, concentration and emanation rate of ²²² Rn using CR-39 | 41 |
| 4.2 | Variation of concentration and emanation rate of ²²² Rn using CRM | 44 |
| 4.3 | Variation of primordial radionuclides in samples using EDXRF | 47 |
| 4.4 | Variation of dose rate, annual effective dose and external hazard index in samples | 49 |
| 4.5 | Comparison of method in radon concentration | 52 |
| 4.6 | Comparison of method in radon emanation rate | 53 |

ABSTRACT

DETERMINATION OF RADON CONCENTRATION AND EMANATION RATE IN SOIL USING CR-39 AND CRM SURROUND UITM JENGKA

The determination of radon gas in the soil was performed using CR-39 and CRM to assess the radon concentration and emanation rate for the selected point in UiTM Jengka via the sealed container method and evaluating the radiological risk. The soil samples were collected from 10 coordinates inside the parameter of UiTM Jengka using GPS and transformed into loose powder samples. CR-39 and CRM were used to analyse the radon gas production in the samples while the primordial radionuclides were analysed using EDXRF. The radon concentration and emanation rate analysed using CR-39 varies between 45.5 - 156 Bgm⁻³ and 0.04 -0.15 Bgm⁻²day⁻¹ respectively. Meanwhile, the radon concentration and emanation rate analysed using CRM varies between -14.60 - 89.10 Bgm⁻³ and $-1.05 \times 10^{-6} -$ 6.39 x 10⁻⁶ mBq/kg⁻¹hr⁻¹ respectively. UJ1 was found to be in a high radon content while UJ8 has the lowest radon content. From the EDXRF analysis, the source of radon concentration in the soil samples were studied and the radiological risk has been assessed. Potassium-40 element did present in all samples while Thorium-232 partially present in some of the samples. However, Uranium-238 was not found in any of the samples. The soil samples from the selected points in UiTM Jengka does not exceed maximum world limit of dose rate. However, UJ1, UJ2, UJ4, UJ5 and UJ6 possessed a radiological risk as the external hazard index exceeds value of 1.